

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



NATIONAL HONORARY SOCIETY in the EARTH SCIENCES

Erika R. Elswick  
President  
Department of Geological Sciences  
Indiana University  
1001 E. Tenth Street  
Bloomington, Indiana 47405

Phone: 812/855-2493  
Fax: 812/855-7899  
Email: eelswick@indiana.edu

TO: Members of the National Council of SGE and Active Chapters  
FROM: Erika R. Elswick, SGE President  
RE: **Start of the Spring 2014 semester**

Greetings Sigma Gammers!

I hope the New Year finds you healthy and happy and ready for new challenges this spring. 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 last SGE Biennial Convention in Charlotte, NC. We are busy preparing for the 43<sup>rd</sup> convention *and* SGE's Centennial Celebration in Lawrence, KS, in the spring of 2015.

We had a great showing for the SGE sponsored poster session at the national Geological Society of America meeting with 100 abstracts representing undergraduate research from across the country. Best Poster awards from the meeting were judged by the Council officers, both past and present. The **Austin Sartin Award** went to Brittany Klemm from the University of the Pacific, with co-authors Kurtis Burmeister, Scott Giorgis and Frederick Vollmer for her research "*Post-folding vertical flattening strain fabrics in mechanically rigid rocks deformed under sub-metamorphic conditions in a foreland fold-thrust belt*". The **National Council Award** for 2013 went to Sebastian Durringer from SUNY New Paltz with co-author Frederick Vollmer for his research "*A test of the analytical Wellman and mean polygon moment ellipse methods of strain analysis using a sample of deformed Ordovician graptoliferous slate from the Taconic Orogen, New York*". 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 Vancouver, British Columbia this fall. We hope you will consider submitting your poster abstract for the GSA session for *Undergraduate Research*, watch the SGE website for additional information regarding this session.

I would like to again extend thanks to our Editor, Dr. Larry Davis who got us online. The council also agreed at the time to invest in the transfer of the past issues of **The COMPASS** to electronic format for wider access. This initiative is underway and the progress will be appearing soon. With the publishing of the 41<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention, the last of the print copies of the journal were mailed to chapters. Dr. Davis is always glad to receive contributions of your research.

We are pleased to welcome our newest Chapters of SGE. In the spring, *Theta Delta*, at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia held its installation ceremony mid-year. This fall *Theta Epsilon* at the University of Massachusetts, Boston was initiated along with the reactivation of the *Alpha Kappa* chapter at Johns Hopkins University. They held their installation ceremonies this past fall. *Congratulations to all!* The site visit is completed for Central Connecticut State University; we look forward to your votes this winter. We had a large number of inquiries from new schools at the SGE booth at GSA, so we hope to see those applications soon. We also hope to hear back from several chapters that have been dormant and have inquired about re-activation. It is easy to do, just look for the instructions on the webpage.

We are looking forward to a productive and exciting spring and summer for SGE. As always, we will attempt to respond to your requests and inquires as soon as possible. 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 for questions regarding your chapter's standing, dues, and this spring's round of **Tarr Awards**. You can also visit the **SGE Facebook** page (link on the SGE Website) to keep aware of news items, National Office information, Chapter news, and to swap fundraising and outreach ideas and activities with other chapters, as well as meet new people.

I hope you have a safe and productive semester.