Dear Fellow Sigma Xi Members:

As the semester is now underway we would like to take this opportunity to convey our plans and expectations for the coming year. Our goal is to increase the vitality and visibility of our club. Our first officers meeting was held last week and several ideas were discussed.

First, we hope to increase the visibility of the club by instituting several new programs. These include a “Speakers Bureau” where Sigma Xi members have the opportunity to present public lectures. We plan to create a database of speakers and establish contacts with schools, clubs, fraternal organizations, and residential living centers in the surrounding area. These contacts will be made via letters, our members, and a proposed club website.

A related program is called “Adopt a Scientist.” High school students who wish to know more about what we do will commonly ask to “shadow” Sigma Xi members for a day. Various school science clubs will also commonly request a visit. The Adopt a Scientist will formalize these requests and use the same database as the Speakers Bureau.

Second, we would like to develop some type of charitable service program. For example, many our members have contacts with universities outside the United States. The situation of some of these universities may be such that department/programs would appreciate receiving textbooks. Several years ago, one of us (CIA) had a “Books for Brazil” program. Books on assorted subjects were donated by the OSU community and shipped to Brazil. A similar type of program could easily be developed for schools needing assistance in science education in Oklahoma or anywhere else club members suggest.

Third, we need to increase membership and fundraising. Our membership is not growing and we lost money last year. Each member should consider recruiting a new member. Our colleagues in the area of social science are especially underrepresented. It is important to note that our club pays the initial dues of all new members; it would churlish to do otherwise.

Fourth, we expect to develop a club website. The creation and maintenance of this site is central to our plans. The website will contain, for example, news about the contributions of our members, announcements, forms, history of our club, past award winners, archives, and databases related to the Speakers Bureau, Adopt a Scientist, and other programs.

Fifth, we want to do some club “housekeeping.” We are in the process of scanning our club archives. We will create an infrastructure to smooth the transition of club officers.

Sixth, we hope to increase the number of social gatherings we have. Typically, we meet once a year during the banquet. Many members have expressed an interest in holding at least one social event during the Fall semester. Such an event can be used to share ideas, meet fellow members, recruit new members, fundraise, and discuss relevant issues.

As a final note, please mark your calendars for October 22, when this year’s Sigma Xi Young Investigator Award address will be presented by Dr. Scott Weinert.
from the OSU Chemistry department. Although this event has traditionally been
held in the Spring, it makes sense to do it in the Fall this year since there is
no Chapter Lecturer. More details will follow.

Please feel free to contact club officers with your comments and suggestions.
Those of you who would like to participate in the Speakers Bureau and/or Adopt a
Scientist programs please contact Charles Abramson (744-7492;
charles.abramson@okstate.edu)

Best wishes,

Officers of the OSU Sigma Xi Chapter
Charles I. Abramson (Psychology)
Nicholas Materer (Chemistry)
Lee Slaughter (Chemistry)
William McGlynn (Horticulture – FAPC)

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