

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 productive start to the Fall 2026 semester. As I begin my second academic year as the 25th National President of SGE, I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve the Society and work with our chapters, student members, advisors, and national officers.

I am fortunate to serve alongside the members of our National Council: Dr. Richard L. Ford, National Secretary-Treasurer; Dr. Steve Bennett, Past-President; Dr. Claire Marshall, Vice President for the Central Province; Dr. Alyssa Kamanu, Vice President for the Western Province; Dr. Steve J. Baedke, Vice President for the Northeastern Province; Dr. Norman S. Levine, Vice President for the Southeastern Province; and Scott Beason, National Editor of *The Compass*. Our National Council and chapters are supported by Dr. Lee Potter, Associate Director of Sigma Gamma Epsilon. I thank each of them for their continued leadership and service.

Our relationship with the Geological Society of America also advanced this year. In August 2026, SGE and GSA formally updated our Memorandum of Understanding, reaffirming our partnership and continued participation in GSA meetings.

During the spring, Lee Potter and I piloted an SGE display and recruiting presence at the joint three-section GSA meeting in Memphis to evaluate the value of participating in sectional meetings. The effort provided strong visibility and recruiting coverage. Dr. Steve J. Baedke also represented SGE at the Northeastern Section meeting. Through these efforts, SGE was represented at four of the six regional meetings.

SGE continues to grow through the establishment of new chapters and the reactivation of existing ones. This growth reflects the energy of our members and the continuing value of our mission: advancing scholarship, professionalism, and service within the Earth sciences. I encourage every chapter to remain active locally while also participating in the Society's national programs and opportunities.

This fall marks the **38th Annual Undergraduate Research Exhibition Sponsored by Sigma Gamma Epsilon** at GSA Connects 2026 in Denver, Colorado. The session will be held **Monday afternoon, October 12**, and includes **77 accepted abstracts**, an increase of 20, or approximately 35 percent, from the 57 posters presented in 2025. The breadth of these submissions demonstrates the strength of undergraduate Earth-science research across the country.

Awards will again be presented for outstanding research through the **Austin A. Sartin Award** and the **Charles J. Mankin Award**. Members attending GSA are also encouraged to

visit the SGE booth and volunteer some of their time. Please see Lee Potter or Scott Beason at the booth for additional information and to sign up.

As chapters plan their activities for the academic year, I strongly encourage them to review the full range of SGE awards, including the **James C. Walters Quality Chapter Award** and the **Chapter Service Award**, at <https://sgearth.org/awards/>. These awards are open to all eligible chapters, and there is no limit to the number of chapters that may be recognized. Applying is an important way to document your chapter's work, recognize your members, and increase SGE's visibility throughout the geoscience community.

I would also like to recognize my loving wife, Krystyna, whose encouragement continues to motivate me to do more and better in service to this Society. I remain deeply grateful for her support and partnership.

If you have questions about your chapter's standing, upcoming deadlines, awards, or opportunities for involvement, please contact Lee Potter at the National Office at 319-505-3391 or potter@sgearth.org. You are also welcome to contact me directly.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Denver and to continuing our work together to build *Sigma Gamma Epsilon* as a vibrant and supportive community of Earth scientists. I wish you and your chapters a successful and rewarding academic year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. K. Stewart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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