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42nd Biennial Convention of the Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon

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ABSTRACT

Sigma Gamma Epsilon, a national honor society for the Earth Sciences, held its 42nd Biennial Convention in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. The Sigma Gamma Epsilon convention was held at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, N.C. on November 3, 2012. This report provides a summary of the deliberations and actions of the participants at the convention.

INTRODUCTION

The Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon held its 42nd Biennial Convention at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, N.C. on November 3, 2012. The convention was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America meetings. Eighteen chapters were represented, with their delegates and alternates listed below:

Rho – Indiana University

Delegate - Robin Green.

Sigma – The Ohio State University

Delegate – Abigail Crock
Alternate Delegate – Andrew Tenison

Alpha Alpha – University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Delegate – Siobhan Kenney
Alternate Delegates – Audrey Horne, Daniel Portner and Sam Wright

Gamma Zeta – Kent State University

Delegate – Chelsea Lyle
Alternate Delegate – Julie Yeaklay

Gamma Theta – University of Iowa

Delegate – Matthew Even

Gamma Sigma – University of Northern Iowa

Delegate – Allison Schell

Gamma Phi – Stephen F. Austin State University

Delegate – Bryan F. Byrd

Delta Tau – Slippery Rock University

Delegate – Adam Rak
Alternate Delegate – Lisa Andresky

Epsilon Gamma – Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne

Delegate – Michael Blair

Epsilon Delta – Texas Christian University

Delegate – Brooke Long

Epsilon Theta – Northwest Missouri State University

Delegate – Chelsea Bulen
Alternate Delegates – Emily Bunse and Rachel Schulta

Epsilon Phi – East Carolina University

Delegate – Mark Akland
Alternate Delegate – Alisha Ellis

Eta Alpha – University of Tennessee Martin

Delegate – Danielle Cavender
Alternate Delegates – Mary Stinson and Melanie Cooper

Eta Gamma – Weber State University

Delegate – Amanda Gentry

Eta Upsilon – University of the Pacific

Delegate – Brittany Klemm

Eta Phi – Northern Illinois University

Delegate – Ellen Raimondi
Alternate Delegate – Rachael A. Hines

Eta Chi – SUNY College at Brockport

Delegate – Rebecca Rhodes

Theta Gamma – Angelo State University

Delegate – Vaden Aldridge

Five members of the National Council, President Dr. Erika Elswick, Secretary-Treasurer Dr. James Walters, Editor Dr. Larry Davis, and Vice Presidents Drs. Michael Gibson and Rip Langford, along with SGE Administrative Assistant Paula Even, were in attendance. Additionally, Dr. Aaron W. Johnson (Epsilon Theta Advisor), Dr. Don Neal (Epsilon Phi Advisor), Dr. Kurtis C. Burmeister (Eta Upsilon Advisor) and Dr. Heather L. Lehto (Theta Gamma Co-advisor) were present.

National President Dr. Erika Elswick called the opening session to order at 8:30 AM (Fig. 1). Following introductions, she presented her president's report. President Elswick noted several initiatives from the previous convention had been implemented, including the conversion of the *The Compass* to a digital format, the Quality Chapter Award, and a SGE Facebook page. She also recognized the four chapters that received the Quality Chapter award: Eta Gamma, Gamma

Sigma, Gamma Chi and Epsilon Theta. Lastly, President Elswick announced the four new chapters established since the last convention: Univ. of Wisconsin – Whitewater (WI), Adrian College (MI), SUNY – The College at New Paltz (NY) and Angelo State University (TX).



Figure 1. Sigma Gamma Epsilon National President Dr. Erika Elswick opening the 42nd Biennial Convention.

National Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. James Walters presented his report in which he noted the financial status of the Society was sound. Dr. Walters indicated all of the SGE stock holdings had been merged into one account managed by Edward Jones. National Editor Dr. Larry Davis discussed in some detail the issues related to publication of *The Compass*. He called upon the student members to make more of an effort to submit manuscripts for review and possible publication. Vice President Dr. Michael Gibson commented on the strong participation of the chapters in the southeastern province. Vice President Dr. Rip Langford reported the western region had expanded this last year with a new Chapter in the growing program at Angelo State University in San Angelo, TX. (Complete officer reports are listed after committee reports).

Each delegate presented a chapter report that summarized their chapter's activities since the last convention. Each of the chapter reports is included at the end of this article.

Following the reports, National Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. James Walters, announced the schedule for the Sigma Gamma Epsilon poster session at the Geological Society of America annual meeting. Everyone was invited to stop by the SGE booth and to view the posters. Dr. Walters then outlined the committee responsibilities for the Convention. Committees were formed and committee discussions began at 10:30 AM. The committees were as follows, National Council representatives are noted in italics with an *:

Awards

Amanda Gentry (Chair), Julie Yeaklay, Matthew Even, Mary Stinson, Vaden Aldridge, **Dr. Heather L. Lehto*, and **Ms. Paula Even*.

Chapter Affairs

Adam Rak (Chair), Chelsea Lyle, Ellen Raimondi, Mark Akland, Melanie Cooper, and **Dr. Erika Elswick*.

Constitution and Bylaws

Alison Schell (Chair), Andrew Tenison, Daniel Portner, Robin Green, Siobhan Kenney, and **Dr. James Walters*.

Finance

Chelsea Bulen (Chair), Christa Stell, Rachel Schulta, Sam Wright, and **Dr. James Walters*.

Nominations

Brittany Klemm (Chair), Rebecca Rhodes, Alisha Ellis, and **Dr. Don Neal*.

Ritual and Insignia

Danielle Cavender (Chair), Jake Vanderburg, and **Dr. Kurtis Burmeister*.

Scholarship and Membership

Bryan Byrd (Chair), Abigail Crock, Audrey Horne, **Dr. Michael Gibson* and **Dr. Richard Langford*.

The COMPASS

Michael Blair (Chair), Brooke Long, Emily Bunse, Rachael A. Hines, **Dr. Larry Davis* and **Dr. Aaron W. Johnson*.

Delegates and National Council members left at 11:30 AM to continue discussions over lunch at a destination selected by each committee. The convention reconvened in the Providence Ballroom I at 1:00 PM to finalize deliberations before the committee chairs presented their committee's report at 1:30 PM.

The Nomination Committee presented the following nominations:

National President:

Dr. Erika Elswick

Editor of The Compass:

Dr. Larry Davis

Southeastern Vice President:

Dr. Michael Gibson

Northeastern Vice President:

Dr. Mark Noll

Western Vice President:

Dr. Rip Langford

Central Vice President:

Dr. Aaron Johnson

There were no nominations from the floor. Matthew Even made a motion to cast a unanimous vote for the nominees. Robin Green seconded the motion. All responded aye, and the motion carried. These national officers will serve until the next biennial convention, scheduled for spring semester 2015.

Dr. James Walters announced the next convention would be the centennial celebration in 2015 at Lawrence, Kansas, the birth place of Sigma Gamma Epsilon. Everyone was encouraged to like Sigma Gamma Epsilon on Facebook. Following the committee reports and comments, Dr. Erika Elswick declared the 42nd Biennial Convention adjourned. The convention closed at 3:05 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards –Amanda Gentry (chair)
Dr. Heather L. Lehto, Paula Even

Poster Awards

The requirements for the SGE Best Poster Award were determined to be sufficient so no changes were suggested.

Austin Sartin Award

The requirements for the Austin Sartin Award were determined to be sufficient so no changes were suggested.

W.A. Tarr Award

All requirements for the W.A. Tarr Award were deemed acceptable except for the first qualification. Danielle Cavender moved the requirement be changed from “any student in the earth sciences” to “any active member of Sigma Gamma Epsilon and a student in the earth sciences” to include only active members of SGE. Seconded by Chelsea Lyle. Motion carried.

Quality Chapter Award

Concerning the Quality Chapter Award, Matt Even moved to change the fall deadline for new initiate, returning member and officer forms from November 1st to November 15th and to change the spring deadline for new initiate and returning member forms from March 15th to April 1st. Seconded by Chelsea Lyle.

Motion carried.

Adam Rak motioned to develop a new award to recognize chapters doing a significant amount of service. The **SGE Chapter Service Award** qualifications would be:

- a. Must be an active chapter that has paid its dues for that academic year.
- b. Minimum average of 20 volunteer hours per member (based on fall returning members and new initiates) per academic year. Hours must be completed either on an extensive outreach project, or multiple projects, one of which must be an outreach project. Five of the total 20 hours per member must be dedicated to outreach.
- c. A mandatory report must be submitted with a description of the project; who the project benefitted, and how the project benefitted the chapter. The report must also include supporting documentation (e.g. hour sheets) and photographs. The submission deadline is May 31st, with subsequent publication in *The Compass* and recognition on the SGE website upon approval.
- d. A certificate and a \$50.00 monetary award will be presented upon approval.

Brook Long seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Charge for the National Officers

Delegates from this year’s SGE convention charged the National Officers to create a W.A. Tarr Award specifically for graduate students to recognize the effort they place in the organization. Danielle Cavender put the charge in the form of a motion and was seconded by Brittany Klemm. The motion carried.

Chapter Affairs – Adam Rak (Chair), Dr. Erika Elswick

The committee has found that the sharing of activity and fundraiser information is an effective way to help spark event ideas for other SGE chapters. Setting up an online forum where chapter events can be posted and viewed by SGE chapters was seen as the practical method of presenting this information. A page that is linked to the SGE website was seen as the most convenient way of making this information accessible to all SGE chapters.

Vaden Aldridge moved that each chapter attending the SGE Biennial Convention submit, in addition to the chapter report, 3 short summaries: one outlining an activity; the second outlining a fundraiser; and the third outlining a meeting participation initiative. Danielle Cavender seconded the motion. Motion passed. The reports should include a heading name of the activity, a brief summary, a step-by-step section (for multistep fundraiser processes), and a few pictures of the event or project. The activities board will be responsible for choosing what events are posted on the webpage.

The webpage will be linked to the SGE national page and will have a home page that will highlight an event each month with 4 other linked pages: page 1 will have activities that have been submitted; page 2 will have fundraisers that have been submitted; page 3 will have participation initiatives that have been submitted; and page 4 will have a list of the SGE Chapters and a link to their contact information, webpage, or Facebook page. An advertising reminder will be published in *The Compass* to make

chapters aware of this resource.

The reason for this repository of activities is to supply new and existing chapter ideas for events that have been effective for other SGE chapters across the nation. As this inventory is built, a record bank of successful events will be developed that will be a great resource for future chapters. The pooling of activity information will enable chapters to have more effective events, meetings, and fundraisers that will lead to more successful Sigma Gama Epsilon chapters.

Constitution and Bylaws – Alison Schell (Chair), Dr. James Walters.

The Constitution and Bylaws committee completely updated the constitution that was last modified in 2005. Many of the updated procedures that were voted on in conventions post 2005, are now reflected in the constitution and bylaws. The 2012, committee passed and completed seven main changes in the constitution and bylaws.

The first change was the correction of typographical errors in the document. Secondly, the removal of the Canadian Provinces from the description of the Society was passed. We felt since SGE is a national honor society we should not have chapters outside of the United States. Also, there are no chapters currently established in the Canadian Provinces. Third, the process of initiating new members was streamlined. The consensus at the convention was that most chapters did not follow the voting procedures and we felt the Society should be inclusive of eligible participants. The fourth change made was to the names and duties of the officers. To follow the format of most other organizations and societies, we changed

Secretary-Treasurer to Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary-Editor to Secretary. We believe this change would alleviate confusion. The duties of the officers were changed to reflect the electronic forms we now send to the national office. Fifth, since there are currently no associated costs with the online format of the journal, a specific portion of the dues does not go to *The Compass* anymore. Dues will now go to the national office and will be distributed as needed. Sixth, the duties of the National Vice Presidents were changed to reflect the fact they no longer go to each new chapter to do installations. Seventh, the constitution was changed to reflect the electronic database of members, rather than data cards.

Adam Rak moved to approve the above changes, seconded by Abigail Crock. Motion carried. The new constitution and bylaws will be published in *The Compass* and on the SGE Website.

Finance Committee – Chelsea Bulen (Chair), Dr. James Walters.

As a committee, we discussed a few topics. The first topic that we discussed was whether or not to raise the fees for initiation and dues per year. As a group we decided that we did not need to raise the dues because *The Compass* is now online. The next topic we discussed is the life-time membership on whether or not to lower the price to either \$150 or \$100. The committee recommended keeping it at \$175 for a few reasons. The first reason is because people who already paid could be upset if we dropped it, especially the ones who paid within the last year. Another reason was because we thought it would be better to keep it the

same in case any financial problems came up or in case we needed to start paying for the publication of *The Compass* in the future. Rebecca Rhodes moved to keep Life Membership at \$175, seconded by Mark Akland. Motion carried. The last topic we discussed was to lower the cords from \$12 to \$10 or to try to find another company to get them from, but we decided for now to just keep it the same.

Nominations – Brittany Klemm (chair), Dr. Don Neal.

The Nomination Committee presents the following nominations:

National President:

Dr. Erika Elswick

Editor of The Compass:

Dr. Larry Davis

Southeastern Vice President:

Dr. Michael Gibson

Northeastern Vice President:

Dr. Mark Noll

Western Vice President:

Dr. Rip Langford

Central Vice President:

Dr. Aaron Johnson

The first five nominations are currently standing members of the SGE board. The last nomination was for a replacement for the current Central Province Vice President. The nomination committee will recognize any new nominations if there be any. If not, the nominations shall stand. There were no new nominations given. Matthew Even made a motion to cast a unanimous vote for the nominees. Robin Green seconded the motion. All responded aye, motion carried.

Ritual and Insignia – Danielle Cavender (chair), Dr. Kurtis Burmeister.

The committee reviewed the

current status of the initiation ritual and the honor society insignia. We found no need for adjustment in the ritual ceremonies. The current short and long versions of the initiation ceremony provide chapters with a good foundation that can then be modified as needed. Similarly, the committee agreed that the current design of the official SGE insignia/seal is appropriate and does not require changes.

However, the committee suggests that the insignia could be of a greater use to the Society if it was more broadly accessible. Specifically, the SGE insignia is currently not accessible to chapters – it is only available for download as a low-resolution JPG image on the society website. The lack of easily accessible, high-resolution SGE imagery limits the ability of chapters to use the SGE insignia in association with official activities. In turn, this limitation prevents the public from being able to easily recognize the SGE brand and to associate SGE activities with specific chapters and their members.

The more chapters and their members use the SGE insignia, the more people will see it – and recognize it. Chapters should use the SGE insignia as a brand, much like how non-profits or businesses attach their emblems to sponsorships within the community. For example, the members of the community with whom chapter members have served will remember the emblem along with the individuals. If the community members have faith in the members and the emblem (the chapter) they represent, they will continue to ask for the honor society's help, opening more service and outreach possibilities for future chapter members, as well as exposing more community members to the Earth Sciences.

It is clear that SGE could benefit

from a change in the way it distributes the graphic materials needed to represent SGE chapters, members, and functions. However, it is also clear that a protocol is needed to ensure that such materials are used in a responsible and respectful manner. Indeed, to properly implement the identity program of the insignia, guidelines and design consistency must be established. The chapters would need to know how to use the insignia and when it is ok to use. There should be a list of approved and prohibited uses for the emblem. For example, we couldn't sell the insignia to the general public for profit; only members and advisors could purchase merchandise with the insignia. As for design consistency, there must be preset instructions for how the emblem can and cannot be modified and presented. How big or how small can students present the design? Which colors could the students use for the emblem? Would the color choices be in CMKY or RGB? What fonts and colors would be the identifiable format for the material on which the insignia would appear? These questions should be answered so as to protect the integrity of the insignia. Members must have standards by which to abide if the honor society wishes to establish national recognition. To partially address these needs, the committee proposes the creation of an identity program/standard, which would establish a set of approved graphics, fonts, and colors and outline standards and suitable uses for SGE's emblem.

Here are some examples of university identity programs:

<http://nebraska.edu/media-resource-center/identity-standards.html>

<http://www.yale.edu/printer/identity/>

<http://identity.wsu.edu>

<http://www.bu.edu/brand/>

<http://identitystandards.illinois.edu>

Here are some examples of fraternity identity programs:

<http://www.saerecord.net/files/docs/VisualStandardsGuide.pdf>

http://www.betathetapi.org/documents/resources/chapter/misc/graphics_manual.pdf

The websites of other universities and academic honor fraternities, such as Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Eta Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi, provide identity materials for their members as freely accessible (but occasionally protected with member logins), high-resolution image downloads with accordant choices of color and design. As mentioned above, the current SGE website contains only one downloadable image for use by member chapters, and this image is quite small and has limited adaptability. If enlarged past the size of a medium-sized button, the image distorts to a pixelated blur due to its low resolution and its raster image format. Furthermore, the only image available is the full-sized, traditional SGE insignia. The traditional image is elaborate and when shown in small sizes, it can be very hard to recognize. It would also be useful to offer member chapters with smaller subsets of the traditional insignia (e.g., the small diamond-shaped graphic featured on SGE pins or the graphic featured on the Tarr Award certificates). These smaller insignias would allow for the production of smaller, but easily recognizable SGE-related materials. If the SGE website were redesigned to offer a range of high-resolution images and standards for use, member chapters could use these materials to generate versatile designs for banners, posters, t-shirts, fliers, buttons, stickers, letter heads, and other uses. Dr. Burmeister has volunteered to design a range of high-resolution, vector-based

images for such a purpose.

Other universities, honor fraternities and non-profit community organizations have successfully used their insignias as brands, and so can SGE. With the designated graphics chosen and available in quality, high-resolution images, along with a guideline set on how to use the insignia, the chapters can promote, as well as market, the SGE insignia as a reliable, community-serving organization, dedicated to bringing the earth sciences to the public.

Scholarship and Membership – Bryan Byrd (chair), Dr. Michael Gibson, and Dr. Richard Langford.

Discussion by the committee regarding the bylaws of the National Charter for Sigma Gamma Epsilon resulted in a consensus that the bylaws need no further revision at this time and that they should stand as written as they pertain to scholarship and membership requirements. Discussion highlights:

- GPA requirements for membership are sound and just. It is and should remain the responsibility of each chapter to maintain a regulatory policy that existing members remain in compliance of the necessary GPA requirements.
- Credit hours for membership are sound and just. It is and should remain the responsibility of each chapter to decide the course hour requirements for the earth science disciplines of their own choosing for eligibility of membership in their respective chapters.
- Acceptable disciplines that can be regarded as an “earth science” were discussed. The National Charter

bylaws restrict membership to include any discipline in the earth sciences. This can cover a wide range of disciplinary fields and each chapter can apply its own preferences. Committee members noted it would greatly enhance membership numbers for smaller institutions to consider a broader scope to other departments at their universities/colleges outside of just geology, as long as it can be classified as an earth science (i.e. environmental, soil, forestry, meteorology, spatial sciences, etc.).

This committee summation report was prepared for submission to The National Council of The Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, care of Mrs. Paula Even, University of Northern Iowa, by Bryan Byrd, Stephen F. Austin State University on November 6, 2012.

The COMPASS – Michael Blair (chair), Drs. Larry Davis and Aaron W. Johnson.

There was a general agreement that the new electronic format of *The Compass* is working well. The following were recommendations:

- (a) Keep the page numbers consecutive for the volume, rather than individual issues.
- (b) Add a statement on the Digital Commons platform that *The Compass* is a peer-reviewed journal.
- (c) Send an e-mail announcement to each chapter adviser and to life members when each issue of *The Compass* is available.
- (d) Work toward digitizing the back issues of *The Compass*. To that

end, Dr. Aaron Johnson, Chapter Advisor of the Epsilon Theta Chapter, Northwest Missouri State University, has volunteered to work on getting the back issues of *The Compass* scanned.

- (e) Develop theme or topical issues to encourage submission of manuscripts.
- (f) Develop a “Geology Photo of the Year” contest. Photos would be published in *The Compass*, with voting to occur on the Sigma Gamma Epsilon website. The winner of the “Geology Photo of the Year” would be encouraged to submit a manuscript for the “On the Outcrop” section of *The Compass*.
- (g) Re-publish the “Best of the past” article(s) from back issues of *The Compass*.

Remarks from the Editor of *The Compass*.

- (a) Using a consecutive numbering system for all issues within a volume will be no problem and will begin with Volume 85 (2013).
- (b) Each issue of *The Compass* on the Digital Commons website has, at the top of the title page (see <http://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/compass/> for an example), a statement regarding peer-review:

The Compass: Earth Science Journal of Sigma Gamma Epsilon is the peer-reviewed, official publication of the Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, an Earth Science honorary founded on March 30, 1915, at The University of Kansas. The Society was established to recognize scholarship and professionalism in the Earth Sciences with the objectives of scholastic,

scientific, and professional advancement of its members and the extension of relations of friendship and assistance among colleges and universities which are devoted to the advancement of the Earth Sciences.

- (c) The editor needs an updated list of chapter advisor's e-mail addresses, plus a listing of life member e-mails (where possible).
- (d) The editor will work on development of an announcement of a topical issue for 2013. A special issue of manuscripts submitted by the University of Kansas (Alpha Chapter) will be the last issue for Volume 84 (2012). In addition to topical issues, it would be good if other chapters would consider sponsoring a special issue of *The Compass*.
- (e) Dr. Aaron Johnson, Chapter Advisor of the Epsilon Theta Chapter, Northwest Missouri State University, has volunteered to work on getting the back issues of *The Compass* scanned. When the digitized issues are available, it will be possible to consider re-publication of the "Best of the Past" articles.
- (f) Dr. Aaron Johnson has volunteered to serve as an associate editor of *The Compass*.
- (g) The "Best Geology Photo Contest" is certainly a possibility. Publishing photos in *The Compass* is really a good idea and the editor will work with the national secretary to develop the contest. The photos would need to be on the SGE website in order for voting to occur.

OFFICER REPORTS

Report of the National Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. James C. Walters.

42nd SGE Biennial Convention

November 3, 2012

Charlotte, North Carolina

At the last SGE Convention, held at Indiana University in March 2010, I reported that the move of the National Office from Oklahoma to Iowa was essentially complete and that we were attempting to assess the finances of the Society. Since that time, Administrative Assistant Paula Even and I have continued to work in that direction and have determined that currently SGE is financially on a sound foundation. One of the first items of business was to combine all of the SGE stock holdings into one account managed by a financial planner. We chose Edward Jones as the SGE stock manager. They provide us with monthly statements of our holdings, and we also meet with them on a regular basis to discuss our holdings and review any appropriate transactions. Our major sources of revenue continue to be dividends from our stock portfolio, initiation fees, dues, and sales of jewelry and honor cords. In the past, one of our major regular expenditures has been the publication of *The Compass*, the earth-science journal of SGE. With *The Compass* having moved to online publication we no longer incur this expense and this has resulted in substantial savings for the Society. Without the expenses involved in publication of *The Compass*, our major expenses include W.A. Tarr Awards, Quality Chapter Awards, SGE best poster awards at the GSA poster session, funding the biennial

conventions, expenses associated with the SGE booth at GSA annual meetings, expenses associated with site visits to schools petitioning for establishment of SGE Chapters, and our Administrative Assistant's part-time salary.

The following is a summary of our expenses and income and some additional information since the 41st SGE Biennial Convention in 2010.

2010-2011 Income

641 Initiates	\$23,234
416 Returning members	\$6,191
2 Life members	\$350
52 SGE pins	\$156
226 SGE Cords	\$2,709
Stock portfolio dividends	\$10,813

2010-2011 Expenses \$32,522

[28 Tarr Awards; 1 Quality Chapter Award]

2011-2012 Income

689 Initiates	\$25,194
516 Returning members	\$7,778
5 Life members	\$875
149 SGE pins	\$447
277 SGE Cords	\$ 3,324
Stock portfolio dividends	\$17,016

2011-2012 Expenses \$38,640

[31 Tarr Awards; 4 Quality Chapter Awards]

Report of the National Editor, Dr. Larry Davis.

I was quite honored to be nominated and elected to the position of National Editor of The COMPASS, Earth Science Journal of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, but at the same time, I was terrified because the delegates had also decided to

move to a digital format. As I stated in the opening line of my editorial of the Volume 84 (1), "Hello. My name is Larry and I'm a technology Neanderthal!" For several months I struggled with how to get started and what to do. I was saved by three individuals from my schools (College of St. Benedict / St. John's University). Ms. Kathy Parker, Director of the Libraries, had approached the school's administration for funding to become part of the Berkeley Electronic Press' Digital Commons in order to publish and archive the institutions' scholarly works. As part of the 'package' the schools would be allowed to host five electronic journals. Dr. Rita Knuesel, Provost, located the funds to support the school's involvement with the Digital Commons. With the money in-place, Mr. David Wuolu, Collection Development Librarian and Institutional Repository Director, approached me about placing *The Compass* online with the Digital Commons. I still don't know how David knew I was struggling with 'what to do', but he had certainly come to my rescue. And, as they say, the rest is history.

I continue to struggle, and learn, how to accomplish the desktop publishing phase of being editor, and there have been some hiccups. I am still very dependent upon David Wuolu for getting the final PDFs uploaded onto the Digital Commons platform. As I am due to retire in a year, I have been unsure what will happen in regards to the schools' continued support. I have asked David about the issue and he doesn't see an issue of maintaining *The Compass* as part of the schools' 5-journal allocation. Keep your fingers crossed.

As with past Editors of *The Compass*, there continues to be a struggle with getting manuscript submissions. I

believe part of the problem in the past was the length of time from submission to publication – sometimes the time stretched into a couple of years. With electronic publishing, the time issue becomes moot. Once a manuscript has been approved, publication time is really short. So far, we have had a ‘turn around’ time of less than 8-months. Additionally, there are NO page limits, so we can publish large data sets, digital movies, and all photos, charts, diagrams, etc. can be published in color, all of which should be an attractive option for authors.

“On the Outcrop” is a new addition to *The Compass* and to which, I am hoping people will submit articles. The purpose of this feature is to highlight an outcrop of geological significance with photos and a brief article, similar to the model used in the Geological Society of America’s 1987 5-Volume Centennial Field Guide. The On the Outcrop series is not intended to be a field trip guide, although field trip guides can certainly be published in *The Compass*. Rather, the series will feature a single significant locality, perhaps associated with a field trip. Check the Sigma Gamma Epsilon website for submission guidelines.

<http://www.sigmagammaepsilon.com/ontheoutcrop.pdf>

The website for *The Compass* in electronic format is:

<http://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/compass/>

Report of the National Vice President, Western Province Dr. Rip Langford.

The Western Province of SGE is the largest of the Provinces in terms of area and contains 35 Chapters, 10 of them active and 25 inactive. The western region expanded this last year with a new Chapter

in the growing program at Angelo State University (San Angelo, TX) that involves a significant research component. This very active group of students sent a contingent to the SGE Biennial Convention in Charlotte, where they made significant contributions to the meeting.

Report of the National Vice President, Southeastern Province Dr. Michael Gibson

Southeastern Province of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, Annual Report for 2012-2013 Academic Year, Submitted March 26, 2013

There are eleven states in the southeastern province of Sigma Gamma Epsilon with a total of 47 chapters. The section remains strong and continues to expand. Southeastern chapters were well represented at the annual Geological Society of America meeting in Charlotte, NC in November of 2013 with a total of 17 submitted research posters. The southeastern province had good representation at the 42nd Biennial SGE Convention at Charlotte as well. Nine students from four different chapters attended and served on various national committees.

This past year I visited the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA to review their application to establish a chapter of SGE on that campus. I was very happy to be able to turn in a favorable evaluation and recommended chartering a chapter at Columbus State. We are anticipating them becoming our 48th chapter in the southeastern province by the end of this academic year. Additionally, I received several inquiries from various chapters throughout the year, primarily seeking

guidance on chapter activities and clarification of procedures.

I would like to personally thank the national council and chapters for their continued support of southeastern SGE and for demonstrating their support of my efforts by re-electing me to another term as their vice president.

Michael A. Gibson, Ph.D.

SGE Southeastern Province Vice President

Dept. of Agriculture, Geosciences, and

Natural Resources

University of Tennessee at Martin

Martin, TN 38238

CHAPTER REPORTS

Rho Chapter, Indiana University

In the last two years, the Rho chapter has held research conferences, fundraisers, and social events. Each year our chapter holds several social events including initiation including dinner at our advisor's home, a spring picnic just before school lets out, and helping run the departmental fall picnic. In spring of 2011 and 2012 we organized the Crossroads Annual Geology Conference which was sponsored by companies including ConocoPhillips, Chevron, and Indiana University Student Affairs. Crossroads is a regional conference held in the Geology Department at Indiana University to give graduate and undergraduate students an opportunity to present their research. There were keynote presentations by faculty, awards for poster and oral presentations, and representatives from various companies to meet. During and after crossroads we held a silent auction for donated items. This year we added hand-crafted items to the silent auction including two handmade quilts. Another fundraiser we started in 2011 was sales of

lab notebooks in freshmen geology courses. We printed and created lab notebooks which we sold to students in three classes. This extra fundraiser allowed us to award three research grants of \$250 each to students in the geology department in 2011. Both years we also held the Annual Departmental Holiday party held at KRC Banquets and Catering Facility to encourage relaxed relationships between students, faculty and staff. Lastly, students from our chapter meet annually with the Indiana University Geology Department advisory committee each year to provide comments and suggestions to the department and help them make improvements for the future.

Robin Green

Treasurer

Sigma Chapter, The Ohio State University

2010-2011

- Initiated 8 new members
- Held field trips to local, geologically interesting areas.
- The chapter was not very active during this academic year.

2011-2012

- Organized a trip to hear Dr. Robert Ballard (oceanographer who discovered the Titanic) speak at Wright State University.
- Fundraising events throughout the year that ultimately paid for new light boards for 2012 Field Camp.
- Our members taught local middle school students how to identify rocks and minerals for the Science Olympiad.
- Group of volunteers created a team for Buckeyethon, a 24-hr university-wide dance marathon, to

raise money for children's cancer research.

- Initiation of 12 new members.
- Grad School seminar was held to prepare current undergrads for higher education and tips for the application process.
- Visited geologically significant areas to expose students to regional geology.

2012-2013 (as of November 2012)

- We held fundraisers to give back to OSU School of Earth Sciences.
- Department coffee hour once a week (local doughnuts and Starbucks coffee) to improve faculty and student communication and raise funds for our chapter to reinvest into field camp supplies.
- Thanksgiving food drive for the next two weeks that includes two bake sales during that period as incentive to come and donate even more – we give one baked good for every two cans donated.
- Initiation (thus far) of 8 new members.
- Starting up an afterschool enrichment program to teach elementary school students about earth sciences.
- Our SGE chapter has our own Buckeyethon team once again this year.
- Currently creating t-shirts to gain profit (reinvesting into the department later) and visually promote our School of Earth Sciences.
- Grad school seminar held this year again but with a panel of current grad students, from our department, as well.

- Representatives outside of earth sciences have come to speak about alternative options after graduation, including Teach for America.

*Abigail Crock
President*

Alpha Alpha Chapter, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The Alpha Alpha chapter at UNC Chapel Hill was reactivated in Fall 2012 after being inactive for more than 40 years. Since it was reactivated, we have had an induction ceremony, held undergraduate research presentations within our department, attended weekly colloquia, participated in community service activities, and gone on a geology hike through the Eno River State Park led by UNC professor Kevin Stewart. We are currently organizing a trip to Hot Springs, NC and are planning on holding similar events throughout the rest of semester.

*Siobhan Kenney
President*

Gamma Zeta Chapter, Kent State University

Kent State University's Gamma Zeta Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon has continued to grow as an organization since it was first chartered in 1968. The Gamma Zeta Chapter organizes a variety of annual social events within the Department of Geology, including the fall ice breaker, ice cream socials, holiday parties, cross-cultural Thanksgiving dinners, Graduate vs. Undergraduate bowling nights, and spring banquets. These events, popular with both the students and faculty, give the department a sense of unity.

One newer event, held spring of 2012, was a lecture about the history of the Kent State Geology Department and the formation of our SGE Gamma Zeta

Chapter. This event was presented by our chapter advisor Dr. Rodney Feldmann, who kept students entertained through classic photos and stories about early fundraiser efforts. Everyone got a good laugh at pictures of professors from their earlier years, learned about how the department has evolved, and even explained the construction quirks of our departmental building, McGilvrey Hall. This was a successful event that will be repeated again for future students.

Our current major fundraising activity is a weekly grain size folder party, where students gather to socialize over pizza and soda, while completing grain size folders. It is a long process but is an extremely successful way to fundraise for scholarships. This fundraiser allows us the opportunity to give a large number of research and field camp scholarships, totaling about \$2700 per year, at our end of the year banquet.

The Gamma Zeta Chapter at Kent State University is filled with a large number of dedicated students who work hard to promote academics in the Earth Sciences. We look forward to continuing to successfully fundraise for scholarships and allow students to bond through a variety of social events.

*Chelsea Lyle
Vice President*

Gamma Theta Chapter, University of Iowa

Gamma Theta Chapter reactivated at the University of Iowa this past academic year. Prior to reactivation, the Chapter existed unofficially but did elect officers and participated in a few activities in conjunction with the department. One activity that the Chapter does every year is host the Departmental fall picnic. At the picnic, a raffle is held using items donated

from the faculty to raise funds to cover the picnic. There are currently five active members. The Chapter is looking to grow by promoting the organization more within the department as well as the inclusion of graduate students in the Chapter.

*Matthew Even
Delegate*

Gamma Sigma Chapter, University of Northern Iowa

The Gamma Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon has remained active since the last convention with 20-25 members. Each year we initiate an average of 10 new members during each of the fall and spring semesters and have bi-weekly meetings. We are very honored that our chapter received 2012 Quality Chapter Award.

During Earth Science Week each fall we volunteer at the Quarry Open house hosted by Basic Materials Corporation by helping visitors identify rocks and answering questions about geology. The other volunteer activities we have participated in include Homecoming Campus Clean-up, Earth Day activities, Honors Week, Major in Minutes, Panther Peak Days, and a departmental open house.

The social activities we have hosted include beginning of the year lunch for students and faculty, Holiday party, and movie nights. We are currently planning a geode collecting trip for the spring semester. We commemorated the 38th anniversary of our chapter by hosting a game night last spring.

Our chapter fundraises by selling rock and mineral study kits for the Introduction to Geology classes, as well as pop, candy and snacks in the student room, and rock hammers for field use.

Many members have remained busy by

doing undergraduate research, some of which has been presented at our departmental seminars, the Iowa Academy of Science Annual Meeting, and GSA. One of our members will be presenting their research at the Geological Society of America Annual meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Allison Schell
President

Gamma Phi Chapter, Stephen F. Austin State University.

Gamma Phi chapter has been very involved with projects that benefited both our students and our department. We hosted an alumni reception at homecoming for geology students and friends, and it has become a favored tradition. In preparation for that event, the chapter sponsored a clean-up day of the department and cleaned lab tables. We also maintained a Rock Garden for rock samples brought back from field trips. Gamma Phi chapter has prepared boxes of minerals and rocks for loan to public schools, and members have served as guest speakers on topics of interest to school classrooms. An end-of-the-year banquet is hosted by the chapter in which scholarships and awards are given for outstanding achievements. Several items are sold by the chapter to generate funds for scholarships and projects. Items sold are Mineral and Rock Boxes to introductory students, Hand Lenses, AAPG Geological Highway Maps, Tee shirts, and Decals of a Geology lumberjack. From the proceeds of these sales, Gamma Phi chapter has established a \$10,000 Endowment for SGE members. It is appropriately named the Austin A. Sartin Geology Endowment after our former SGE advisor, National Vice-President of the Southeastern Province, and National President.

Our chapter is involved with projects that benefit our students and our University. We welcome contact with other chapters!

Bryan F. Byrd
President

Delta Tau Chapter, Slippery Rock University.

Delta Tau Chapter Report for the
2011-2012 Academic School Year

Board Members

President – Gina Filiano

Vice President – Nathan Vavro

Secretary – Megan Burns

Treasurer – Lisa Andresky

During the 2011-2012 academic school year the Delta Tau chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE) met biweekly at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday. Each meeting the president would discuss upcoming events and members would collectively decide on club activities. Club activities are partially funded by the sale of snacks and beverages within the department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment.

Activities

August 25-26, 2011 members volunteered to help new students move belongings into residential halls as part of the campus-wide event known as the Weekend of Welcome. Volunteers worked for 2-4 hour shifts on multiple days unloading and carrying student possessions. Those that helped were given a water bottle and a t-shirt.

The Mentoring Program for freshmen and transfer students was launched in order to help direct, advise, and befriend new students of the Geography, Geology, and the Environment department. Each SGE member was assigned 2 mentees that they contacted and tried to establish a dialogue. Mentors are charged with motivating and informing the new students on department activities and opportunities.

October 27, 2011 a mentor-mentee dinner was held in the campus ski lodge. This pot-luck dinner introduced mentors to their mentees if they had not met prior to the event. The mentees that attended were able to speak with SGE members and some of the department faculty.

November 5, 2011 the second annual Chili Cook-off was held at Dr. Schiappa's house with proceeds benefiting a local disaster relief charity. There were 16 teams that entered the contest. An entrance fee of 5 dollars per team was charged. To vote, tickets were purchased and the winning team was thus chosen by the number of tickets they received. A reverse raffle was conducted where undesirable prizes were given to ticket holders who did not sell their ticket back to the club.

SGE member t-shirts were ordered for all interested members. The t-shirts read Sigma Gamma Epsilon Geoscience Honors Fraternity and displayed the quote "Study nature not books."

SGE competed in intramural volleyball during the fall of 2011.

February 5, 2012 SGE arranged a behind-the-scene tour of the Pittsburgh Zoo. The club members car-pooled to the zoo and were shown the lion, giraffe, and tiger living areas. After the tour was completed members explored the rest of the zoo before returning to campus.

April 26, 2012 Delta Tau held initiations at the campus ski lodge. Due to the increased number of students in the Geoscience major the chapter was able to initiate 9 new members. After the initiation ceremony was conducted members were invited to eat dinner and socialize.

May 2, 2012 nominations and elections for new officers were held and the new officers for the 2012-2013 academic school year will be as follows:

President – Matthew Graves
Vice President – Andy Franze
Secretary – Megan Graubard
Treasurer – Megan Norr

May 4, 2012 a furniture recycling event was organized to minimize the waste as students move out of the residential halls. Arrangements were made with the local Salvation Army branch to have a box truck brought to Slippery Rock University and collected unwanted furniture from students.

*Adam Rak
Delegate*

Epsilon Gamma Chapter, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

After several years of inactivity, in the fall of 2011 the geoscience students at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne reactivated the Epsilon Gamma chapter with the help of our faculty advisor, Dr. Argast. Much of our time has been spent dealing with the logistical issues involved with reestablishing ourselves on campus and with the Sigma Gamma Epsilon organization as a whole. We are a small department, and have few eligible members. As a result, we have spent some time encouraging students to strive for better academic performance and to take advantage of undergraduate research opportunities.

Besides the organizational work, we have been looking for opportunities for community outreach and fundraising. Our first project involved rock identification and description for a local middle school's rock garden. This involved a trip to the school and lab work, where thin section analysis was done and a final report was made. We also helped move rocks from the home of the widow of Dr. Jack Sunderman, our former department chair.

Planned activities include a group field trip with Adrian College, another newly active chapter, and help in the creation of a memorial for Dr. Sunderman. We have had one successful fundraiser so far. This involved setting up a booth at a fair where children could make pet rocks or dig for fossils. We hope to repeat this success at similar venues and continue to search for new fundraising opportunities.

Michael Blair
President

Epsilon Delta Chapter, Texas Christian University.

In December of 2011, Texas Christian University's Sigma Gamma Epsilon's chapter, Epsilon Delta was reactivated. Eleven graduate and undergraduate earth science majors were inducted. Our chapter has volunteered in a project for the Dinosaur Education Center for North Texas working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local elementary schools. SGE members worked with children in creating molds of the dinosaur *Protophadros*' footprints, which were found in the early-late Cretaceous Woodbine Formation in Grapevine, Texas. We have also volunteered at the Arlington Archosaur Site, uncovering turtles, sharks, and Archosaurs from the Cretaceous. Nature trips have been taken to Glen Rose, Texas for the Dallas Paleontological Society's 30th annual Fossilmania. Here students looked at fossils from all around the world. Field trips to local outcrops and many weekend camping trips to local Texas State Parks have been made throughout the year. Members have volunteered with both geology and environmental science tutoring.

Brooke Long
Vice President

Epsilon Theta Chapter, Northwest Missouri State University.

The Epsilon Theta Chapter has accomplished much in the last two years. The chapter has grown from 21 to 34 student members, primarily due to the rapid growth of the geology program at Northwest. In 2007 the program was at its lowest point, with only about 15 geology majors. By 2010, that number had grown to 50. As of this fall, the program includes 75 students majoring in geology or earth science education. This growth in our program and in the Epsilon Theta Chapter allows us to pursue opportunities that might not be available to smaller organizations.

In 2010, we began the tradition of having a formal gathering every semester to initiate new members into the organization, allowing new and returning members to get better acquainted with one another. Our gatherings varied in terms of location and timing. We grilled burgers and hot dogs at our faculty sponsor's home, and enjoyed pizza and age-appropriate beverages at the local movie theater. As the activity level of the group increased, then President Molly Ramsey and members of the executive committee identified becoming an Outstanding Chapter as one of our top priorities. During the 2010-2011 year, we met each of our goals with the exception of designing and implementing a service project.

Projects for Epsilon Theta chapter began to pick up in the spring of 2011. Having secured the rights for the fantastically accurate sci-fi disaster film *2012*, we hosted a "mock the movie" night at our local theater, selling tickets to the general public as a way to raise funds for the organization and raise public

awareness of the earth sciences. The mockery was a great success, resulting in a whimsical movie experience for all involved. Later in the semester, we hosted our first “Girl Scout Science Saturday”. In conjunction with Girl Scout Troop 8307, we hosted a day where girl scouts ranging in age from 5 to 14 could come to the university and take part in activities designed specifically for their age group. Members of the Epsilon Theta Chapter designed all experiments, procured all necessary materials, and worked directly with Scout Leaders, parents and troop members. To participate, girls needed only to bring in an item of canned food, which was donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank in St. Joseph, Missouri. The 94 girls in attendance represented 6 counties in northwest Missouri and earned 117 science badges. Epsilon Theta was able to donate 120 cans of food to Second Harvest. We teamed up with Girl Scout Troop 8307 again in a joint fundraiser at the Nodaway County Fair July 19-21, 2012 selling drinks, popcorn, and frozen confections to patrons. Epsilon Theta and Girl Scouts split the proceeds, most of which were used to send 125 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to American troops in Afghanistan.

In fall of 2012, the chapter initiated 12 new members. Following the ceremony, new and returning members participated in a group stir-fry. All of the items used in the stir-fry were recycled, from the woks (made of recycled farm implements) to the brick-lined trailer (steel and bricks from a demolished building). In addition, the chapter created a gender recruitment in STEM, or Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, committee to identify ways to better promote interest in areas of scientific study

for women and underrepresented minorities. Members of this committee are attending the Sigma Gamma Epsilon Convention (Rachel Schulta and Emily Bunse) and will attend the National Meeting of the GSA where each member will attend workshops and networking opportunities designed to address issues relating gender and underrepresented ethnicities in the geosciences. In addition, members will summarize and present their findings to members of the Northwest Missouri State University Women in STEM Initiative team. That meeting will include faculty, administrators, staff and students who are interested in working to recruit more women into STEM disciplines.

To raise funds this fall, we purchased the rights to the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and partnered with our local movie theater to show it on the big screen. We sold tickets at the university and to the general public, putting on a fall-themed bake sale at the same time to maximize fundraising. We researched the “audience participation tradition” involved with the film, enabling us to put on a highly interactive and entertaining show. Our chapter is currently preparing for our 2nd Girl Scout Science weekend which tentatively is scheduled for March 30-31. We are opening the event to all girls ages 5-14, regardless of affiliation, adding activities on Sunday to meet anticipated demand, and we hope to partner with Tri-Beta (the biology honor society) to offer nature badges as well.

Chelsea Bulen
President

Epsilon Phi Chapter, Eastern Carolina University.

Fall 2011: 10 Returning Members, 10 New Members (16 graduate students, 4

undergraduates)

Pizza and Prep Work Night

Volunteers work on making picture frames, magnets, coasters, bookends, polishing and price labeling specimens for the rock sale and are provided pizza as well as a “geology movie” (Jurassic Park 1&2) to watch while they work. Costs approximately \$50 for food and materials.

Rock Sale Fundraiser

Items Sold: Stone Bookends, Slab Coasters, Magnets, Picture Frames, Water Bottles, Department Decals, Department T-shirts, Fossils (shark teeth, belemnite stems, whale bones, and shells), Rocks and Minerals. Raised approximately \$2,000 in 4 days.

Spring 2012: 5 New Members (all 5 undergraduates)

Departmental Pig Pickin’ hosted by SGE

SGE pays for tent rentals and set up, a porta-john rental, utensils, drinks, plates, napkins, cups and does the advertising for the event. This event is used as our departmental graduation and awards ceremony. Costs SGE approximately \$500.

CQ Brown Scholarship

Half of the money made from the rock sale is put towards the departmental scholarship each year.

SEGSA

Funding was provided to cover the cost of a room for a couple students without funding to attend SEGSA in Asheville. Cost: \$150.

Fall 2012: 12 Returning Members, 8 New Members (11 graduate students, 9 undergraduates)

Pizza and Prep Work Night. Volunteers

work on making picture frames, magnets, coasters, bookends, polishing and price labeling specimens for the rock sale and are provided pizza as well as a “geology movie” (Volcano and The Core) to watch while they work. Costs approximately \$50 for food and materials.

Rock Sale Fundraiser. Items Sold: Stone Bookends, Slab Coasters, Magnets, Picture Frames, Water Bottles, Department Decals, Fossils (shark teeth, belemnite stems, whale bones, shells), Rocks and Minerals. Raised approximately \$1,400 in 3 days.

SGA requests for National GSA. A request was made to Students Government Association for funding to help students without any funding attend National GSA in Charlotte. Approximately \$1,500 was awarded to six students to help cover the cost of registration, hotels, gas, and other travel expenses.

Linville Gorge Field Trip. A trip to Linville Gorge is planned for the weekend of November 17th as a way of welcoming new members and thanking those that helped with the rock sale. Visiting Linville Caverns, Linville Falls and hiking down into the gorge are on the agenda for the trip. SGE will only cover the price of gas for 1 departmental van, approximately \$150.

*Mark Akland
President*

Eta Alpha Chapter, University of Tennessee at Martin

Greetings from Chapter Eta Alpha – UT Martin. This summary represents our report for club activities in the last six months. Since last spring, the Chapter Eta Alpha has inducted seven new members. As a chapter, we have tried to expand past our normal activities. We regrettably were unable to attend the

Tennessee Geoconclave this year due to a scheduling conflict with a geology field trip. We attempted to generate more chapter funds with a concessions sell in early October. We did not do as well as expected, but circumstances had not been ideal for the sell. We are still optimistic for this fundraiser and plan to revamp it for next year with better foresight.

We also refocused on community involvement by setting up a Halloween geocaching workshop for our local Girl Scout troop. The girls seemed very excited about the geocache and showed interest in doing a larger one with an augmented search area. The troop leader welcomed us back as well.

One project in progress includes arranging for an OSHA training workshop at our school in order to give university students a head start on any OSHA training their future field might require. Currently, we are looking for ways to make the cost of the workshop more feasible via grants or donations.

Danielle Cavender
President

Eta Gamma Chapter, Weber State University.

Greetings from the Eta Gamma Chapter of Sigma Gama Epsilon based at Weber State University in Ogden, UT! The last two and a half years have been some of the most active years since our inception in 1998 and we are excited to share our activities with everyone. Our chapter strives for academic excellence, which not only acknowledges its members' scholastic achievements, but also provides a number of community outreach opportunities for its members to participate in. In addition to multiple ongoing efforts, our chapter selects one large project for each semester. Eta

Gamma has a rich history of community involvement and in 2012 our chapter was honored with the Quality Chapter Award. Much of the success of the chapter has been due to an astounding number of energetic and passionate new members. Since 2012, we have grown to 23 total members. Together, chapter members have volunteered over 1,175 hours to help with Science Olympiad, the departmental rock and mineral sale, educational booths, Weber State University sponsored Science Hikes and Science Saturdays and several other events geared toward increasing community knowledge of the geosciences.

In April of 2011, the Eta Gamma chapter and Geoscience Club worked together to raise earthquake awareness along with Wasatch Front with the Weber State ShakeUp in honor of the Great Utah Shake Out held later that month. This was a two-day event that featured five guest speakers from across the state, informational booths from a multitude of local businesses, and demonstrations that alerted the community to the hazards and how to be prepared when living in earthquake country. During the summer and fall of 2012, Eta Gamma members spent over 200 hours collecting, preparing, and assembling a collection of eleven different rock specimens from local areas in order to create an educational tool for distribution to 96 fourth grade classrooms within Weber School District. The rock specimens enhance Utah State curriculum standards by providing teachers with local materials that actively engage students in hands-on activities.

In addition to these major projects, the Eta Gamma Chapter has also been highly active in local educational outreach activities. Science Saturdays is an outreach program for families designed to increase

science awareness in the community. Eta Gamma members have spent over 200 volunteer hours with organizing, demonstrating, and teaching Earth science related programs such as the carbon cycle, the rock cycle, and plate tectonics. The Science Hikes program is in cooperation with the community-based Weber Pathways and Weber State University's College of Science, and features Eta Gamma students that spend several days during the summer and fall months leading hikes along the Wasatch Front and explaining the geologic history of the area.

Amanda Gentry

Delegate

Eta Upsilon Chapter, University of the Pacific.

University of the Pacific – Sigma Gamma Epsilon: Eta Upsilon Chapter Activities for Fall 2011-Spring 2013

Leadership:

Presidency transferred from Gabby McDaniel ('11) to Brittany Klemm ('14) at the conclusion of Fall 2011 semester, upon McDaniel's graduation from University of the Pacific.

Initiates:

Five new members of the chapter were initiated at the conclusion of the Spring 2012 semester.

Roger Ward ('12)

Kaitlin Rawhauser ('13)

Christina Colburn ('13)

Dai Wilson ('14)

Brittany Klemm ('14)

Graduates:

Two members of the chapter graduated with a Bachelors of Science Geology degree.

Gabby McDaniel (Fall '11)

Roger Ward (Spring '12)

Student Projects:

- **Gabby McDaniel ('11)** presented her research at the 2011 Geological Society of America National Convention on acid mine drainage at Mills College in Oakland, Calif. Her project focused on investigating the biogeochemical cycles of toxic metals and the interactions of microorganisms on contaminant transport in urban lakes and streams. Gabby spent a year doing community service in Africa and is now pursuing a graduate degree in Environmental Science at University of Oregon.
- **Roger Ward ('12)** continued with McDaniel's project upon her graduation from the University. Ward graduated before the project was completed and was unable to present the findings that his continued work produced. Ward is now pursuing a MS in Geology at Cal State Univ. Bakersfield.
- **Brittany Klemm ('14)** with the help of fellow geology major, Nikki Mainwaring ('13) and her advisor Dr. Burmeister mapped exposures of Jurassic metamorphic rocks in the Mount Tallac roof pendant and Cretaceous granitic intrusions. The team was based in the [Desolation Wilderness Area](#) in the [Eldorado National Forest](#). From there, they completed a series of transects in the surrounding area. Preliminary mapping efforts discovered an interesting collection of geologic structures, including faults, folds, and penetrative deformation fabrics that will help begin to resolve ambiguities in geologic history of this region.

- **Brittany** also conducted structural strain analysis on a quartz arenite and pebble-rich conglomerate strata in New York to conclude the quantity and quality of any tectonic deformation. She is scheduled to present the conclusions of her 2012 research project, Normalized Fry Strain Analysis of the Mechanically Rigid Shawangunk Conglomerate, Central Hudson Valley, New York. She will be presenting a poster on Monday (11/5).
- **Dai Wilson ('14)** is currently working with Sedimentary Petrologist and University of the Pacific professor, Dr. Gene Pearson on the Neroly Formation in the Central Valley of California, to propose a thorough and conclusive rock unit description and analysis.
- **Christina Colburn ('14)** is currently in stage two of a curriculum development project with Sly Park Environmental Education Center, a science camp for 6th graders within the Sacramento Unified School District (roughly 7500 students attend this camp per year).

- Lava Beds National Park, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and Crater Lake, Oregon and various stops along the way from Stockton California during a 4-day field trip with an introductory level geology course.
- Donner Pass area of the northern Sierra [Nevada](#), just west of Donner Lake (the site of the infamous [Donner Party](#) tragedy) and Truckee, CA with members of the Japanese Granite Study Group examining the petrogenesis of granitic plutons.

Awards:

- **Gabby McDaniel ('11)** was a recipient of the *Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship* at the end of the Spring '11 semester; this is one of the most prestigious [scholarships](#) in the United States for undergraduates majoring in math and science. McDaniel was selected as one of 275 recipients nationwide.
- **Gabby** also was the recipient of the Spring '12 University of the Pacific Earth and Environmental Science department's highest honor, the *John Hadmar Sticht Memorial Medal*, which recognizes the outstanding graduating senior in Geology.
- **Roger Ward ('12), Kat Rawhouser ('13), Christina Colburn ('14), Brittany Klemm ('14) and Dai Wilson ('14)** were awarded the *Jerrold L. McNey Fellowship*, which supports initiation fees and membership dues for *Sigma Gamma Epsilon: Eta Upsilon* during the first year.

Student Field Trips:

- **Brittany Klemm ('14), Dai Wilson ('14), Kaitlin Rawhauser (13), and Christina Colburn** participated in the following departmental field trips:
 - The Colorado Plateau and neighboring states (Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and Colorado) for 8 days during 2012 Spring Break to study the geologic history of the Grand Canyon and neighboring geologic formations.

- **Brittany Klemm ('14)** was the recipient of the Spring '12 University of the Pacific Earth and Environmental Science department's *Delbert H. Brown Award*, which was awarded in recognition of her exceptional promise in the areas of academics, research and service.
- **Brittany** was also awarded the *Irving Pasternak Memorial Scholarship* at the conclusion of the Spring '12 semester. The scholarship fund was established in 1991 as a need-based scholarship support to a student majoring in geology or geography.
- **Brittany** was awarded the *Pacific Spring Dean's Research Award* (Spring '12) to partially fund her strain analysis of the New York Shawangunk Conglomerate and the *Pacific Fund Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship* (Summer '12) to partially fund her preliminary mapping research in the Desolation Wilderness region of the Sierra Nevada Mountain.

Volunteering Services:

- **Christina Colburn ('14)** organized an Earth and Environmental department table at the *trick or treat event* at Pacific in which thousands of kids from all across the Stockton and surrounding regions come onto campus and are able to safely trick or treat. **Wilson ('14)** was also a participant in the event and **Klemm ('14)** and **Rawhauser ('12)** helped to plan and coordinate the event.
- *Saturday Pie* is an event in which members of SGE host Stockton elementary students for two weekends in which time curriculum is taught in correlation with activities highlighting a few specific geologic

concepts (ie. viscosity, volcanism, recycling and renewable energy, etc.) *Saturday Pie* is an annual event; this year, SGE members hope to participate during the first two weeks of November.

- *Pacific day and Profile day* are two major days in which potential attendees off the University visit campus and are able to learn about the presence and resources offered by various organizations on campus. Last year, **Rawhauser ('13)** tabled for this event; this year we hope to have more than one SGE representative present at these events to provide more awareness and presence for our potential students.

Future plans:

- SGE:EU is in the process of creating T-shirts as our most current fundraising activity.

Brittany Klemm
President

Eta Phi Chapter, Northern Illinois University.

The Eta Phi chapter at NIU has been productive over these past two years. Since 2010, each member has contributed to the chapter's service to the department and community. Within the department, our officers have maintained regular meetings every semester to keep our members informed on chapter activities and other department events. Meetings tend to be 2-3 times a semester. This year, we have found a new faculty advisor in Dr. Ryan Pollyea. He is very excited and innovative and will be a great addition to our SGE chapter. Eta Phi has been fortunate to have a regular member base that is fueled each year by dedicated new members. Since 2010, our new and returning members have added new and

creative ideas for community services and fund raising. In the fall of 2010 our chapter began a string of inter-department social gatherings as well as outreach efforts. Traditions have taken hold in the form of a bi-annual softball game with our neighboring geography department and a chili cook-off with both faculty and student involvement. These events have been a great success in allowing the students to network with fellow classmates and faculty. This has increased membership and basic involvement with the chapter. The chapter has also been successful in finding enough volunteers to stay community minded. Every semester, the chapter has taken on one main community service project. This has allowed us to support our local museums, scout troops, and local education programs.

Summary of activities

The culmination of the 2010 fall semester was Eta Phi's participation in updating the geology exhibit at the Midwest Museum of Natural History in Sycamore, IL. This project lasted into the early spring and was accomplished by many SGE members. Duties included re-cataloging the rock and mineral collection, creation of a new display and educational posters. The spring semester ended with a wildly popular career day. The chapter pulled professionals from local firms, ISGS, USGS, IEPA, and our campus career services. Many of our students found this networking opportunity helpful when looking for jobs and internships. In fall 2011, the department decided to participate in NIU's STEMfest (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). This is a large convention held for kids and students of all ages and highlights all the different STEM departments. Each

department gets a booth to showcase their discipline. SGE played a part by organizing all the activities and volunteers for our booth. These included: make your own earthquake station, fluorite pieces they can take home, variety of rocks and minerals, raffle prizes and stickers, replica "fossil" of an archaeopteryx. Each area had their own information cards the students could keep. The spring semester, Eta Phi organized a gathering of cub scouts at the university to help them achieve their geology merit badges. This was so enjoyable that the chapter hopes to do this every year.

The 2012-2013 academic year is shaping up to be equally, if not more, productive than previous years, and the membership is having fun planning and executing our activities. For example, the SGE expanded its role in STEMfest by taking on a larger booth, developing a wider range of educational experiences for children of all ages, and staffing the booth from open to close. In addition, a date in January has already been reserved to help a local scout troop with their merit badge. Also, we plan on recreating the career day in the spring along with several fund raising ideas. Currently we are conducting a photo contest within the department where the winning photos will be featured in a 2013 calendar. This will be the first time NIU has attended an SGE Convention and will hopefully not be the last.

Ellen Raimondi
President

Eta Chi Chapter, State University of New York College at Brockport.

Our chapter was not very active during the 2011-2012 school year due to lack of student support and knowledge of the Society. We held our annual induction ceremony in the spring semester of 2012 in

which new members were read the Sigma Gamma Epsilon story and sworn in. We have many plans for this academic school year to revive our club and society. We are going to elect officers in the role of president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. A group outing to see a Rochester Amerks hockey game is planned for late November. As a service event, society members will be cleaning and organizing our geology lab in Lennon Hall. We are also planning a field trip to a geological area that is unfamiliar to ourselves. Possibilities include New England, the Southern United States, or Nova Scotia. We hope to revive the club and stimulate student interest in our society in the following year.

Rebecca Rhodes
Delegate

Theta Gamma Chapter, Angelo State University.

Angelo State had an active geo club for many years before establishing a chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon this past May. Currently we have 17 members and have been active in student outreach and river cleanups.

Vaden Aldridge
Vice President