

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:

All delegates to the 44th SGE Biennial Convention are required to submit a Chapter Report covering their chapter's activities since the last convention on March 27-29, 2015 in Lawrence, Kansas. All Chapter Reports should be submitted publish ready to even@sigmagammaepsilon.com by September 8, 2017. These instructions are a guide to the format and style for manuscripts submitted to *The Compass*:

- * Double-space throughout, with no extra spaces to separate sections.
- * Use a 1-inch margin and a 12-point Verdana font.
- * Indent the start of a new paragraph.
- * Do not right justify.
- * MAJOR HEADINGS (Chapter Name) are bold-typed in the center using upper case letters.
- * Minor Headings are also bold-typed in.
- * Please include photos.

CHAPTER REPORT EXAMPLES:

RHO CHAPTER

Indiana University

The Rho Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon at Indiana University was reactivated in 2001 with 27 new members. Our chapter maintains a strong presence in the geology department, especially in the spring when we host an ever-growing student research day (formerly DOGS DAZE and DOGS days). We encourage participation from students around the Midwest, and offer merit-based travel grants and awards for promising student research. Since our reactivation, this event has been the major event for which we plan year-round. As a result of the hard work and careful planning of the past presidents and Rho chapter members, we have managed to make this a

two-day event including a job fair. Our other activities vary from year to year, but usually include a fall and spring picnic, and fundraising events.

President Kevin Thaisen, who presided for the 2005-2006 school year organized two fantastic picnics that nearly the entire department attended! The student research day was a huge success. We had 35 student presentations, including 3 students who came from other universities in Indiana. Both graduate and undergraduate students presented their research. Representatives from four industry areas (three oil companies and one environmental firm) judged the student presentations and gave 15-minute presentations on their various industries that were well attended by the students. Our main fundraising events during this period included a department-wide T-shirt sale and a silent auction at the student research day.

President Martha Growdon, who presided for the 2006-2007 school year initiated several new programs including a weekly drop-in tutoring service and graduate-undergraduate research lunches, as well as encouraging a wider variety of industry representatives to be present at our annual research day. The tutoring service was a huge success, however the research lunches had limited attendance. Due to the low attendance, these lunches did not achieve the desired effect of introducing undergraduate students to the variety of possible research areas available to them, however it was a good way for the graduate students to meet undergraduates

who were interested in research. The student research day in March, 2007, was another success. We had 6 industries represented, and extended the event another half day to accommodate informal interviews between the students and the industry representatives. We had 25 student presenters, including 5 undergraduate students, and 2 students from IUPUI. We are still having trouble recruiting students from other states to join our research day.

Our chapter had a strong start this year, with 17 new members and 10 returning members. We planned a successful fall picnic for the department in September, at which many new students had the opportunity to get to know the returning students. Several professors and students have approached us about organizing short courses in computer-based programs like Excel or Adobe Illustrator. We continue to offer a weekly tutoring service, and offer short courses on an as-needed basis. Our president, Curtis Williams has set the stage for a superb student research day on February 22-23, 2008. We will extend the event to a full two days and hope to see a larger representation from other Midwest schools.

Martha L Growdon

Vice President, 2007-2008

ETA GAMMA

Weber State University

Since SGE's last convention in the Fall of 2007, the Eta Gamma Chapter at Weber State University (Ogden, UT) has held an initiation ceremony each semester, adding a total of thirteen (13) new members to the Society. Our average chapter membership during this time has been 14 active members. In terms of chapter activities, during the past two and a half years the Eta Gamma Chapter has focused on community service and outreach. Eta Gamma's goal is to raise public awareness of the geosciences and to promote a growing interest in the geosciences among pre-college students. At Weber State University this goal is being met through several after-school type activities. The newest of these is the *Science Saturday* program, a once-a-month event held at Weber State, free of charge to all ages, sponsored by the entire College of Science. Students of the Geosciences Department have created presentations and activities ranging from properties of minerals to fossil preservation processes. The activities and presentations change monthly to maintain the public's interest.

The pride and joy of the Eta Gamma Chapter is our yearly participation in *Science Olympiad*, a national program that promotes science through state and national competitions for high school and junior high teams. The students participating in the competition gain scientific based knowledge and skills, achieve an out-of-classroom experience, develop an interest in science, improve their teamwork skills, and socialize with other students who are preparing for a science major in college. This rigorous competition requires students to understand many different fields of the geosciences; from earthquakes and volcanoes, rock and

fossil identification, interpretation of evidence to infer Earth's history, as well as understanding Earth's systems and meteorology. Each spring members of the Eta Gamma Chapter, working with members of our Geology Club, have helped to develop, manage, and score the Rock & Mineral or Fossil events that take place as part of northern Utah's *Science Olympiad*.

The Eta Gamma Chapter has also offered field trips to the public and potential geoscience students. These field trips, generally coordinated with lower division geology courses, serve to promote SGE to the freshmen class and recruit qualified students. Usually local, these field trips focus on the geologic features of northern Utah and the Wasatch Front. With an upcoming growth in the number freshmen of the Geosciences Department, the activities are planned to become more extensive.

Members of the Eta Gamma Chapter have attended annual leadership training and recruitment events sponsored by Weber State's Office of Clubs and Organizations with the intent to have greater interaction with the entire campus. With the organization of the *Colligatelink* we hope to create contacts with universities around the nation and become better acquainted with the geology and job opportunities outside of Utah.

Jens Gibbs

President

ETA TAU CHAPTER

University of Dayton

The past 2 years have been extremely busy for our chapter. One of our most exciting accomplishments was having 2 initiations, and seeing our small group continue to grow in size. Also, we were lucky enough to have a new advisor (Dr. Umesh Haritashya) jump in to help us continue to be successful on campus. Although our chapter has only been established two years, we have been quickly accomplishing our goals and gaining support throughout our department and university.

Every year we have participated in Environmental Science week, which started out as a weeklong event put on by the Geology department. Due to growing concern for the Earth, the weeklong event has taken on a more community approach involving all of the sciences and their small groups so now there are events held every day. SGE itself was responsible for creating and selling t-shirts along with hosting a geocache and number of other programs.

We have also become involved with another event called TechFest conducted by the Affiliate Societies Council of Dayton, a 501(c)(3) organization. This event is held every year in the Greater Dayton/Miami Valley Area. It is open to the public to embrace the sciences, especially to help young people become interested in the sciences. Geology booth is always a popular booth and this year we had both rocks and fossils on display for the children to hold, interpret and discuss with peers.

In the fall, a few students volunteered their weekend to help out with a Nature Emersion program for the Dayton grade school students. This was a pretty

exciting experience because this was the first time many of the students had ever been away from home and out in nature. The kids had a blast learning how to identify trees, finding arrow heads along with various other activities.

This past spring break, we went on a weeklong field trip to the Las Vegas and Death Valley area following along a tour guide rebuilding the geologic time scale of the area.

At the end of last year, we held a canned food drive for one of the local food pantries. It was a huge success, and they were extremely grateful for our donation. We are planning on continuing this tradition for the years to come.

We also had our first big fundraiser this year of selling hotdogs to the University of Dayton students. It was a huge success. We are also planning on doing this again sometime this semester.

Sandy Silwowski

Corresponding Secretary