

**2012 MSU-SIGMA XI POSTER SESSION AND COMPETITION
CURRIS CENTER BALLROOM
MONDAY, APRIL 16 AND TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012**

SCHEDULE:

Monday, April 16, 2012	9:00 a.m. -12:00 noon 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.	Poster Set-Up Poster Exhibition/Judging
Tuesday, April 17, 2012	6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Sigma Xi Banquet/Awards
Wednesday, April 18, 2012	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Scholars Week General Poster Session

GUIDELINES:

1. Presenters should refer to the “2012 MSU-Sigma Xi Poster Session and Competition: Instructions for Presenters” when preparing their posters.
2. Students entering their poster in the poster competition should complete the online abstract submission and registration by March 26, 2012.
3. Students must be present at their posters for two hours on the afternoon of April 16th in order to be judged. After three judges have asked questions of a presenter, this student may consider his/her poster judged. If a poster is a collaboration among two or more students, each student involved is encouraged strongly to be present at judging. Otherwise, the presenting author should be proficient in answering questions pertaining to all aspects of the project.
4. To facilitate timely judging of student posters, the lead presenter for a poster needs to email the Poster Competition Chair, Claire Fuller (claire.fuller@murraystate.edu), to identify a two-hour block of time the presenter(s) can be in the poster judging area between noon and 4 p.m. on Monday. Please submit your email by noon on Friday, April 13, 2012.
5. All posters MUST comply with poster specifications published in the “Instructions for Presenters” document UNLESS the presenter contacts the session Chair, Claire Fuller (claire.fuller@murraystate.edu), prior to Friday, April 13th for approval of changes in poster size or specification.

OTHER INFORMATION:

- 1) Details on poster judging can be found in “2012 MSU-Sigma Xi Poster Session and Competition: Judging Procedures”. A sample judging form is also included, herein.

2) Each presenter and faculty mentor is invited to attend the Sigma Xi Banquet on Tuesday, April 17th from 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. in the Curris Center. The banquet is free to all presenters.

3) Posters in the Sigma XI Poster Competition will be displayed in the Scholars Week Poster Session on Wednesday morning, April 18th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. As schedules permit, presenters should attend this poster session to represent their work. The poster session is immediately followed by the President's Scholars Week Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Presenters and faculty members are invited to attend this free luncheon. Posters should be picked up immediately at the conclusion of the luncheon (~1:00 p.m.). Please visit the URSA webpage at <http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/> for further information.

2012 MSU-SIGMA XI POSTER SESSION AND COMPETITION: INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTERS

The poster session and competition will be held on April 16, 2012 (during Scholars Week) in the Curris Center Ballroom. Poster set-up will occur between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, while public exhibition and judging of the posters will take place between 12 noon and 4 p.m. Authors will be expected to be at their posters for judging during a pre-scheduled two-hour period. Students entering their poster in the poster competition should complete the online abstract submission and registration by March 26, 2012.

Poster Size

Your poster should be no larger than 4'x4' (48"x48"). A 4'x4' foam board and an easel will be provided for displaying your poster. For additional details on the proper preparation of posters, please discuss this topic with your faculty research sponsor, and refer to "*Tips for Preparing Posters*", below.

Sigma XI Poster Session and Competition Registration:

Please use the form provided on the URSA web-link, below, to register and submit your abstract.

http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/Scholars_Form.html

When filling out the abstract submission form, be certain to indicate that you wish to enter the Sigma Xi poster competition by selecting "Yes" in the appropriate place under the heading "*Special Scholars Week Poster Sessions*".

Tips for Preparing Posters

Your poster should be easily read from 3 to 4 feet, a distance that requires a character height of at least 3/8 inch. In addition, each figure should have a large heading (1/2" or 36 point) that clearly identifies the "point" of the figure. Any detailed information concerning the figure can be provided in a legend and at a smaller (but still legible) font. Remember, a casual viewer of your poster should be able to understand the poster without having to read the legend; the legend is strictly for those people who want to gain more detailed information about the figure. Tables should follow the same general layout as figures.

The following websites also provide useful tips for poster preparation:

http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=PP_ARTICLEMAIN&node_id=907&use_sec=false#P60_8259

<http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~mezza/nur390/Mod5/poster/index.html>

http://www.kumc.edu/SAH/OTEd/jradel/Poster_Presentations/PstrStart.html

2012 MSU-SIGMA XI POSTER SESSION AND COMPETITION: JUDGING PROCEDURES

The objectives of the student research poster competition were developed in accordance with the objectives of the national organization of Sigma Xi, namely to:

- reward excellence in research conducted and presented by students, and
- encourage and support research activities of students in all fields of science.

Judging Procedures:

1. Judging will be based on the research content of the poster, the poster's design and aesthetics, and on the ability of the student(s) to effectively answer questions about the work.
2. Initial judging of each poster will be conducted by at least two persons—one person from the discipline specific to the poster, and one person from an “outside” discipline. (For example, posters from the Biology Department should be judged by one biology faculty member and one faculty from another department.)
3. Faculty members will not judge their own student's posters.
4. Each judge will complete a written evaluation form (attached herein) for each student presentation.
5. Scores for each presentation will be tallied by a member of the Science Education Committee and the three top-scoring undergraduate and graduate posters in each discipline with at least four posters will be identified as a finalist. An undergraduate and graduate finalist will also be chosen from the group of posters consisting of all disciplines with less than four posters each.
6. The research presentations of the finalists will be judged a second time to determine the recipient of the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award and the Outstanding Graduate Research Award. Each finalist will be evaluated a second time by two judges.

**2012 MSU-SIGMA XI POSTER COMPETITION:
POSTER EVALUATION FORM**

Student(s): _____

Title: _____

Circle one: Undergraduate Poster Graduate Poster

Please provide your evaluations of each category using the following scoring scheme:

4 = Excellent, 3 = Good, 2 = Average, 1 = Fair, 0 = Poor

Research Content

- Clearly-defined purpose and hypothesis? _____
- Logical and thorough experimental/analytical protocol? _____
- Adequate data analysis via graphs/charts/tables? _____
- Conclusions supported by relevant data? _____

Poster Quality

- Figures/text legible and understandable? _____
- Logical flow and organization to poster layout? _____
- Quality of general poster aesthetics? _____

Student Presentation and Response to Questions

- Student able to clearly communicate major points from the research? _____
- Student able to suggest further studies to improve and/or broaden work? _____
- Student able to field questions adequately and with poise? _____

Total Points (out of 40): _____

COMMENTS/FEEDBACK: