

February 23, 2009

Active Chapters of Sigma Gamma Epsilon
Members of the National Council

I hope your Spring Semester is off to a good start, including SGE activities and plans for a Spring initiation. Temperatures are on their way up in northern Utah, though there is still a lot of snow on the ground here in Ogden. Although fall is a ways off, I would like to inform you about the upcoming GSA annual meeting and other important issues with respect to SGE at the national level.

First, Sigma Gamma Epsilon will be continuing its great tradition of sponsoring a poster session at the annual meeting of the *Geological Society of America*, to be held in Portland, Oregon, October 18-21, 2009. Sigma Gamma Epsilon's poster session will be Topical Session 138 (The date and time of our session will be assigned later in the summer). 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 – Portland is a great convention city! **The deadline for submitting an abstract to SGE's session will be August 11**, leaving a good amount of time to incorporate results from research over the summer. Please consult the GSA website for complete instructions and note that faculty mentors and graduate students may be co-authors on the poster. Thirty (30) posters were presented by undergraduate geoscience students at last year's meeting in Houston, Texas. Approximately 12 of those posters were authored by SGE members and thus eligible for our annual outstanding poster awards, which include a small cash award. The judges (your National VPs) had a very difficult time in selecting the recipients, as all of the posters reflected a high standard of scientific work. Rafferty Sweeney (Eta Xi Chapter, St. Lawrence University) received the *Austin A. Sartin Award*. This makes two years in a row that a member of the Eta Xi Chapter has won the *Austin A. Sartin Award* – outstanding! Tiffany Neumann (Zeta Beta Chapter, West Chester University) and Sandy Marrufo & Sarah Quinonez (Alpha Lambda Chapter, University of Texas at El Paso) were the recipients of the *National Council Awards*. Congratulations to our award recipients and thanks to all of the session participants.

Secondly, you should have recently received volume 80, no. 3 (Spring 2007), of *THE COMPASS*, your society's peer-reviewed scientific journal. This issue, with only one student research paper, illustrates both the high quality of student research being undertaken by our members and the on-going problem of not having an adequate number of manuscripts to support four issues a year. You can help solve this problem. Have you been working on an

undergraduate research project? Is your senior thesis or master's thesis ready to publish? If so, please consider publishing your research in YOUR journal. Manuscripts should be sent to Dr. Donald Neal (National Editor); complete instructions are available on SGE's webpage. Don is also interested in publishing "Chapter News" items, so let us know about your chapter's activities.

Lastly, I am pleased to report that interest in forming new chapters, and in re-activating older chapters, continues to be very strong. New chapters will soon be installed at the University of the Pacific and Northern Illinois University. Initial campus visits have been conducted at Keene State University and SUNY Brockport. The Delta Alpha (College of William & Mary) and Epsilon Mu (Rutgers University at Newark) Chapters have recently re-activated, after long periods of inactivity. Nationally, SGE is very healthy with approximately 85 active chapters across the country.

I hope you all enjoy a successful end to this academic year and that your chapter members will have had some fun and good fellowship along the way.

Sincerely,

Rick Ford
National President
The Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon

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(Companions Searching the Earth)