



San Diego Chapter of Sigma Xi

2017 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

**GEORGE EDW. SEYMOUR, PH.D.
CHAPTER PRESIDENT**

Agenda

2

- Call to order: Traditional Bell Ringing
- Introduction and Science Humor
- A few Words about Hobbies & Science
- A Few Words about Sigma Xi and Awards: Introduce Dr. Metzger
- GSDSEF Traditions and Student Awards / Signing
- New Members
- Dinner: Buffet style with coffee / tea / soft drinks
- Dr. Metzger introduces Bradley Fikes
- Drawing for Plant and See's Candy

Science Humor

3

- **Chemistry:** If the Silver Surfer and Iron Man team up, they'd be alloys.
- **Physics:** A photon checks into a hotel and is asked if he needs any help with his luggage. He says, "No, I'm traveling light."
- **Biology:** Q: How did the English major define microtome on his biology exam?
A: An itsy bitsy book.

Source: <http://www.businessinsider.com/31-cringe-worthy-science-jokes-and-puns-2015-11/>

Meeting Call-to-Order

4



Dr. George Edw. Seymour, Chapter President,
Call-to-Order and Opening Remarks

May 18, 2017

Hobbies: Then & More Recently

5

- A few brief words about hobbies
- Presentation given at joint AAAS-West & Sigma Xi Meeting at USD in 2016
- Eleven most frequently mentioned hobbies out of 379
- What Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt said
- The most elusive hobby to identify: Music
- Internet link for hobby draft report:

<http://www.linking.to/SD-Sigma-Xi/Early-Hobbies.pdf>

Sigma Xi:

The Organization and The Chapter

6

by Dr. Robert Metzger

- Sigma Xi: An Interdisciplinary Science Organization

<https://www.sigmaksi.org/>

- Beginnings at Cornell University in 1886

- San Diego Chapter (1948 – present)

- Decades of Traditions
- Recent Decade of Science Fair Participation
- 2015 Chapter of Excellence Award <[link](#)>
- Student Friendly, including Grants-in-Aid

<https://www.sigmaksi.org/programs/grants-in-aid>



Dr. Robert Metzger, Professor of Chemistry at San Diego State University, and recent former Chapter President, discusses the Sigma Xi organization and the Chapter highlights.

Science Fair Winners

8

- Greater San Diego Science & Engineering Fair
<http://www.gsdsef.org/>
- A decade of Chapter participation & awards
- About 700 7th to 12th grade students
- Our process for selecting winners
- Awards: (a) recognition at our banquet, (b) Sigma Xi certificate, (c) monetary award, (d) memory shirt
- Invitation: to join the Chapter as an Associate

2017 Science Fair Student Winners

9

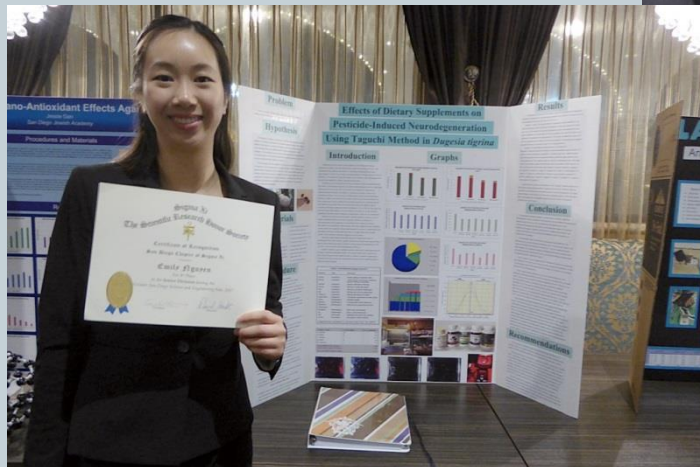
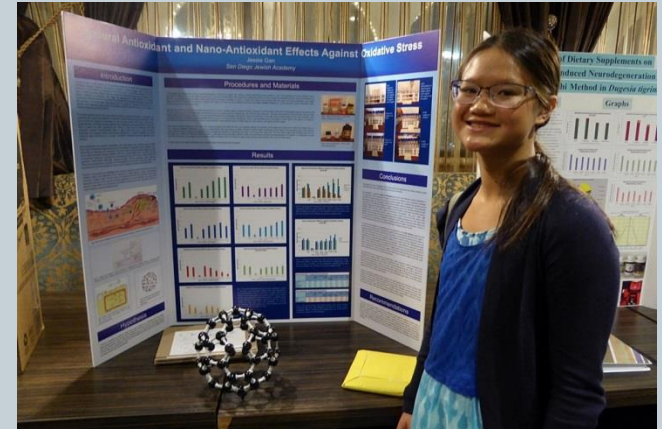
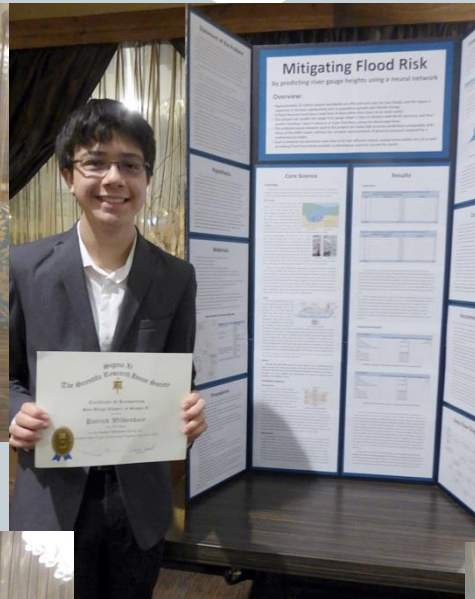
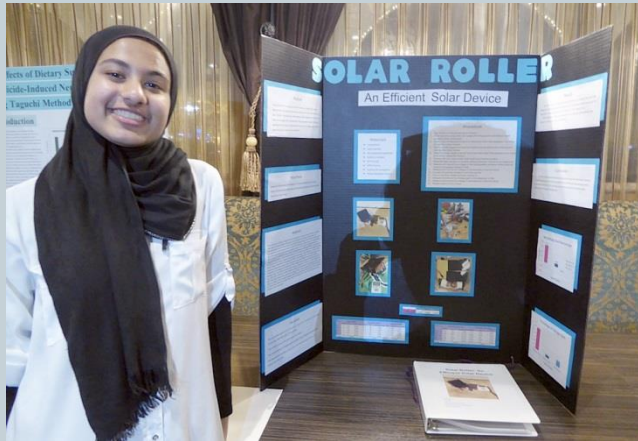


Izzah Kamran, Patrick Wildenhain, Jessie Gan, Emily Nguyen, & Saikumar Gantla (l to r)

May 18, 2017

Five Winning Student Projects

10



Izzah,
Patrick,
Jessie,
Emily, &
Saikumar



May 18, 2017

Mediterranean Buffet Dinner

11



Comments about the dinner
were positive.

May 18, 2017

■ Dr. Metzger's Introduction Comment

12

- Sometime in the latter part of the last century, I was very interested in the role of sucrose on human health. I remembered reading an article about some researchers injecting sucrose with a (14)C label on the fructose into arm blood vessels of human volunteers and finding 14C-labelled fatty acids produced by the liver immediately after the labeled sucrose was administered.
- This year, I found the idea that excess consumptions of sucrose was again a topic of interest. I read a book review of a book about the bad health effects of sucrose written by a science reporter that was written by another science reporter. In other words, I learned of new happenings in an old area of interest not from reading scientific journals but by reading a book review by a science reporter in the *Atlantic*. I realized that science reporters were bringing new of science to the public in a matter much better than we of Sigma Xi were doing, even thought that is one of the goals of Sigma Xi. I decided that Sigma Xi should honor science reporters. I realized that I had been reading the articles of a local reporter specializing in the biosciences and currently working at the San Diego Union-Tribune, Bradley Fikes. As I had read Bradley' work from the time he wrote for the San Diego State Daily Aztec, I paid special attention to his articles over the last two or three months and found his understanding of the topics he wrote about amazingly deep. Indeed, the depth of his reporting indicates that hi has researched all of his studies with incredible reading and research. As a result, I have nominated Bradley to receive a Sigma Xi award, to which we are initiating him to at this meeting, and he has agreed to have a question and answer session with attendees at the banquet.

Our Guest Speaker

13



Bradley J. Fikes is the San Diego Union Tribune “biotechnology reporter. He has been covering the industry since 1990, most recently for the North County Times....A native San Diegan, Fikes started in journalism at San Diego State University, where he served on the staff of the Daily Aztec student newspaper.”

Recent stories: <[link](#)> <[link](#)>

Audience

14



Students, their parents, and Chapter members enjoyed the speakers and talking about the student projects.

May 18, 2017

Kudos to Many

15

The Science Fair Judging Team included Pranav Mathur, George Seymour Kurt Baron and Lucy Eskeland.



Tamra Moy (left) and Lucy Eskeland took pictures.

Kurt Baron assisted with the Chapter Log sign-ins and David Hecht ordered the certificates.

Drawing Winners

16

Two lucky attendees took home the sign-in table plant and a See's Candy gift certificate.



Chapter Contacts: [Dr. George Edw. Seymour](#) and [Dr. Robert Metzger](#)

May 18, 2017