

Polytech/SUNY Old Westbury Sigma-Xi Chapter Meeting
Friday December 3rd, 2021

Attendees: John Allocca, Mathew Lippert, Fernando Nieto

- Welcome back
- Brief History of the chapter: we recounted for the purpose of new members the history of the chapter and some of the activities we had engaged from 2004 – 2013:

In 2004, in collaboration with Dr. John Allocca, a long standing Sigma Xi member and SUNY College at Old Westbury alum, we revived and renamed the Polytech Sigma Xi chapter into the Polytech/SUNY Old Westbury chapter. Since its inception I have served as an officer in various positions including, Secretary and Treasurer, Vice-president and since 2008 President. The new chapter sought to promote science through a series of activities including seminars, workshops, travel awards, student Academic and Research Achievement Certificates and Teacher Certificates. Since its reactivation the leadership of the Chapter has inducted fifteen faculty members, twenty-five SUNY College at Old Westbury students and one Uniondale High School. In addition, the Chapter has given eleven undergraduate students, and thirteen high school students Academic Excellence Awards, and two secondary education teachers Excellence in Teaching Awards. The chapter has sponsored annual workshops on Radiation Safety and guest seminars. The chapter organized the North-East Region Sigma Xi Student Research Conference hosted at SUNY College at Old Westbury, April 26th, 2014. Last Spring 2019 we hosted the 2019 NYC SEA-PHAGES Regional Symposium.

Student Inductions

2004

Adriana Ruiz (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Brian Giebel (Chemistry, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Lillian Nodimelle (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Harresh Kavully (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)

2005

Patrick Hyppolite (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Taneisha Ann-T. James (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Kevin C. Werkheiser (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Douna L. Balthazar (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Vandana V. Patil (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Tracey Evans (Chemistry, SUNY College at Old Westbury)

2006

Sara Khalil (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Tarun Salwan (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Raghav Sood (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Jennifer Sarfo (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Sherwyn Henry (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Kacey-Ann Thompson (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)
Emmanuel Konde (Chemistry, SUNY College at Old Westbury)

2007

Undergraduate:

Melissa Colon (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Christine Marsh (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)

High School:

Ana Luisa Cisneros – Uniondale High School

2008

Ciara Bagrall (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Max Garcia (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)

2009

Kimberly Burke (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Alicia Bowen (Chemistry, SUNY College at Old Westbury)

2010

Sybil Andreux (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Jessica Ennist (Chemistry, SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Nally Calzado (Biology, SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Sigma Xi Chapter Certificates

2007

Undergraduate

Melissa Colon (SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Christine Marsh (SUNY College at Old Westbury)

High School

Ana Luisa Cisneros – Uniondale High School

Teacher of the Year

Paul Lichtman – Uniondale High School

2008

High School

Christopher Bustos - Uniondale High School

Charles Lamar - Freeport High School

Teacher of the Year

Edward Irwin – Freeport High School

2010

Undergraduates

Sybil Andreux (SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Jessica Ennist (SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Nally Calzado (SUNY College at Old Westbury)

High School Students

Patrick Thomas (Uniondale High School)

Neil Muir (Uniondale High School)

Pernelle Guerrier (Uniondale High School)

Karrine Guerrier (Uniondale High School)

Kenneth Callier (Uniondale High School)

Jenny Rodriguez (Uniondale High School)

Richard Mata-Castro (Uniondale High School)

2011

Undergraduates

Michael Osnard (SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Bilal Butt (SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Nephtalie Merisier (SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Julson Jean-Francoise (SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Camille Warner (SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Brian Obinero (SUNY College at Old Westbury)

High School

Rachel Lalmansingh (Freeport High School)

Dwyane George (Freeport High School)

Emmanuel Abreu (Freeport High School)

John Allocca put together the current website for the chapter: <http://www.polysunysigmaxi.org/>. In it all the documentation about the chapter can be found including the bylaws, and previous meetings minutes.

- The chapter has been maintained in good standing since we hosted the 2013 NE Regional Sigma Xi Student Research Conference. The annual and treasurer's report have were filed timely.
- Current Officers:
 - President: Nieto-Fernandez, Fernando E. (nietof@oldwestbury.edu)
 - Vice President: Mascareno, Manya D. (mascarenom@oldwestbury.edu)
 - Treasurer: Nieto-Fernandez, Fernando E. (nietof@oldwestbury.edu)
 - Secretary: Lippert, Mathew S. (lippertm@oldwestbury.edu)
 - Administrative Assistant: Allocca, John A. (drallocca@icloud.com)
 - Contact Officer: Allocca, John A. (drallocca@icloud.com)
- Not for profit status: the chapter currently doesn't have a NFP status. John agreed to look into the NYS application for NFP and begin the process for the federal one so that donations can be tax-deductible.
- We discussed fund raising. The chapter is supported only through the annual membership fees that come to the chapter's coffers. Fernando suggested adding a donate button feature to the website.
- We discussed a plan for Spring 2022 semester including the following:
 - Calling a meeting early February 2022 to all STEM faculty and students to introduce the chapter and discuss activities. We are specially interested in getting students involved by planning activities.
 - Reaching to all STEM faculty to nominate students for research and academic excellence awards. We will also reach out to our STEP school district partners to nominate students for awards.
 - Scheduling our annual meeting early March with keynote speaker. We can have a closed meeting for chapter housekeeping matters, e.g. nomination and election of chapter officers for 2022-23. Followed by an open meeting to students and faculty with keynote speaker and presentation of awards.
 - Support a brown-bag research meeting where students and faculty do five-minute presentations on a piece of their data or a relevant article on their research topic. The theme is broad and inclusive of all STEM fields.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 pm.