

September 4, 2007

Greetings, Sigma Gams:

I hope you all had a safe, restful, and/or productive summer break. With the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, Sigma Gamma Epsilon is now in its 92nd year of recognizing academic excellence and promoting the professional development of geoscience students in universities and colleges across America. I am confident that your chapter has activities planned to promote these goals and that your members will have fun together in the process. In addition to your local chapter activities, a number of important events will take place at the national level in which you may want to participate.

◆ **CALL TO CONVENTION:**

The Gamma Sigma Chapter (University of Northern Iowa) will host Sigma Gamma Epsilon's 40th Biennial Convention on their campus in Cedar Falls, Iowa, October 19–21, 2007. The convention will run Friday through Sunday morning, with a local geologic field trip on Saturday. I have found these events to be a lot of fun, in addition to their importance in setting policy for this student-run organization. Your national officers carry out the policy established at the preceding convention; we do not set policy. Travel funds for one official delegate from each active (dues paid) chapter will be provided by the National office. Chapters are encouraged to send additional students, funded by their chapter, to the convention as well. Details on registering for the convention and arranging travel are available on this website. If your chapter has an issue you would like discussed at the meeting, please email it to me (rford@weber.edu) so that I can add it to the convention agenda.

◆ **SGE AT THE DENVER GSA MEETING:**

I wanted to let everyone know about the various SGE activities that will take place in conjunction with the upcoming GSA meeting in Denver, October 28–31, 2007.

1. The SGE Poster Session (session #117), highlighting undergraduate research, will be held Monday, October 29, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m., Exhibit Hall E/F. We have 55 student posters this year (booth nos. 119–173)! The National VPs will judge those posters presented by SGE members and award two cash prizes for the best student research. Be sure to stop by and support this important event.

2. The Third Annual SGE Members Reception will be held Monday, October 29, 5 to 7 p.m. (Location to be determined – check the convention program.) As you cruise the various university alumni receptions, be sure to stop in and meet other SGE members and advisors from across the country. Last year’s reception in Philadelphia was a great success and we hope for even greater attendance at this year’s reception.
3. SGE will have a booth (#317) in the Exhibit Hall throughout the meeting. As we discussed at our last convention, Betty Bellis, Secretary to the National Council, would welcome help from SGE student members to help “man” the booth during the meeting. Of course, this is also the place to touch base with National if your chapter has any questions or needs any SGE items or supplies.
4. Lastly, be sure to check out the “Hall of Fame” at the Denver meeting that highlights all the awards given in the past year by GSA and its allied and affiliated societies. Last year’s W. A. Tarr Award recipients and the winners of the 2006 Austin A. Sartin and National Council poster session awards will be listed in this forum.

◆ ***THE COMPASS***

Have you been working on an undergraduate research project? Do you have results from your master’s thesis ready to publish? If so, please consider publishing your research in *THE COMPASS*, the society’s peer-reviewed scientific journal. Manuscripts should be sent to Dr. Donald Neal, our National Editor. He also is interested in publishing “Chapter News” items, so let us know about your chapter’s activities.

I hope you have a great semester, and I look forward to seeing some of you in Cedar Falls and/or Denver.

Sincerely,

Rick Ford
National President
The Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon