

**2015 MSU-SIGMA XI POSTER SESSION AND COMPETITION
CURRIS CENTER BALLROOM
MONDAY, APRIL 13 AND TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015**

SCHEDULE:

Monday, April 13, 2015	9:00 a.m. -12:00 noon 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.	Poster Set-Up Poster Exhibition/Judging
Tuesday, April 14, 2015	6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Sigma Xi Banquet/Awards
Wednesday, April 15, 2015	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<i>Scholars Week</i> General Poster Session

GUIDELINES:

1. Presenters should refer to the “2015 MSU-Sigma Xi Poster Session and Competition: Instructions for Presenters” when preparing their posters.
2. **Students entering their poster in the poster competition must complete the online abstract submission and registration by March 24, 2015.**
3. Students must be present at their posters for two hours on the afternoon of April 13th in order to be judged. After two 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 will be contacted by the Poster Competition Chair, Dr. Maeve McCarthy (mmccarthy@murraystate.edu), to assign a two-hour block of time the presenter(s) will be in the poster judging area. If documentation is needed to be excused from class, students should contact Dr. McCarthy.**
5. All posters MUST comply with poster specifications published in the “Instructions for Presenters” document UNLESS the presenter contacts the session Chair, Dr. Maeve McCarthy (mmccarthy@murraystate.edu) prior to Wednesday, April 8th for approval of changes in poster size or specification.

OTHER INFORMATION:

- 1) Details on poster judging can be found in “2015 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 14th from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 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* General Poster Session on Wednesday morning, April 15th from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. As schedules permit, presenters should attend this poster session to represent their work. Posters should be picked up immediately after the *Scholars Week* General Poster Session. Please visit the URSA webpage at <http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/> for further information.

2015 MSU-SIGMA XI POSTER SESSION AND COMPETITION: INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTERS

The poster session and competition will be held on April 13, 2015 (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 must complete the online abstract submission and registration by March 24, 2015.

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 website, *Scholars Week* page to register and submit your abstract.

When filling out the abstract submission form, be certain to indicate that you wish to enter the Sigma Xi Poster Competition.

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:

Hess, G. (2012). *60-Second Poster Evaluation*. The file is available to download in Adobe PDF format at <http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/URSA/60secondposterevaluation.pdf>.

Newbrey, M.G. & Baltezare, J.M. (2006). Poster presentations: Conceptualizing, constructing & critiquing. *The American Biology Teacher*, 68(9):550-554. The file is available to download in Adobe PDF format at <http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/URSA/newbreybaltezare2006.pdf>.

Newbrey, M.G. & Baltezare, J.M. (2005). *Procedure To Construct Professional Quality Posters*. The file is available to download in Adobe PDF format at <http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/URSA/posterinstructionsnb.pdf>.

2015 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. Each poster will be judged by two individuals.
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 the Chair of the Poster Competition and the three top-scoring undergraduate and graduate posters in each discipline with at least four posters will be identified as finalists. 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 students' scores from the Poster Competition will be used along with the judges' evaluations of which posters merit the Outstanding Undergraduate and the Graduate Student Research Award to determine the recipients of these awards.