



SOCIETY OF SIGMA XI at WPI

AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

The local Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi announces awards in several categories for promoting and recognizing excellence in research in the WPI community.

1. There will be up to three (3) Sigma Xi awards for Major Qualifying Projects in Science and Engineering, reflecting the Society's dedication to encouraging undergraduate research. Projects that have been disseminated in the form of publications, preprints, or conference presentations will be prioritized for awards. Given that MQPs are typically completed late in the academic year, both current seniors and students who graduated the prior year are eligible for nomination for MQP awards in any given cycle.
2. There will be one (1) Sigma Xi award for the best MS thesis in Science and Engineering. (This award has been given for several years at WPI.)
3. There will be two (2) Sigma Xi award for the best Ph.D. thesis in Science and Engineering. (This award has been in place for several years at WPI.)
4. There will be one (1) Sigma Xi award for Post-doctoral Fellows in Science and Engineering to recognize their research.
5. There will be two (2) new Sigma Xi awards for Faculty to recognize research of an extraordinarily high quality in Science and Engineering by the Faculty:
 - a. One of the Faculty awards is for a Junior Faculty Member who has established a significant program of research at WPI and has developed a steady pattern of publication in his area of research. There should be evidence of high recognition by the research community at large for their work. This award recognizes and encourages such effort at WPI. Typically, a high quality program of research requires about 5-8 years of work at WPI.
 - b. The second Faculty award is for a Senior Faculty Member who is a recognized leader in the world, and has brought attention to WPI and its tradition of excellence, in their area of research. It is anticipated that this Faculty Member has an established and vigorous program of research at WPI and has published seminal papers in his field during his tenure here.

The Faculty recipients of the Sigma Xi awards are expected to give a Colloquium to the Campus that will be arranged by the Sigma Xi in the Fall of the coming year.



RULES

1. The Selection Committee shall consist of the President, Secretary and the Treasurer of Sigma Xi, two appointed (this first year) members of the Sigma Xi committee. In the following years (after 2003), the previous year's Faculty recipients of the Sigma Xi awards will replace the appointed members.
2. Except in most unusual circumstances, not more than one MS and one PhD thesis award will be made per year, and not more than one Faculty award in each of the two categories. There is no requirement that the awards be made each year.
3. The Sigma Xi Faculty award recipient must be a member of the WPI faculty as defined in the Constitution of the WPI faculty. Members of the Selection Committee and previous recipients of the Sigma Xi Faculty awards are ineligible. Members of the faculty, department heads, administrators, and students may submit nominations.
4. The Faculty nominated for the Sigma Xi awards will be selected for creative scholarship in the Natural, Computer, or Mathematical Sciences, Engineering or Management.
5. The Sigma Xi award should be for continuing creative scholarship over a period of time at WPI (at least three years for the Junior Faculty Award; at least five years for the Senior Faculty Award; student awards should represent an appropriate length of time for the given project or thesis work) rather than for a particular single accomplishment, although, naturally, an individual brilliant accomplishment should be weighed by the Committee. The Selection Committee will select the award recipient by considering the creative scholarship of the nominees. They may solicit scholarship materials from the nominators inside *and* outside the WPI community, nominees, department heads, or others as necessary. Such supporting materials should reflect a minimum five-year period at WPI.
6. The Sigma Xi Faculty Awardees for a given year will present their work in a Colloquium on Campus, with its scheduling being the responsibility of the Sigma Xi committee.
7. The Selection Committee may initiate revisions of these rules. Proposed changes will be submitted to the Provost.
8. The name of the nominee selected should be given to the Provost by March 28 so that the awards may be made during the Sigma Xi Induction Ceremony and dinner in April.



Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society is the honor society of scientists and engineers that recognizes scientific achievement.

Sigma Xi was founded in 1886 as an honor society for science and engineering. Today, it is an international research society whose [programs and activities](#) promote the health of the scientific enterprise and honor scientific achievement. There are more than 70,000 Sigma Xi members in over [500 chapters](#) at colleges and universities, industrial research centers and government laboratories. The Society has its headquarters in [Research Triangle Park](#), North Carolina.

In addition to honoring scientific achievement, Sigma Xi also endeavors to encourage support of original work in science and technology and promote an appreciation within society at large for the role research has played in human progress. During its centennial celebration in 1986, Sigma Xi adopted an additional mission: to foster worldwide interactions among science, technology and society.

The Society is a diverse chapter-based organization dedicated to the advancement of science and engineering through outstanding programs and services delivered in a collegial and supportive environment.

The Society's mission is to enhance the health of the research enterprise, foster integrity in science and engineering, and promote the public's understanding of science for the purpose of improving the human condition.