

National Council of The Society of
Sigma Gamma Epsilon



NATIONAL HONORARY SOCIETY in the EARTH SCIENCES

James C. Walters, National Secretary-Treasurer
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TO: Active Chapters of Sigma Gamma Epsilon
Members of the National Council of SGE

FROM: Jim Walters, National Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT: Spring Welcome Back letter

January 24, 2022

Welcome back to the start of the second half of the 2021-2022 academic year! Unfortunately, COVID-19 is still with us and continues to cause major disruptions in most every aspect of life. During these difficult times, the SGE national Office will continue to provide Chapters with the information needed to continue to function properly. This note provides reminders of SGE procedures and details on some of the many SGE activities.

1. Membership changes

At the 45th Biennial Convention in April 2021, delegates voted to change the membership fee and dues. Beginning August 1, 2021, **new members will pay a one-time fee of \$55 to become a LIFETIME MEMBER. Returning members will only need to pay an additional \$15 to become a lifetime member.** For this academic year only, returning members wishing to be active and become lifetime members should submit their name and \$15 fee **with their chapter** on the Returning Member and Initiate Form located under Officer Resources (same as last year). Please do **NOT** submit them individually.

ALL Member forms (new and returning) and **Chapter Officer Forms are to be submitted online** and can be accessed on the SGE website on the home page or under the link to Officer Resources <www.sgeearth.org>. At the conclusion of your submission, you will have the option to pay online or to send your payment through the mail with a copy of your completed forms.

If you choose to mail your payment, please send a check or money order payable to Sigma Gamma Epsilon with a copy of your forms to:

Sigma Gamma Epsilon
P.O. Box 506
Gilbertville, IA 50634

Please DO NOT use the former paper forms. Thank you.

2. Spring initiations

If your Chapter conducts an initiation ceremony this spring, new members will pay the one-time fee of \$55 to become a lifetime member.

If you held an initiation last fall and have not yet sent in your list of returning members, new initiates, appropriate fees, and your chapter officer list, please do so as soon as possible.

Also, please note that dues can only be paid for the current academic year (2021- 2022); they cannot be paid "ahead" for the next academic year (2022- 2023).

3. Department addresses

We continue to have issues with lost items when they are sent to off-campus addresses. For this reason, all shingles, honor cords, stoles, etc. will be sent to the advisor at the departmental address unless the advisor requests otherwise.

4. Honor cords and stoles

Order forms for honor cords and stoles can be found on the SGE Website under SGE Products. We try to send these out as soon as we receive the order, but we ask that chapters and individuals allow three weeks to process orders. Submitting your order and payment online does speed up the process.

5. The COMPASS

The COMPASS, the earth science journal of SGE, is an open-access online publication available at <http://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/compass/>. It can also be accessed from *The COMPASS* link at www.sgeearth.org. SGE members (either undergrads or grad students) who have carried out research, are encouraged to submit their research results to Daniel Curtis, Editor, at drcurtis@eiu.edu. Chapters are also welcomed and encouraged to send chapter activities information and pictures.

6. Quality Chapter Award

The **Quality Chapter Award** is available to all Chapters that meet the qualifications, which consist of things such as having submitted the Chapter Officer form, Returning Member and Initiate form and appropriate fees to the National Office by the deadlines. Guidelines and applications for this award are available on the SGE Website under the Awards link. A chapter must complete the **Quality Chapter Application** and submit it with supporting materials to even@sgeearth.org by May 31st. Award winning chapters receive a \$50 check and a certificate.

7. W. A. Tarr Award

Each **active Chapter** of SGE has the option of granting the W. A. Tarr Award to an outstanding SGE member in the Earth Sciences. The Tarr Award consists of a certificate and a check for \$50 and is normally given to a graduating senior on the basis of scholarship and activity in the department. Please note that it is important that we have the recipient's full name, date of presentation, and your Chapter name. This year the **application must be completed and submitted online**. The form is available on the SGE Website under the link to Awards.

Also note that **only active Chapters can grant a Tarr Award**. Active Chapters are those that submit appropriate fees and the Chapter Officers form annually.

8. Chapter Service award

The **Chapter Service Award** recognizes Chapters providing exemplary outreach and service to their campus and/or community. A form specifying the requirements is available on the SGE Website under the link to Awards. A certificate and a check for \$50 will be presented to each Chapter recognized with this award. A chapter must complete the **Service Award Application** and submit it along with supporting materials to even@sgeearth.org by May 31st. The application is located on the webpage under awards along with the service project form. Please complete a **separate service project form for each service project completed**.

9. SGE National Convention

The 46th Biennial Convention of SGE will be hosted by Eta Alpha Chapter at the University of Tennessee, Martin on September 16-18, 2022. It is not too early for chapters to start planning on attending. An official delegate from each chapter and the chapter advisor will receive travel stipends for the Convention. The highlight of the Convention will be the field trip, which will feature the world famous Coon Creek Formation lagerstätte, a ~72 million year old fossil deposit that serves as Tennessee's link to the Age of Dinosaurs. Fossil clams, snails, crabs, lobsters, mosasaurs, turtles, fish, plesiosaurs, and even plant fossils are readily collected by visitors. Details and registration forms will be available Spring 2022.

We wish you all the best for a productive and enjoyable Spring Semester, and we look forward to hearing from you whenever we may be of assistance. You can contact Paula Even, our Associate Director, at even@sgeearth.org or call 319-505-3391.

Best wishes,



James C. Walters
SGE National Secretary-Treasurer