

National Council of The Society of
Sigma Gamma Epsilon



NATIONAL HONORARY SOCIETY in the EARTH SCIENCES

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Dear SGE members,

I hope the Spring 2026 semester is off to a strong start for you and your chapters. As National President of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, I would like to share several brief updates and reminders as we move into the second half of the academic year.

The Society had a highly successful poster session and exhibit hall presence at the recent GSA Connects meeting in San Antonio, Texas. We congratulate **Isabella Rueda** (Delta Xi Chapter, Trinity University), recipient of the Austin A. Sartin Award, for her coauthored research using UAV-based photogrammetry to quantify fault damage zones along the Sevier Fault in Utah, with implications for fracture-related permeability. We also congratulate **Mysti Stotts** (Theta Omega Chapter, Tennessee Tech), recipient of the Charles J. Mankin Award, for her petrographic and stable isotope study of Late Mississippian paleosols in the Pennington Formation, evaluating their reliability as paleoclimate proxies. Planning is already underway for our involvement in GSA Connects 2026 in Denver, Colorado, and I encourage chapters to begin considering student research submissions and engagement opportunities for next year's meeting.

Our momentum continues at the chapter level. We are currently responding to a strong petition to establish an additional new chapter in the Southeastern Province, reflecting continued interest in SGE and its mission. At the same time, several chapters active last year have not yet submitted required forms and annual fees to the National Office for the current academic year. Maintaining active status is essential, particularly for chapters intending to grant a W.A. Tarr Award this semester. Accurate reporting of returning and current members is also important, as the National Office relies on these data to document student participation across the academic year.

As you plan spring activities, I encourage chapters to review the Society's awards and participation opportunities. Each active chapter may nominate a graduating senior for the W.A. Tarr Award, which recognizes scholarship, leadership, service, and collegiality, with applications due April 1, 2026. Chapters are also encouraged to apply for the James C. Walters Quality Chapter Award and the Chapter Service Award, and to encourage students to submit undergraduate research to *The Compass*, SGE's peer-reviewed digital journal.

SGE will also be represented at the joint Southeastern, North-Central, and South-Central Section Meeting of the Geological Society of America in Memphis, Tennessee, March 8–11, 2026. Members attending the meeting are encouraged to stop by the SGE booth, sign up for a volunteer shift, and assist with student recruitment and outreach.

If you have questions regarding chapter status, forms, fees, or awards, please contact Lee Potter at the National Office at 319-505-3391 or potter@sgeearth.org. You are also welcome to contact me directly.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Sigma Gamma Epsilon and to supporting students and scholarship in the Earth sciences. I wish you a productive and successful spring semester.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by 'K. Stewart' and 'PhD' written to the right.

Alexander K. Stewart, PhD, USA (ret)
National President