

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 wish you all a pleasant start to the Fall 2024 semester. It is always a pleasure to see the returning SGE members and to start planning our activities for the coming year. I'm happy to report that the number of active SGE chapters continued to increase last year. We added our newest chapter (Iota Gamma: Sewanee: The University of the South) last Spring and had some inquiries from other institutions that would like to start their own chapter. If you are receiving this letter you either currently have an active chapter or had one in the past. 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 two winners of our 2024 James C. Walters Quality Chapter Awards: Gamma Sigma (University of Northern Iowa) and Gamma Chi (Eastern Illinois University). Both of these chapters 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://sgeearth.org/awards/>.

Last Spring we filled two vacancies on our National Council. Dr. Norman Levine (College of Charleston) has accepted the position of Vice President for the Southeastern Province. Dr. Levine has a long history of serving SGE and we are very pleased to have him on board. Additionally, Mr. Scott Beason (Park Geologist, Mt. Rainier National Park) has taken over the duties of National Editor for *The Compass*, SGE's peer-reviewed journal. I am very pleased to report that, through his hard work, we have published our first issue in a number of years. Mr. Beason has brought the journal into the 21st Century, greatly improving the layout and the online accessibility. I encourage all our members to look at the most recent issue. The link is available on the SGE website or by visiting <https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/compass/>. We strongly encourage all of our members that are conducting research to consider publication in *The Compass*.

This year will mark our 36th year of sponsoring a poster session at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Anaheim, California. We have 28 submissions to our poster session. I look forward to viewing the posters and picking the award winners from among those posters submitted by SGE members (another benefit of membership!). This year's poster session is scheduled for the afternoon of Monday, September 23rd. If you are attending GSA please check out these posters and our SGE booth (#511) in the exhibit hall. I encourage all of you that are undertaking research projects this year to please keep the 2025 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 pleasant and productive Fall semester,

Dr. Steve Bennett, SGE National President