

February 10, 2010

Active Chapters of Sigma Gamma Epsilon  
Members of the National Council

Now that Spring Semester is well underway, I write to inform you of various SGE activities and remind you of what you should be doing in the life of your Chapter. Last fall I announced that the SGE National Office was moving from the University of Oklahoma to the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). That move is essentially complete, but I must tell you it has at times been overwhelming as we sort through all the things that must be done as part of the transfer. Our new Administrative Assistant, Paula Even, has both undergraduate and graduate degrees from UNI and is an active SGE member. Her assistance has been critical during the move. And Betty and Charlie have been most understanding as I ask Betty the same question several times and try to get a handle on what needs to be done.

Our newest Chapter, Eta Psi Chapter at Keen State, was installed at the end of fall semester. This is our first Chapter in New Hampshire. In addition, several Chapters are working on reactivation, and we have received a petition to establish a Chapter at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Action Items:

- **Spring half-year dues:** If you hold an initiation ceremony this spring (after Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>), in addition to the initiation fee of \$25, new members will pay half-year dues of \$8, for a total of \$33 for all new members initiated in the spring.

I have learned that this has been a topic of some confusion among Chapters. In checking the Constitution it is clear that half-year dues are to be assessed only for those members initiated after February 1<sup>st</sup>. So, for new members initiated in the fall and for all returning members (even if graduating that fall) it is necessary to pay full year dues.

- **W.A. Tarr Award:** Enclosed is the W.A. Tarr Award form. Please complete this form and return to the national office or send the name of your Chapter's recipient by e-mail to Dr. Walters. It is important to have the recipient's full name, date of presentation, and the Chapter name. Each active Chapter may grant a Tarr Award to an outstanding student in the Earth Sciences. Normally it is awarded to a graduating senior on the basis of scholarship and activity in the department. Regulations are noted on the enclosed form and may be used as a guide in your selection process.

The W.A.Tarr Award has been the annual award of the Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon since 1949. W.A.Tarr was the Grand Editor of *The Compass* from 1920 when the first issue was printed until his death in 1939. It was largely through his efforts that *The Compass* became a success.

Please make sure you get your Tarr Award request to us by April 1<sup>st</sup> in order to ensure delivery to you by early May. If you wish to present the award earlier, please send the request to us earlier, allowing for a 4-week turnaround time. It is imperative that the date of presentation be noted on the form. Only active Chapters are eligible to present the Tarr Award, so if your Chapter hasn't paid annual dues, you may remit them when returning the Tarr Award form.

- **41<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention of SGE:**

Included with this letter is information on the 41<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention to be held in Bloomington, Indiana on the campus of Indiana University, March 26-28. The schedule is planned in hopes that delegates will not need to miss more than one day of classes. We welcome and urge Chapters to send more than one member if possible. Chapter Advisors are also welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Convention will run Friday through Sunday morning, with a field trip scheduled for all day Saturday. In addition to being a lot of fun, these Conventions are very important because they provide an opportunity for Chapters to set policy for this student-run organization. Your national officers advise and carry out the policies established at the national Conventions. Travel funds for one official delegate from each active Chapter will be provided by the National Office. Details on travel arrangements and committee assignments (orange paper) for the Convention are enclosed. Please return these forms as soon as possible and no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>. If your Chapter has any business it would like to have discussed at the meeting, please e-mail it to me so that I can add it to the Convention agenda.

With this convention, Dr. Rick Ford will have completed two terms as National President. Therefore, one of the important tasks the student delegates will have to complete is the election of a new National President. If any Chapter advisor is interested in serving as a national officer of SGE, especially as the National President, he or she should contact Rick Ford ([rford@weber.edu](mailto:rford@weber.edu)) in advance of the convention. He will be working with the student members of the Nominations Committee to identify a slate of officers to serve during the period 2010-2012. Please contact Rick if you have any questions about the duties and responsibilities of the national officers; he would like to hear from you.

Please note that each Chapter is to prepare a typewritten summary of its activities for the previous two-and-a-half-year period (since the convention in fall 2007). Or, you may bring an electronic copy of your report. These reports will be printed in the *Compass* at a later date. Each Chapter delegate will be asked to present a brief summary of that report at the opening session on the Convention on Friday.

Convention information is also being posted on the SGE website at <http://earth.uni.edu/SGE>. Registration costs and other information was not available at the time this letter was being prepared, so it is imperative that you check the SGE website and/or contact Dr. Erika Elswick to register ([eelswick@indiana.edu](mailto:eelswick@indiana.edu); 812-855-2493).

I look forward to seeing many of you in Bloomington.

Sincerely,

James C. Walters  
National Secretary-Treasurer