



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **Waterworks Museum receives donation from Harvard scientific community**

**Boston, MA (January 10, 2011)** – The Waterworks Museum today announced the receipt of a \$1000 donation from the Harvard University chapter of a key scientific research society in support of its planned March 27, 2011 opening. The generous gift by Harvard’s Sigma Xi society is the most recent public support for the Museum, which will offer a glimpse into Boston’s technological past with presentation of three massive steam engines and their original pumps.

The Harvard University chapter of Sigma Xi was founded in 1938 as part of the national organization that supports scientific investigation and encourages a sense of companionship and cooperation among researchers in all fields of science and engineering. Functioning as an international, multidisciplinary research society whose programs and activities promote the health of the scientific enterprise and honor scientific achievement, there are nearly 60,000 Sigma Xi members in more than 100 countries around the world. The Harvard chapter boasts approximately 500 members with interest in many fields of science and engineering with a large number of members in medicine and life sciences.

“Throughout the history of Sigma Xi, our members have been very interested in exploring the technology of the past while encouraging new ground-breaking scientific advances that make our everyday lives better. The Waterworks Museum is important because of its goal to connect the past with the future in a way that makes science and engineering accessible to everyone,” stated Katherine Burton Jones, President of the Harvard University chapter.

The Waterworks Museum interprets unique stories of the country's first metropolitan water system through exhibitions and educational programs on engineering, architecture, social history, and public health. Through interactive exhibits and interpretation by on-staff educators, the Museum brings to life the three original steam engines that provided most of the water to the Boston metropolitan area from 1888-1976. Beginning with the installation of the Leavitt Engine in 1894, followed by the Allis Engine in 1898 and finally the Worthington-Snow Engine in 1916,

the Chestnut Hill Pumping Station (as it was then known) was an important contribution to the fast expansion of the Boston area in the late 1800's.

“We are thrilled to receive this donation from the Harvard scientific community in support of the Museum,” said Dr. Beryl Rosenthal, Executive Director of the Waterworks Museum. “To have the support of such influential people in the world of science and engineering demonstrates to us that we’re on the right track with our goals and mission. This will enable us to do even more outreach and exploration on these issues.”

The Museum plans a day-long celebration and public Open House on March 27, 2011, and will offer public tours, educational programming and special event space. For more information, visit [www.waterworksmuseum.org](http://www.waterworksmuseum.org).

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