

April 11, 2008

Active Chapters of Sigma Gamma Epsilon
Members of the National Council

Spring has finally arrived here in northern Utah and many of us in the Department of Geosciences are already looking forward to the summer field season and the end of the semester. However, before we all scatter for the summer, as geoscientists are wont to do, I would like to inform you about a couple of important things happening with respect to SGE at the national level.

First, Sigma Gamma Epsilon will be continuing its tradition of sponsoring a poster session at the annual meeting of the *Geological Society of America*. Last year we limited the session to undergraduate research and the response was overwhelming; 55 high-quality posters were presented at the Denver meeting. Approximately 18 posters were authored by SGE members and thus judged for our annual outstanding poster awards. Lauren Chrapowitzky (Eta Xi Chapter, St. Lawrence University) received the *Austin A. Sartin Award*. Brent Reynolds (Epsilon Kappa Chapter, Central Michigan University) and Lisa Degrazia (Eta Nu Chapter, James Madison University) were the recipients of the *National Council Awards*. This year's annual meeting will be held in Houston, Texas, October 5-9, 2008. Sigma Gamma Epsilon's poster session will be Topical Session 140 (T140). **The deadline (June 3) for online submission of abstracts is fast approaching.** Please consult the GSA website for complete instructions on submitting an abstract. If you, or any undergraduate student you know, have been involved in an undergraduate-research project, please consider presenting your results at our session and being part of this exciting forum for young geoscientists. Faculty and graduate students may be co-authors on the poster.

Secondly, I am happy to report that the Society held a very successful biennial convention this past fall (October 17-19, 2007), hosted by the Gamma Sigma Chapter on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa. The fall weather was spectacular and the Gamma Sigs did a wonderful job in organizing the field trip and banquet; on behalf of the Society, I say thank you. Approximately 30 students, representing 12 chapters, attended the convention, along with several chapter advisors and members of the National Council. Although no major changes to the Constitution or editorial policy of THE COMPASS were made, the delegates did finalize the revision of the Ritual, adding the voice of Mary Anning, an important early female contributor to the geosciences. The student delegates also extended honorary membership to Dr. James C. Walters (University of Northern Iowa) in recognition of his distinguished university career and

in recognition of his long-term service to the Sigma Gamma Epsilon. The delegates presented Dr. Charlie Mankin (National-Secretary Treasurer) and Ms Betty Bellis (Secretary to the National Council) with special service awards in recognition of their forty years (1967-2007!) of work on behalf of SGE. Dr. Mankin has recently retired as Director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, but we are very pleased that he will continue to serve SGE as National Secretary-Treasurer. The most joyful news to come out of convention though was learning of Charlie's and Betty's recent beach wedding (October 10, 2007) on Maui. I know I speak for all Sigma Gams when I say, congratulations Charlie and Betty and best wishes.

Lastly, let me make an appeal to you on behalf of Dr. Don Neal, our National Editor – *THE COMPASS* needs your manuscripts. 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*, your society's peer-reviewed scientific journal. Don is also interested in publishing "Chapter News" items, including those group graduation photos (with or without honor cords). Please send your manuscripts to Don and let us know about your chapter's activities.

I trust that your chapter accomplished most of its goals for the 2007-2008 school year and that you had some fun and good fellowship along the way. I hope you have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Ford, Ph.D.
National President
The Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon