

National Council of The Society of  
*Sigma Gamma Epsilon*



NATIONAL HONORARY SOCIETY in the EARTH SCIENCES

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RE: Site visit to **Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore, MD

In response to a petition from students interested in forming a new chapter of *Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE)*, I visited the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Johns Hopkins University on 13 May 2013. Dr. Naomi Levin, assistant professor, and Ms. Jessica Noviello gave me a tour of the facilities within Olin Hall. The facilities are in excellent condition. I met several other faculty during my visit and briefly discussed their individual research interests and how they engage students. The faculty are very active in research and actively encouraging students to participate is a departmental priority.

I met with the six students who filed the petition and had discussions on the numerous extra-curricular field excursions sponsored by the department. I should note that my visit occurred during their final exam week, so my conversations took place between exams for some. The students felt that there are many opportunities for undergraduates to be involved with faculty and graduate students in research and other departmental activities, and to take a more active roll in planning. This attitude is welcomed by the faculty. I had lunch with Ms. Noviello and continued our discussion on their plans for a chapter. Jessica noted that the University of Maryland has a chapter, and was going to initiate contact to discuss joint activities. It was clear from my discussions with students that they have a solid plan and the motivation to establish a robust chapter.

The Department of Geology offers majors and minors in earth and planetary science and in global environmental change and sustainability at the undergraduate level plus doctoral programs. The department is staffed by sixteen full-time faculty and several more jointly appointed faculty and research faculty. The faculty are very dedicated to both their students and their own research efforts. The students petitioning for a new chapter of *SGE* are very enthusiastic and academically oriented. I hope that you will enthusiastically approve their petition.

Cordially,

Mark R. Noll, PhD

*SGE* Vice President, Northeastern Province