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## Sigma Xi , The Scientific Research Society

University of Maine Chapter of Sigma Xi

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## **A *Sigma Xi* Distinguished Lecturer, Fall 2002**

Submitted by François G. Amar  
for the University of Maine Chapter of Sigma Xi

The University of Maine Chapter of *Sigma Xi*, *The Scientific Research Society* requests funding to help support the visit of a *Sigma Xi* Distinguished Lecturer in the Fall of 2002. The lecture will be of interest to a general audience, free and open to the public. We will publicize the lecture on campus, in the community, and at institutions in central Maine (e.g. Colby, Jackson Labs, high school science clubs).

*Sigma Xi* is a national organization devoted to promoting scientific research (through grants, meetings, and its journal, *American Scientist*) and honoring students and professionals who have demonstrated achievement in this area. The University of Maine Chapter (Chapter #100) has been inactive for about ten years and is being revitalized this year by a small group of members. This spring, for the first time in a decade, the organization will nominate and induct a new group of students and faculty.

We intend to help fulfill our mission and to kick-off our renewed presence on campus by inviting a *Sigma Xi* Distinguished Lecturer to give a public talk of general interest here on campus in the Fall of 2002. In our application to the national office of Sigma Xi for partial support for this visit, we identified 3 out of 30 proposed speakers: 1) Alan Taylor, Department of Mathematics, Union College (Topic: *The Mathematics of Voting*); 2) Jacqueline Krim, Department of Physics, N.C. State (Topic: *Nanoscale Machines: These Squeaky Wheels Will Get No Grease*); 3) Mriganka Sur, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, MIT (Topic: *How the Brain Wires Itself*). Our proposed date for the lecture is Thursday, October 10, 2002. We are presently awaiting approval from Sigma Xi before firming up the invitation to one of these speakers.

As a fledgling organization, we presently have only very limited local resources. Committing \$100 to a lecture this year, we anticipate that this situation will improve in a year or two. Thus we have requested support from a variety of sources: \$500 from the national office of Sigma Xi (pending), \$200 (committed) from Provost Kennedy's office, and \$500 requested of CA/DLS. We note that Sigma Xi lecturers agree to limit their honorarium to \$200 and that the funding from the Provost's office is earmarked for a public reception following the lecture.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

## Budget for Fall 2002 Sigma Xi Lecture

### Expenses

Honorarium	\$ 200
Airfare	\$ 500
Local expenses (hotel, meals)	\$ 200
Publicity	\$ 200
<u>Public reception</u>	<u>\$ 200</u>
Total	\$1300

### Funding

National Sigma Xi	(pending)	\$ 500
Local Sigma Xi	(committed)	\$ 100
Provost's Office	(committed)	\$ 200
<u>CA/DLS request</u>		<u>\$ 500</u>
Total		\$1300

*Cultural Affairs Committee*  
*including the*  
*Distinguished Lecture Series*  
*200 Alumni Hall*  
*University of Maine*

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April 19, 2002

To: Francois G. Amar

From: Kathleen March & François Amar, Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Cultural Affairs Committee, including the Distinguished Lecture Series, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that your proposal, Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer, has been awarded \$500.00. **Please contact Wanda Legere at 1-1516 before your event takes place to arrange for disbursement of award funds.** Note: Reception and University of Maine System payroll expenses are not reimbursable through this award.

Please note that acknowledgment of the *Cultural Affairs Committee* is required on all promotional materials. **A budget report must be submitted at the conclusion of your event and will be considered for future funding requests.** It is assumed that projects are completed within 12 months, therefore, any remaining balance will be returned to the Committee account for further distribution unless otherwise notified.

The Committee notes that it does not fund more than 50% of the amount for any given program. It also asks applicants to consider the most reasonable honoraria possible, as there may not be funding for the higher amounts.

We, the members of the Cultural Affairs Committee, congratulate you and wish you much success on this project.