

National Council of The Society of
Sigma Gamma Epsilon



NATIONAL HONORARY SOCIETY in the EARTH SCIENCES

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Hello members of Sigma Gamma Epsilon!

I hope your Fall 2023 semester is starting off well. The first few months of the semester are always busy and exciting ones. I'm happy to report that the number of active SGE chapters increased during the past year after a few years of declining numbers. We would like for this trend to continue. If your chapter has become inactive please feel free to contact me or any of the national officers. We would be happy to show you the simple process for reactivating your chapter.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the three winners of our 2023 James C. Walters Quality Chapter Awards: Gamma Sigma (University of Northern Iowa), Gamma Chi (Eastern Illinois University), and Epsilon Omega (University of Texas at San Antonio). The Gamma Chi chapter also earned the SGE Chapter Service Award! As long as the criteria are met, there is no limit to the number of chapters that can receive these awards. It would be wonderful to give out more of these awards next Spring so, as you plan your activities for the upcoming year, I urge you to check their guidelines. They can be found under the "Awards" link in the "Our Community" section of our website, <https://sgearth.org/>.

There have been a few changes among the national officers for SGE. We welcome Dr. C Marshall of the Department of Geology at the University of Kansas as our new Western Province Vice President. Sadly for us, our long-serving Southeastern Province Vice President, Dr. Michael Gibson, is retiring from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He has graciously agreed to continue to fulfill his SGE duties until we can find a replacement. We wish him all the best in his retirement. His contributions to SGE will be missed. Lastly, our National Editor-in-Chief of *The Compass*, Janet Vote, had to step down from this position. We thank her for his service to SGE. The national office will oversee submissions to *The Compass* until a replacement can be identified.

This year will mark our 35th year of sponsoring a poster session at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We have 62 submissions to our poster session, a significant increase over the past few years. I suppose this shouldn't be surprising since this is the first fully face-to-face convention since 2019! This year's poster session is scheduled for the morning of Monday, October 16th. If you are attending GSA please check out these posters and our SGE table in the exhibitor hall. I look forward to viewing the posters and I suspect it will be a difficult year to pick the award winners from this large pool of submissions (this is a good problem to have!). I encourage all of you that are undertaking research projects this year to please keep the 2024 SGE poster session in mind as an excellent venue to present your scholarly work and possibly earn an award.

If you have any questions about your chapter standing, deadlines and the like, please contact Lee Potter at the National Office, 319-505-3391 or potter@SGEearth.org. Of course, you are always welcome to contact me directly (SW-Bennett1@wiu.edu) and I will answer your questions or find someone that can.

I wish you all a wonderful and productive Fall semester,

Steve Bennett, SGE National President