

National Council of The Society of
Sigma Gamma Epsilon



NATIONAL HONORARY SOCIETY in the EARTH SCIENCES

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TO: Members of the National Council of SGE and Active Chapters

FROM: Erika R. Elswick, SGE President

RE: **Start of the Spring 2013 semester**

Greetings Sigma Gammers!

I hope the New Year finds you healthy and happy and ready for new challenges. It has been a busy year for the National Council as well. We have worked to enact many of the proposals that were put forth by you, the membership, during the last SGE Biennial Convention in Bloomington, IN and we were busy preparing for the 42th convention, we held in conjunction with the GSA annual meeting, in Charlotte, NC.

We had a great showing for the SGE sponsored poster session at the national Geological Society of America meeting with 97 abstracts representing undergraduate research from across the country. Best Poster awards from the meeting were judged by the Council members with the help of faculty advisors from the SGE Convention. The **Austin Sartin Award** went to **Melissa Gunderson** of SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz, NY for her presentation on the *Kinematic Analysis of the Rosendale Thrust Fault, Northernmost Central Appalachian Fold-thrust Belt, New York* with co-authors Frederic Vollmer, Nicole Mainwaring, Kurtis Burmeister, Jeffery Walker and Yvette Kuiper. The **National Council Award** for 2012 went to **Aaron Hiday** of Albion College for his presentation on the, *Investigation of Bioturbation and Groundwater Sapping as possible causes of Diel Turbidity Cycles in Rice Creek, Kalamazoo Watershed, MI* with co-authors Timothy Lincoln and Thomas Wilch. We were delighted with the enthusiastic participation and the great quality of the science represented in the poster session and we are looking forward to the next poster session in Denver, Colorado this fall. We hope you will consider submitting your poster abstract for the GSA session for Undergraduate Research.

The National Council met during the meeting in Charlotte and furthered our discussions regarding the initiatives from the 42nd National Convention, including the move to an electronic format for your publication **The COMPASS** starting with the January 2012 issue. I want to extend my personal thanks to our Editor, Dr. Larry Davis who got us online. The council also agreed to invest in the transfer of the past issues of **The COMPASS** to electronic format for wider access which got underway this past fall semester. The 41st Biennial Convention will be published this spring, and is scheduled to be the last of the print copies to be mailed. We hope you will consider submitting your research for an upcoming issue of the electronic journal.

We are pleased to welcome our newest Chapters of SGE, *Theta Beta*, at SUNY New Paltz, New York NY and *Theta Gamma*, at Angelo State University, San Angelo TX. They held their installation ceremonies this past spring. We had a large number of inquiries from new schools at the booth at GSA, so we hope to see those applications soon. This past fall, four chapters qualified for Quality Chapter awards, *Eta Gamma* at Weber State University, *Gamma Chi* at Eastern Illinois University, *Epsilon Theta* at Northwest Missouri State University and *Gamma Sigma* at the University of Northern Iowa. Congratulations to these chapters that met the Quality Chapter requirements by their timeliness and their outreach on behalf of their departments.

We are looking forward to a productive and exciting Spring Semester for SGE. As always, we will attempt to respond to your requests and inquires as soon as possible. You can e-mail Paula Even our Administrative Assistant at even@sigmagammaepsilon.com or call 319-273-3818 or fax 319-273-7124 if you have questions regarding your chapter's standing, dues, and this spring's round of **Tarr Awards**. You can also visit the **SGE Facebook** page (link on the SGE Website) to keep aware of news items, National Office information, Chapter news, and to swap fundraising and outreach ideas and activities with other chapters, and meet new people.

I hope you have a safe and productive semester.