

Dr. Tracy Curtis and Dr. Phyllis O'Donnell Elected to Sigma Xi Scientific Honor Society

March 11, 2015

Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, is the international honor society of science and engineering. One of the oldest and largest scientific organizations in the world, Sigma Xi has a distinguished history of service to science and society for more than one hundred and twenty five years. The Mission of Sigma Xi is to enhance the health of the research enterprise, foster integrity in science and engineering, and promote the public's understanding of science for the purpose of improving the human condition. In our region, providing leadership who serve as the Board of Directors for the Southern Tier Scholastic Science Fair is how the members support the organization's mission.

Membership in Sigma Xi requires a rigorous nomination process with evidence that the candidate meets the scientific ideals and standards of the organization. More than 200 Nobel Prize winners have been members. As President of the Triple Cities, New York Chapter of Sigma Xi, I am delighted to announce that this year two members of the SUNY Broome faculty have been elected to membership.

Dr. Tracy Curtis received her BS Biology in from SUNY Cortland, where she worked on a National Science Foundation-funded project to catalog the fungal biodiversity in the Caribbean that led to her first publication describing a new species of mushroom. She then went on to earn her Masters and Ph.D. in Biology at Binghamton University, studying invasive wasp species in North America. She served as a National Science Foundation Graduate Teaching Fellow in K-12 Education, the experience that prompted her to simultaneously pursue a Master's Degree in Teaching. Dr. Curtis has been a member of the Biology faculty for SUNY Broome 10 years. She has recently begun collaborative Lyme disease research with Binghamton University that allows SUNY Broome students to gain research experience in this field. Dr. Curtis received the Distinguished Dissertation Award and Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence as a graduate student, and was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching last year. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Tracy Curtis upon her election to Sigma Xi.

Dr. Phyllis O'Donnell earned her BS in Medical Technology from SUNY Stony Brook University. After working as a Medical Technologist in healthcare and as a Quality Control Analyst and Research Associate in industry, she returned to school and earned a PhD in Microbiology and Immunology from SUNY Upstate Medical University. She served in postdoctoral appointments at SUNY Upstate Medical University and SUNY Binghamton University. During graduate school, she also discovered a love of teaching and went on to earn a MAT in Biology from SUNY Binghamton University. Dr. O'Donnell has wide-ranging research interests and has many publications in journals like the Journal of Parasitology and the Journal of Biological Chemistry. Dr. O'Donnell has been a member of the Biology faculty at SUNY Broome since 2011. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Phyllis O'Donnell upon her election to Sigma Xi.

Andrea C. Wade, Ph.D.

President, Sigma Xi Triple Cities, NY Chapter

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