

National Council of The Society of  
**Sigma Gamma Epsilon**



NATIONAL HONORARY SOCIETY in the EARTH SCIENCES

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TO: Active Chapters of Sigma Gamma Epsilon  
Members of the National Council of SGE

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RE: Start of the Spring 2011 semester

Greetings Sigma Gammers!

I hope the New Year finds you healthy and happy and ready for new challenges. It has been a busy year for the National Council. We have worked to enact many of the proposals that were put forth by you, the membership, during the SGE Biennial Convention last spring.

We had a great showing for the SGE sponsored poster session at the national Geological Society of America meeting in Denver with a record 65 abstracts representing undergraduate research from across the country. Best poster awards from the meeting were judged by the Council members. The **Austin Sartin Award** went to Hannah Cowan of St. Lawrence University for her poster "*Behavior and paleobiology of Rafinesquina: shedding new light on old questions*" with Dr. Mark Erickson. The **National Council Award** went to John Murphy also of St. Lawrence University, "*An investigation of stream chemistry variability in watersheds of central St. Lawrence County, New York*" with his collaborators Dr. Jeff Chiarenzelli, Matthew Skeels and Carol Cady. We were delighted with the record participation and the quality of the science represented in the poster session. We are looking forward to the next poster session in Minneapolis this fall and we hope you will consider submitting your poster abstract for the GSA session for Undergraduate Research.

The National Council met during the Denver meeting with all members present, we continued our discussions regarding the initiatives from the National Convention. These initiatives include the move to an electronic format for your publication *The COMPASS* with our new editor, elected by delegates last spring, Dr. Larry Davis. Progress is being made on volume 81, which is currently at the printer, and should be in the mail very soon. We hope you will consider submitting your research for an upcoming issue of the journal. Be one of the first in the e-journal format.

We are pleased to welcome our newest Chapter of SGE, *Eta Omega*, at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. They intend to hold their installation ceremony shortly after the start of this spring semester. We have also received a petition to establish a Chapter at Adrian College in Michigan, and Dr. Mark Noll, VP of the Northeastern Province, has conducted a site visit.

We are looking forward to a productive and exciting Spring Semester for SGE. If you have questions regarding your chapter's standing, dues, or, the **W.A. Tarr Awards** you can e-mail Paula Even our Administrative Assistant at [even@sigmagammaepsilon.com](mailto:even@sigmagammaepsilon.com) or call 319-273-3818 or fax 319-273-7124. You can also visit the recently established **SGE Facebook** page (link found on the SGE Website) get caught up on Society news items, National Office information, Chapter news, or swap fundraising and outreach ideas and activities, and meet new people.

I hope you have a safe and productive semester.

Erika R. Elswick  
SGE President