

National Council of The Society of
Sigma Gamma Epsilon



NATIONAL HONORARY SOCIETY in the EARTH SCIENCES

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Greetings Sig Gammers!

I hope the fall semester finds you safe, healthy, happy, and ready to take full advantage of everything the semester has to offer. The National Council has been busy working to implement the proposals put forward by your representatives at the 100th Anniversary Biennial Convention in Lawrence, Kansas. I want to thank Dr. George Tsoflias (chapter advisor), Dr. Luis González (Department Chair) and the members of the Alpha Chapter at KU, Dr. Anthony Walton for a great field trip, and Cari Alferts for assistance with event logistics. Dr. Erika Elswick completed her second term as SGE president; her leadership and effort on behalf of the Society leave us in an excellent position as we move forward. Dr. Rick Ford presented an excellent summary of SGE's history and vision. I look forward to his poster at GSA in November. Dr. James Walters did a wonderful job communicating event information to students and faculty who attended. Finally, Sigma Gamma Epsilon would not function without the efforts of Paula Even, the administrative officer for the National Office. Paula, thank you. Without your help, I would already be lost.

Dr. Larry Davis continues to do an excellent job as Editor-in-Chief for The Compass. Dr. Davis is glad to receive your research contributions. The Compass is available on the SGE home page <http://www.sigmagammaepsilon.com> or directly at <http://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/compass>.

We have a great showing for the SGE sponsored poster session at the GSA Annual Meeting in Baltimore, with more than 100 abstracts showcasing undergraduate research projects from across the country. The session is scheduled for 9:00 am to 6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 3. Also, please stop by the Sigma Gamma Epsilon Booth (#337) in the Exhibit Hall.

We are pleased to welcome our newest Chapters of SGE: Theta Eta at the University of Puget Sound, Theta Theta at Concord University, and Theta Iota at SUNY Oswego. Congratulations! In addition, we are happy to announce that Xi Chapter at Washington State University has been reactivated. We have received inquiries from new schools and dormant chapters. We hope to see those applications in the coming year. If you are interested in reactivating your chapter, contact Paula Even at the National Office (even@sigmagammaepsilon.com) or (319) 505-3391.

We are excited about the upcoming year and anticipate an exciting fall semester for SGE. As always, make every effort to respond quickly to requests and inquiries. Direct questions about chapter standing, dues, and the dates and deadlines for awards (Tarr, Quality Chapter, Service, etc.) to the National Office. I encourage you to visit the SGE Facebook page (accessed via the SGE Website) to remain abreast of news items, National Office information, Chapter news, and to swap ideas about fundraising, outreach, and other activities with members of other chapters.

Finally, please note that while each chapter is expected to induct members in the spring and fall semesters, wide latitude is given with respect to the degree of participation (if any) in the ritual. To that end, delegates to the 2015 biennial convention established a third, very short version of the initiation ceremony. Should you be interested in any version of the ceremony, please contact Paula and request a copy of the version in which you are interested.

I hope you have a safe and productive semester,

Best Regards,

Aaron W. Johnson, SGE President
September 18, 2015