



PHI SIGMA NEWS

The Official Phi Sigma Newsletter

Spring 2018

News About Phi Sigma's 19th Annual Research Symposium

We have some exciting changes coming this year for our 19th annual Research Symposium! The symposium will be held at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in uptown Normal on Friday, April 13. We will begin with registration and a continental breakfast at 8am and conclude the official proceedings with our keynote address from 3:30-4:30 pm. The festivities will continue with award presentations and adult beverages from 5-7 pm at the Marriott.

Due to the venue change for the symposium, we are able to expand our poster sessions to have all posters up for the duration of the sessions, which will give poster presenters the opportunity to see all of the other research being presented. Applications for both oral and poster presentations will be available on the Phi Sigma ReggieNet site on January 29 and will be due through the Phi Sigma email account on March 2. Please contact Rachel Sparks (raspar1@ilstu.edu) with any questions!

Keynote speaker spotlight: Ross Nehm, PhD

We are excited to announce that our keynote speaker for the 19th annual research symposium will be Dr. Ross Nehm from Stony Brook University. Dr. Nehm's research focus is in science education, particularly evolution education and natural selection. He has received over \$4 million in funding for his research, earned an NSF CAREER grant, edited numerous journals, and had over 50 publications. His prior work includes science teacher beliefs and how they influence student learning, misconceptions regarding evolutionary theory in undergraduate biology majors, gender differences in science, and how undergraduate research experiences influence student learning. He is currently collaborating on a number of projects regarding the development and implementation of automated tools to assess constructed-response explanations of complex scientific phenomena.

Dr. Nehm's CV is posted on Phi Sigma's ReggieNet page. We are greatly looking forward to hosting and learning from Dr. Nehm – be on the lookout for an email from Rachel Sparks to schedule times to meet with him!

IMPORTANT DATES

February 12

Weigel and Mockford-Thompson submissions open

Membership applications open

Research Symposium oral/poster applications open

February 15

Optional grant application meeting

February 23

Membership applications close

March 2

Weigel and Mockford-Thompson submissions close

Research Symposium applications close

April 13

Research Symposium

April 28

Spring Banquet



The Phi Sigma executive board thanks everyone that attended our 2nd annual trivia night (pictured below in Halloween costumes from left to right: Marc Ashford, Rachel Sparks, Ashley Waring, Logan Sauers, Kara Hodges, and Kerrigan Tobin)

Spooky Trivia Night

The fall 2017 philanthropy event, spooky trivia night, was a big success!

Six teams of faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and friends/family competed at our annual trivia event.

The Trivial Pursuits (pictured, right) won first place for the second year in a row.



Kelly's on 66 donated pizza for the event hosted at Ironwood Club House.

Phi Sigma also had a costume contest at this spooky event. Alysia Mortimer won the costume contest with her wild-type *Drosophila* costume.

The money raised at this event was donated to a local elementary to help bring age appropriate scientific reading materials to young people in our community.

Pictures of every team are available on our ReggieNet page under resources.

Winter Potluck

Our annual end of the fall semester event, the Winter potluck, was a fun and relaxing night. New Phi Sigma members were initiated (see right for list) and then we feasted on delicious dishes brought by everyone in attendance and meats provided by Phi Sigma.

Attendees had the option to participate in an ugly holiday sweater contest and tables got to vote on the crowd favorite. Kerrigan Tobin won this contest for the second year in a row with her "filthy animals" sweater showcasing some of her favorite research organisms at ISU.

We also had a white elephant gift exchange where participants fought over prized gifts like a stuffed Charles Darwin, Game of Thrones drinking glasses, and Malört (just kidding, no one wanted this gift).



Fall 2017 Phi Sigma Inductees

Anan Abu-Sharekh

Julia Martin

Abraham Martinez

Jade Surface

2018-2019 Phi Sigma Executive Board Election Information

2018-2019 executive board nominations will open April 16th and will remain open until April 20th at 10pm. The nomination form will be hosted on Phi Sigma's ReggieNet page unlike previous years. Each ReggieNet member can only complete the form once so be sure to include all the nominations you would like to make in one nomination form. After April 20th, nominees will be asked if they accept or decline their nominations for board positions. Voting will take place electronically through ReggieNet on April 23rd.

There are six positions on the Phi Sigma Executive Board that graduate students will fill. See below for descriptions of the positions. Please consider nominating yourself, your colleagues, and all graduate students you deem fit to fulfill these positions so that the 2018-2019 executive board can continue to bring events, grants, and fun to the school of Biological Sciences.

The president's role includes submitting required documents overseeing all operations, and delegating throughout the 2018-2019 year.

The vice president handles communication with the national Phi Sigma organization, recruitment and initiation, as well as assisting in planning the research symposium.

The business manager is in charge of ordering manuals, scheduling bookstore operations, and assisting in the planning and execution of philanthropy events. The treasurer keeps a budget as well as overseeing grant allocation, Phi Sigma reimbursements, and other expenditures.

The social chair coordinates annual events such as TA training week, the fall picnic, the winter potluck, and the spring banquet as well as volunteer and philanthropy opportunities.

The secretary keeps executive board minutes, creates the Boobologist, and starting this year, puts together the bi-annual Phi Sigma newsletter.

Updates on the Mockford-Thompson and Weigel grant application processes

R. D. Weigel research grants and Edward L. Mockford--Charles F. Thompson Summer Fellowships will be open for submission February 12th to March 2nd. Like previous years, submissions of these applications will be through email (sent to the Phi Sigma email address, PhiSigma.BetaLambda@gmail.com).

On February 15th at 4pm, Phi Sigma executive board will offer an optional meeting for any students who want more information about the grant submission process. After submission, Phi Sigma will email out more information about the review process.

Contact Us

Logan Sauers
President
lsauers@ilstu.edu
Office: FSA 143

Rachel Sparks
Vice-President
raspar1@ilstu.edu
Office: FHS 101

Ashley Waring
Treasurer
alwarin@ilstu.edu
Office: SLB 351

Kara Hodges
Business Manager
kehodg1@ilstu.edu
Office: FSA 139

Marc Ashford
Event Director
maashfo@ilstu.edu
Office: SLB 247

Kerrigan Tobin
Secretary
kbtobin1@ilstu.edu
Office: FSA 143

Phi Sigma Official Email
PhiSigma.BetaLambda@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at <http://phisigasociety.org/>

We now have a ReggieNet site. It hosts resources like an up to date calendar, pictures from recent events, and more! This portal can be used for turning in applications, nominating/voting for future executive boards, and so much more. You can access it on ReggieNet by clicking "sites" and clicking on "BSC Phi Sigma, Beta Lambda" under the header "Projects". Contact Rachel Sparks with questions or suggestions.