

**2008 MSU-SIGMA XI POSTER SESSION AND COMPETITION  
CURRIS CENTER SMALL BALLROOM  
MONDAY, APRIL 21 AND TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008**

*SCHEDULE:*

Monday, April 21, 2008	9:00 a.m. -12:00 noon 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m. After 6:00 p.m	Poster Set-Up Poster Exhibition/Judging Students should check the website, below, to see if they are finalists.
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[http://www.murraystate.edu/qacd/cos/sig\\_x/local.htm](http://www.murraystate.edu/qacd/cos/sig_x/local.htm)

Tuesday, April 22, 2008	6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Sigma Xi Banquet
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*GUIDELINES:*

1. Presenters should refer to the “2008 MSU-Sigma Xi Poster Session and Competition: Instructions for Presenters” when preparing their posters.
2. Students must be present at their posters during judging. After three judges have asked questions of a presenter, this student may consider his/her poster judged. If a poster is 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.
3. All posters MUST comply with poster specifications published in the document noted in #1, UNLESS the presenter contacts the session organizer, Daniel Johnson ([daniel.johnson@murraystate.edu](mailto:daniel.johnson@murraystate.edu)), prior to Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> for approval of changes in poster size or specification.

*OTHER INFORMATION:*

- 1) Details on poster judging can be found in “2008 MSU-Sigma Xi Poster Session and Competition: Judging Procedures”. A sample judging form is also included, herein.
- 2) Each presenter is invited to attend the Sigma Xi Banquet on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. in the Curris Center. The banquet is free to all presenters.
- 3) Posters may be picked up after the Scholar's Week Luncheon on Wednesday, April 13 (~ 2 P.M.). Each presenter also is invited to this luncheon. Please visit the URSA webpage at <http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/> for further information.

## 2008 MSU-SIGMA XI POSTER SESSION AND COMPETITION: INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTERS

The poster session and competition will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 (during Scholars Week) in the small ballroom in the Curris Center. 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. Student entering their poster in the poster competition should complete an online abstract submission and registration by March 31, 2008.

### *Poster Size*

Your poster should be no larger than 4'x4' (48"x48"). While poster stands will be provided at the Curris Center, you should bring your own pins to attach your poster to the allotted space. For additional details on the proper preparation of posters, please discuss this topic with you 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](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*

Poster sessions are often crowded and busy, conditions which can make close viewing difficult. Therefore, your poster should be easily read from 3 to 4 feet, a distance that requires a character size of at least 3/8 inch high. 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://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](http://www.kumc.edu/SAH/OTEd/jradel/Poster_Presentations/PstrStart.html)

## **2008 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 X, 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 three persons—two persons 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 two Biology faculty members, and one faculty from another department.)
3. Faculty members will not judge their own 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 top-scoring undergraduate and graduate student 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 by one judge from their own discipline and one judge from an “outside” discipline.

**2008 MSU-SIGMA XI POSTER SESSION AND COMPETITION:  
SPECIAL ADDENDUM**

In order to:

- ensure adequate judging of student posters,
- demonstrate our belief in the value of scholarly presentation,
- reward the hard work that the students have contributed to their work,

we request that all faculty mentors of works presented in this competition act as judges for the competition. Of course, mentors will not act as judges for their own student's/students' posters.

If a mentor believes that, due to class or meeting conflicts, they will be unable to serve as a judge, please contact Daniel Johnson (x4279, [daniel.johnson@murraystate.edu](mailto:daniel.johnson@murraystate.edu)) so that a suitable alternate judge can be found.

**2008 MSU-SIGMA XI POSTER SESSION AND 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): \_\_\_\_\_

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**COMMENTS/FEEDBACK:**