

# The Compass: Earth Science Journal of Sigma Gamma Epsilon

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Volume 85 | Issue 2

Article 3

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9-17-2013

## Sigma Gamma Epsilon Quality Chapter Awards

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### Recommended Citation

Walters, James C. (2013) "Sigma Gamma Epsilon Quality Chapter Awards," *The Compass: Earth Science Journal of Sigma Gamma Epsilon*: Vol. 85: Iss. 2, Article 3.

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# **Sigma Gamma Epsilon Quality Chapter Awards**

## **James C. Walters**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The Quality Chapter Award for Sigma Gamma Epsilon was established to recognize chapters for achieving excellence by providing a quality program to its members. Qualifying criteria for the award are provided, and chapters receiving this award for the 2012-2013 academic year are profiled.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Quality Chapter Award is designed to recognize chapters for achieving excellence by providing a quality program to its members by accomplishing the criteria listed below.

Any chapter that meets all the qualifications is automatically eligible for the Quality Chapter Award annually. Chapters will receive a certificate and a \$50 award the following fall in addition to being recognized on the Sigma Gamma Epsilon website (the certificate and monetary award can be requested for presentation in the spring if all requirements are met early).

### **AWARD CRITERIA**

- (a) Elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer annually.
- (b) The Officer Form is fully completed and submitted electronically by 15 November to: [even@sigmagammaepsilon.com](mailto:even@sigmagammaepsilon.com)
- (c) Conduct a fall initiation. The New Initiate Form must be fully completed with BOTH an

electronic and paper copy with initiate fees and dues submitted to the National Office by 15 November. Please submit the electronic copy to:

[even@sigmagammaepsilon.com](mailto:even@sigmagammaepsilon.com)

- (d) For returning members, the Returning Member Form must be fully completed with BOTH an electronic and paper copy, with dues submitted to the National Office by 15 November. Please submit the electronic copy to: [even@sigmagammaepsilon.com](mailto:even@sigmagammaepsilon.com) Please note there are no partial dues for returning members.
- (e) Conduct a spring initiation. The New Initiate Form must be fully completed with BOTH an electronic and paper copy with initiate fees and dues submitted to the National Office by 1 April. Please submit the electronic copy to: [even@sigmagammaepsilon.com](mailto:even@sigmagammaepsilon.com)
- (f) Correct amount of dues (and initiate fees, if applicable) are

submitted. Please combine initiate fees and dues into one check.

- (g) Advisor is a dues-paying Associate or Active Alumni Member of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, or a Life member of the Society.
- (h) Application for the W.A. Tarr Award submitted on-line or post marked by 1 April.
- (i) One service project must be completed by your chapter during the academic year (15 August – 15 May). The Service Project Form must be completed and submitted by 31 May to:

[even@sigmagammaepsilon.com](mailto:even@sigmagammaepsilon.com)

If you are unable to submit the Service Project Form electronically, please print the PDF version and mail to:

Dr. James C. Walters  
National Secretary-Treasurer  
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Department of Earth Science  
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## 2013 RECIPIENTS

Seven chapters qualified for the 2013 Quality Chapter Award:

Epsilon Eta, Radford University

Eta Gamma, Weber State University

Eta Epsilon, Southern Utah University

Gamma Sigma, University of Northern Iowa

Gamma Chi, Eastern Illinois University

Eta Tau, University of Dayton

Epsilon Theta, Northwest Missouri State University

One of the requirements of a Quality Chapter is to complete a service project during the academic year. Epsilon Eta and Epsilon Theta's service projects were highlighted under Chapter Service Awards (pages 62-63 of this issue). Eta Gamma, Eta Epsilon, Gamma Sigma, Gamma Chi and Eta Tau's service projects are listed below.

**Eta Gamma** (Weber State University) members conducted four different service projects, completing an impressive number of service hours. Part of Eta Gamma's mission is to provide their members with a variety of well-rounded and diverse opportunities for involvement. Their projects ranged from academic, educational community outreach, and campus-wide volunteer services. The various service projects completed provide benefits for Weber State University, students, and our greater community.

Three Members of the Eta Gamma chapter volunteered in various elementary and secondary teaching and educational efforts for a total of 75 service hours. From independent teaching efforts and science fair judging to field trips organized through the Center for Science and Math Education department, students were responsible for creating lessons and developing demonstrations or activities reflecting topics within the earth science field. Resources were provided by Weber State University's Geoscience Department to help exhibit various concepts. Topics included fossils, the water cycle, weather, and rock and mineral identification. Students also participated in UGS's Earth

Day program at the Core Library which benefits young school children within the community.

This benefits not only the local schools, but geology majors, particularly earth science teaching majors. It affords teaching majors the opportunity to prepare, organize and implement lesson plans within their subject prior to student teaching. It gives geology majors a chance to share their knowledge and educational resources. It also greatly benefits teachers and students within the local community that do not have access to a wide variety of teaching materials by helping to enable science learning to be engaging and applicable.

Seven Eta Gamma members spent 26 hours coordinating booths to show school pride and recruit students to the Geoscience Department. They also supported two educational lectures that focused on 'Wildfires in Utah and Climate Change' as well as the 'Mineralogy of the Great Salt Lake'.

The promotional booths help to encourage new students to explore geosciences as an optional career choice, while the public booths help to promote earth science education within the community. The lecture series is designed to promote academic excellence by increasing the educational resources within the geoscience department.

Science Saturdays is a program developed by CSME, Center for Science and Math Education, to provide hands-on, engaging science activities and demonstrations at no cost to children within the community. This event takes place on the second Saturday of each month and is well attended by all ages, but is specifically geared to children in elementary school. Each month, members

of Eta Gamma chapter, chose an earth science related topic and presented it. In 2012 the topics explored were oceans, clouds, sun dials, and tectonics. Eight members contributed a total of 51 hours to this service project.

Members believe this is a huge benefit to their community and school. Not only does it provide earth science teaching majors with the opportunity to develop and organize lesson plans, it also gives children in the community a chance to explore the nature of science in fun and interactive ways while encouraging them to think critically and engage in investigations. This program provides children an insight into the realities of science in relatable and understandable way.

Three members of the Eta Gamma chapter teamed up with Weber Pathways, a local trail organization, to create "Yikes! Science Hikes" which are student-led instructional hikes designed to educate the community about the local science around them. This year they took the initiative to expand the hikes to include the other science departments within the College of Science. The topics of the hikes ranged from geology to botany, physiology, microbiology, and physics for children. A total of 18 service hours was accumulated.

This has proven to be a great benefit to all in the community. Student-led hikes also provide students with the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences within the geosciences field with the public.

Six members of **Eta Epsilon** (Southern Utah University) completed a total of 24 hours of service. The student chapter members met with the 4th grade science teachers at a local elementary school. The teachers asked for a rock

review for their students before taking the state test. They organized 4 stations: sedimentary rocks and soil, igneous rocks, metamorphic rocks, and fossils, and focused the information included with the state standards. Approximately 50 children cycled through the stations.

Eta Epsilon believes the rock review will benefit the students of the elementary school by giving them a hands-on review of geology and will lead to better test scores.

Three **Gamma Sigma** (University of Northern Iowa) members taught middle school students who had come to the UNI campus for STEM Day about the earth sciences through fossil and volcano activities. This project introduced the students to the earth sciences in a fun and interesting manner..

**Gamma Chi's** (Eastern Illinois University) Geology and Geography Department has an annual colloquium series in which it brings speakers to campus to give earth-related talks that are of interest to students, faculty and the general public (Sept. 28th - Colonel Robert Sinkler ('83), ""Solving the Nation's Toughest Geology and Geography Problems;"" March 22nd - Dr. John Hudson, "The World's Wheat Crop: Who Produces It, Who Consumes It;" and an on-campus screening of "Chasing Ice"). Gamma Chi applied for on-campus funding to pay for refreshments to host the guests (\$500/year) and then purchased, set up the food and drinks for each event.

The speakers enrich the school and community by presenting information on a variety of topics intended to provoke the imagination and enlighten the listeners. Speakers this past academic year included an alumnus who was heavily involved in the rebuilding of New Orleans's levees

after Hurricane Katrina's devastation, a geographer who researched the wheat industry and a screening and subsequent panel discussion on climate change and the evidence captured in the movie, "Chasing Ice." The refreshments provided by Gamma Chi enabled the department to have pre-talk receptions that engendered discussions among faculty, students, speakers and the general public. The food and drink also helps to attract students to talks as well. Five members volunteered a total of 6 hours.

Eleven students donated 28 hours to Operation Gratitude, which is an organization that gathers items for the military and makes care packages for them. As part of the project, members decided to make paracord bracelets, which are lengths of parachute cord made into snap-on bracelets that the individual can use in an emergency situation. The cord is 8 feet in length when disassembled and can be used to make a fishing line, tourniquets, tie downs, and a variety of other things.

This project benefited the national community by providing our military with an emergency survival tool that could save their and/or others' lives. This also benefited our local SGE chapter in that we invited students in our department who were not SGE members to participate so that we could show them what SGE is like and how they could be involved. This project benefited the military personnel and served as a fun recruitment tool.

Gamma Chi's campus is situated fairly close to a very nice lake that is a regional playground for fisherpeople, kayakers, picnickers, etc. It, as most public facilities, accumulates a lot of trash with careless usage. The city has limited resources and cannot clean the areas

surrounding the lake continuously. Gamma Chi Chapter organized a lake cleanup, enlisting the help of volunteers from across campus - other dept clubs, honors societies, fraternities, sororities and the general public. They used chapter funds to provide food and drinks afterwards to reward the participants. Approximately 25 people (6 of which were members) joined the cleanup, picking up 35 bags of garbage, a mattress, box spring and two car tires. They stripped out recyclables for reclamation and ended up with 4 bags. As a result of this community project, Gamma Chi was interviewed by local newspapers and ended up being featured on the front covers of both, giving great press to not only the event, but to Sigma Gamma Epsilon as well. Members are pleased to have helped make this a nicer looking and more healthy community recreational area.

Seven **Eta Tau** (University of Dayton) members and 8 volunteers participated in Techfest 2013 at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, OH. Here members had a geology themed exhibit where they educated students about fossils, rocks, and conducted a volcano demonstration.