

September 17, 2008

Greetings, Sigma Gams:

The new academic year is now well underway and with it SGE activities are well underway as well, both at the national and local chapter level. This year marks Sigma Gamma Epsilon's 93rd 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, including a fall initiation, 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.

• SGE AT THE HOUSTON GSA MEETING:

In spite of the significant damage in the Houston area from Hurricane Ike, the Geological Society of America's annual meeting will take place as scheduled, October 5-9, 2008. Sigma Gamma Epsilon, as an Associated Society of GSA, has a number of events planned that I hope you can attend.

1. The SGE Poster Session (session #157), highlighting undergraduate research, will be held Sunday, October 5, 8:00 am to 4:45 pm, Exhibit Hall E. We have 30 student posters this year (booth #s 304-333)! The National VPs will judge those posters presented by SGE members and award two cash prizes (Austin A. Sartin Award and National Council Award) for the best student research. Be sure to stop by and support this important event.
2. The Fourth Annual SGE Members Reception will be held Monday, October 6, 6 to 8 pm, at the Hyatt Regency (Pecan Room). 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 Denver was a great success and we hope for even greater attendance at this year's reception.
3. SGE will have a booth (#650) in the Exhibit Hall throughout the meeting. As we have previously discussed, Betty Bellis, Secretary to the National Council, would welcome 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 Houston meeting that highlights all the awards given in the past year by GSA and its associated societies. Last year's W.A Tarr Award recipients and the winners of the 2007 Austin A. Sartin and National Council poster session awards will be listed in this forum.

• **NEW CHAPTERS**

Last spring the active chapters of SGE approved the granting of a charter for a new chapter at the University of the Pacific (Stockton, CA). I am happy to report that plans are being made to install the Eta Upsilon chapter this semester. We also have active petitions for new chapters from students at Northern Illinois University, Keene State University, and SUNY Brockport. Your national officers will be busy over the next few months conducting campus visits and writing summary reports for you to evaluate. It is very gratifying to me to see this level of national interest in Sigma Gamma Epsilon. It must be very gratifying to you to see other students wanting to emulate your chapter's activities and experiences.

• **THE COMPASS**

You all should have recently received volume 80, no. 2 (Winter 2007), of *THE COMPASS*, our society's peer-reviewed scientific journal. This is a fine issue and illustrates the quality of student research being undertaken by our members. However, the publication date also indicates that we have an ongoing struggle in having enough manuscripts to support four issues a year. Do you have results from your master's thesis ready to publish? Have you been working on an undergraduate research project? If so, please consider publishing your research in your 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 Houston.

Sincerely,

Rick Ford
National President
The Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon