

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

January 10, 2012

FROM: Erika R. Elswick, SGE President

RE: **Start of the Spring 2012 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 as well. We have worked to enact many of the proposals that were put forth by you, the membership, during the last SGE Biennial Convention.

We had a great showing for the SGE sponsored poster session at the national Geological Society of America meeting in Minneapolis with 55 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 **Abigail Williams** and **Aaron Hiday** of Albion College, Albion, Michigan for their presentation on the *Assessment of diel cycling in agricultural streams in south central Michigan – a focus on turbidity* with Dr. Thomas I. Wilch. The **National Council Award** for 2011 went to **Brittany Sacco** of James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia for her presentation on the, “*Depth and temperature of the mantle beneath Mole Hill, an Eocene basalt near Harrisonburg, VA*” with her collaborators Dr. Elizabeth A. Johnson and Dr. Harvey E. Belkin. We were delighted with the enthusiastic participation and the great quality of the science represented in the poster session and we are looking forward to the next poster session in Charlotte, North Carolina this fall. We hope you will consider submitting your poster abstract for the GSA session for Undergraduate Research.

The National Council met during the meeting in Minneapolis and furthered our discussions regarding the initiatives from the National Convention, including the move to an electronic format for your publication *The COMPASS* starting with the January 2012 issue. I want to extend my personal thanks to our Editor, Dr. Larry Davis for getting us online. The council also agreed to invest in the transfer of the past issues of *The COMPASS* to electronic format for wider access. During December, volume 82 was mailed, and it covers the 40th Biennial Convention held at the University of Northern Iowa. The 41st Biennial Convention will be published this spring. We hope you will consider submitting your research for an upcoming issue of the journal. Watch this winter for the launch of the new journal format at the SGE Website.

We are pleased to welcome our newest Chapter of SGE, *Theta Alpha*, at Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan. They held their installation ceremony on March 22, 2011. We had a large number of inquiries from new schools at the GSA booth this fall, so we hope to see those applications soon.

We are looking forward to a productive and exciting Spring Semester for SGE. As always, we will attempt to respond to your requests and inquiries as soon as possible. You can e-mail Paula Even our Administrative Assistant at even@sigmagammaepsilon.com or call 319-273-3818 or fax 319-273-7124 if you have questions regarding your chapter's standing, dues, and this spring's round of **Tarr Awards**.

You can also visit your **SGE Facebook** page (link on the SGE Website) to keep aware of news items, National Office information, Chapter news, and to swap fundraising, outreach ideas and activities with other chapters, and meet new people.

I hope you have a safe and productive semester.

Erika R. Elswick, Ph.D.
SGE President