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43rd BIENNIAL CONVENTION AND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS: MARCH 27 – 29, 2015

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ABSTRACT

Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the national honor society in the Earth Sciences, held its 43rd Biennial Convention on the campus of the University of Kansas March 27-29, 2015 in conjunction with its centennial celebration. Alpha Chapter, Sigma Gamma Epsilon's first chapter, hosted the events. During the convention, Dr. Anthony Walton of the Department of Geology at KU led a half-day field excursion on the *Pennsylvanian Stratigraphy of Douglas County, Kansas: Glacioeustatically Modulated Cyclic Deposition on a Remarkably Smooth Shelf*. This report provides a summary of the deliberations and actions of the participants at the convention and highlights of the field trip and centennial celebration.

KEY WORDS: Sigma Gamma Epsilon

INTRODUCTION

Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the national honor society in the Earth Sciences, held its 43rd Biennial Convention on the campus of the University of Kansas March 27-29, 2015. This was a special convention, in that it was also a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Society. Alpha Chapter and the Department of Geology at KU hosted these events. Most of the participants were shuttled into Lawrence after flying into Kansas City, MO. Closer attendees were able to drive into Lawrence. The meetings took place in the Kansas Room of the KU Memorial Union. The Centennial banquet on Saturday evening was held in the KU Union Ballroom. The Best Western, Lawrence served as lodging for most of the

participants, with some of the national officers and guests staying at the Oread Hotel on the KU campus.

Twenty two chapters were represented at this event. Delegates and alternates are listed in Table 1. National officers in attendance were President Erika Elswick, Secretary-Treasurer James Walters, Past President Rick Ford, Central Province Vice President Aaron Johnson, Northeastern Province Vice President Mark Noll, Southeastern Vice President Michael Gibson, and Editor of the COMPASS Larry Davis. Also in attendance was SGE Administrative Assistant Paula Even.

Table 1. 2015 SGE Biennial Convention delegates and alternates.

Name	Chapter	University	Position
Logan Byers	Alpha	University of Kansas	Delegate
Richard Bell	Alpha	University of Kansas	Alternate
Adam Jackson	Alpha	University of Kansas	Alternate
Tyler Sundell	Eta	Missouri University of S & T	Delegate
Kate Herries	Eta	Missouri University of S & T	Alternate
Katlyn Lonergan	Eta	Missouri University of S & T	Alternate
Amber Huston	Sigma	The Ohio State University	Delegate
Mackenzie Scharenberg	Sigma	The Ohio State University	Alternate
Kameron Ortiz	Alpha Lambda	University of Texas at El Paso	Delegate
Thomas Gaetano	Beta Upsilon	Bowling Green State University	Delegate
Matthew Witte	Beta Upsilon	Bowling Green State University	Alternate
Joseph Reinder	Gamma Sigma	University of Northern Iowa	Delegate
Kent Isaacson	Gamma Sigma	University of Northern Iowa	Alternate
Roxanne Woodside	Gamma Sigma	University of Northern Iowa	Alternate
Ashley Worthy	Gamma Sigma	University of Northern Iowa	Alternate
Ashley Farren	Gamma Upsilon	West Texas A&M University	Delegate
Meagan Brown	Gamma Upsilon	West Texas A&M University	Alternate
Promise Ceasar	Gamma Upsilon	West Texas A&M University	Alternate
Brady Sanders	Gamma Upsilon	West Texas A&M University	Alternate
Daniel Curtis	Gamma Chi	Eastern Illinois University	Delegate
Casimir Wills	Delta Theta	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Delegate
Maxwell Dexler	Delta Theta	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Alternate
Laura Norris	Delta Chi	Eastern Kentucky University	Delegate
Alexander Logsdon	Delta Chi	Eastern Kentucky University	Alternate
Megan Beeler	Delta Psi	Western Illinois University	Delegate
Emily Bunse	Epsilon Theta	NW Missouri State University	Delegate
Alyssa Forsythe	Epsilon Theta	NW Missouri State University	Alternate
M.C. Rose	Epsilon Theta	NW Missouri State University	Alternate
Tyler Urban	Epsilon Theta	NW Missouri State University	Alternate
Grace Chang	Epsilon Rho	Georgia State University	Delegate
Cameron Whitley	Epsilon Phi	East Carolina University	Delegate
Micki Carlton	Eta Alpha	Univ. of Tennessee @ Martin	Delegate
Amy McLemore	Eta Alpha	Univ. of Tennessee @ Martin	Alternate
Hunter Herring	Eta Alpha	Univ. of Tennessee @ Martin	Alternate
Michael Hess	Eta Gamma	Weber State University	Delegate
Michael Gonzales	Eta Gamma	Weber State University	Alternate
Brandy Barnes	Eta Sigma	Middle Tennessee State Univ.	Delegate

Rick Jayne	Eta Phi	Northern Illinois University	Delegate
Jason Coenen	Eta Phi	Northern Illinois University	Alternate
Justin Rosenblume	Eta Phi	Northern Illinois University	Alternate
Gina Pope	Eta Chi	SUNY Brockport	Delegate
Kenneth Roop-Eckart	Theta Delta	Columbus State University	Delegate
Liz Roepke	Theta Eta	University of Puget Sound	Delegate
Savannah Ballangee	Theta Theta	Concord University	Delegate
Addison Hostetler	Theta Theta	Concord University	Alternate

President Dr. Erika Elswick called the opening session to order at 3:15 pm on Friday, March 27. Following her opening remarks and welcome to all in attendance, Dr. Elswick gave her president's report, which (along with the other officers' reports) follows the Convention minutes published in this issue. President Elswick spoke about the growth and continued success of the SGE Poster Session at the Geological Society of American Annual Meeting. She also noted that five new chapters of SGE have been established since the last SGE Convention in 2012, and in addition two new petitions have been approved, with installation of the two new chapters pending. Finally, she spoke about the success of the SGE journal *The Compass* since it became an open-access online journal in 2012. Dr. Larry Davis has done a commendable job as Editor and has produced a very attractive publication with excellent readership numbers. The podium was then turned over to Dr. Michael Gibson, Vice President of the Southeastern Province. Vice President Gibson noted that there are 47 chapters in the Southeastern Province. One new chapter was installed in 2013, and he has received several inquiries from schools considering petitioning for chapters in the future. Dr. Gibson also shared with us the interesting adventure he had in undertaking a

site visit for Concord University in West Virginia. Although Concord University is in the Northeastern Province, Dr. Gibson is located closer to their campus than Northeastern Vice President Mark Noll. So with the thought that his visit would be relatively short, he agreed to conduct the site visit. Unfortunately, a record-breaking winter storm prevented Dr. Gibson from actually setting foot on their campus, and in what is a historic first for SGE, the site visit was instead conducted as an extended Skype session. Next to report was Dr. Larry Davis, Editor of *The Compass*. He stated that the first electronic issue of *The Compass* was v. 84, 2012. Beginning with volume 84 a series titled On the Outcrop was initiated. The purpose of this series is to highlight an outcrop of geological significance with photos and a brief article. According to the statistics provided by the Digital Commons, as of February 28, 2015, *The Compass* has had a total of 14,553 full-text downloads. Dr. Davis ended his report with a couple of concerns: some manuscripts are submitted without following the requirements for submission as outlined on the SGE Website, and there could always be more papers submitted. Dr. Aaron Johnson, Vice President of the Central Province, then summarized activities in the Central Province

since the last Convention in 2012. He stated that there are 32 active chapters in nine states in the Central Province, and there have been no new chapters installed since the last SGE Convention. Dr. Johnson indicated that he had reached out to various faculty in the Province where chapters are inactive in the hopes of garnering interest in reactivating their chapters. Results were mixed and he noted that often a lack of a motivated faculty member to serve as chapter advisor can be a problem. Vice President of the Northeastern Province, Dr. Mark Noll, next gave his report on activities in his Province. Two new chapters have recently been installed in the Northeastern Province and one has been reactivated. In addition, two more petitions have recently been received. Vice President Noll also stated that he had contacted several institutions without chapters and several have indicated they are considering submitting petitions. Finally, President Elswick introduced Dr. James Walters, National Secretary-Treasurer (fig. 1), who gave a summary of the financial status of the Society. Dr. Walters spoke about SGE showing good growth since the last Convention in 2012, both in terms of total number of members and in terms of our financial status. We currently have a total of almost 1,400 active members, and our largest source of income continues to be initiation fees and dues paid by new members. Our second largest source of income is provided by dividends from our stock portfolio, which is now managed by Edward Jones. As has been reported previously, since *The Compass* has become an online publication we no

longer incur the expense of printing and mailing the journal. This has saved us a considerable expense, and it looks very professional, is easily accessible, and receives a much wider readership than when it was a print journal.

Following the officers' reports, each of the Convention delegates presented their chapter report, which summarized their local chapter's activities since the last Convention in 2012 (fig. 2). These chapter reports are published in this issue. Chapter reports concluded at about 5:30 pm, with a few chapters not yet in attendance due to travel delays having to wait until Saturday morning to present their chapter reports. President Elswick then gave delegates and alternates (and attending officers and advisors who served as committee advisors) their committee assignments and instructed them as to what their responsibilities would be (see Table 2 for a list of committee assignments). The delegates and alternates broke into their assigned committees and began to discuss their assignments (fig. 3).



Figure 1. Dr. James Walters, SGE National Secretary-Treasurer, gives a summary of the financial status of the Society to attendees.



Figure 2. Each of the convention delegates presented their chapter reports (to follow in this document), which summarized their local chapter's activities since the last Convention in 2012.



Figure 3. Delegates and alternates gather in their assigned committees and begin their discussions.

Table 2. 2015 SGE Biennial Convention committees.

Name	Chapter	Committee
Tyler Sundell	Eta	Chapter Affairs, Chair
Aaron Johnson	Epsilon Theta	Chapter Affairs
Matthew Witte	Beta Upsilon	Chapter Affairs
Kent Isaacson	Gamma Sigma	Chapter Affairs
M.C. Rose	Epsilon Theta	Chapter Affairs
Michael Gonzales	Eta Gamma	Chapter Affairs
Brandy Barnes	Eta Sigma	Chapter Affairs
Gina Pope	Eta Chi	Chapter Affairs
Liz Roepke	Theta Eta	Chapter Affairs
Steve Bennett	Delta Psi	Chapter Affairs
Michael Hess	Eta Gamma	Constitution & Bylaws, Chair
Rick Ford	Eta Gamma	Constitution & Bylaws
Adam Jackson	Alpha	Constitution & Bylaws
Kate Herries	Eta	Constitution & Bylaws
Kameron Ortiz	Alpha Lambda	Constitution & Bylaws
Meagan Brown	Gamma Upsilon	Constitution & Bylaws
Alyssa Forsythe	Epsilon Theta	Constitution & Bylaws
Hunter Herring	Eta Alpha	Constitution & Bylaws
Daniel Curtis	Gamma Chi	Nominations, Chair
Erika Elswick	Rho	Nominations

Mackenzie Scharenberg	Sigma	Nominations
Savannah Ballangee	Theta Theta	Nominations
Richard Bell	Alpha	Nominations
Don Neal	Epsilon Phi	Nominations
Lonnie E. Treese	Epsilon Theta	Nominations
Grace Chang	Epsilon Rho	Resolutions, Chair
Paula Even	Gamma Sigma	Resolutions
Roxanne Woodside	Gamma Sigma	Resolutions
Alexander Logsdon	Delta Chi	Resolutions
Cameron Whitley	Epsilon Phi	Resolutions
Thomas Gaetano	Beta Upsilon	Ritual & Insignia, Chair
Michael Gibson	Eta Alpha	Ritual & Insignia
Amber Huston	Sigma	Ritual & Insignia
Ashley Worthy	Gamma Sigma	Ritual & Insignia
Promise Ceasar	Gamma Upsilon	Ritual & Insignia
Tyler Urban	Epsilon Theta	Ritual & Insignia
Micki Carlton	Eta Alpha	Ritual & Insignia
Rick Jayne	Eta Phi	Ritual & Insignia
George Tsoflias	Alpha	Ritual & Insignia
F.D. Holland, Jr.	Beta Zeta	Ritual & Insignia
Sara Bennett	Delta Psi	Ritual & Insignia
Megan Beeler	Delta Psi	Scholarship & Membership, Chair
Mark Noll	Eta Chi	Scholarship & Membership
Brita Berry	Gamma Sigma	Scholarship & Membership
Ashley Farren	Gamma Upsilon	Scholarship & Membership
Casimir Wills	Delta Theta	Scholarship & Membership
Laura Norris	Delta Chi	Scholarship & Membership
Amy McLemore	Eta Alpha	Scholarship & Membership
Justin Rosenblume	Eta Phi	Scholarship & Membership
Kenneth Roop-Eckart	Theta Delta	Scholarship & Membership
George McCormick	Sigma	Scholarship & Membership
John Hogan	Eta	Scholarship & Membership
Emily Bunse	Epsilon Theta	THE COMPASS & Finance, Chair
Larry Davis	Natl Officer	THE COMPASS & Finance
James Walters	Gamma Sigma	COMPASS & Finance, Constitution & Bylaws
Logan Byers	Alpha	THE COMPASS & Finance
Katlyn Lonergan	Eta	THE COMPASS & Finance
Joseph Reinder	Gamma Sigma	THE COMPASS & Finance

Maxwell Dexler	Delta Theta	The COMPASS & Finance
Jason Coenen	Eta Phi	THE COMPASS & Finance
Addison Hostetler	Theta Theta	THE COMPASS & Finance
Brady Sanders	Gamma Upsilon	THE COMPASS & Finance

At about 6 pm, an informal reception was held beginning with Dr. George Tsoflias, Alpha Chapter Advisor, welcoming the group on behalf of Alpha Chapter, the KU Department of Geology, and the University of Kansas. Attendees were provided with pizza and a variety of other food and drinks (fig. 4). After the informal reception and pizza party, delegates and alternates reconvened their committees and worked into the evening until about 9 pm, thus concluding the first day of the Convention.



Figure 4. Attendees gather at the pizza buffet.

Saturday morning, March 28, the Convention resumed at 8:30 am, and after opening remarks President Elswick gave the stage to *The Compass* editor, Dr. Larry Davis, who provided a brief internet summary of *The Compass*, how to access it, its format, how to submit a manuscript for publication, and other aspects of the online journal (fig. 5). There was good discussion

among the group and Dr. Davis ended his presentation with words of encouragement to the audience to submit their research results for publication.



Figure 5. Editor Dr. Larry Davis provides a brief summary of *The Compass*.

The meeting then continued with chapter reports, hearing from chapter delegates who had not been in attendance on Friday due to travel delays. President Elswick also read a Province report from Richard Langford, Vice President of the Western Province, who was unable to attend the meeting. Vice President Langford stated that there are 14 active chapters in the Western Province and one new chapter is currently in the process of being established.

Attendees then took a morning break and afterwards the committees again got together and continued their discussions. While the students were deliberating in their committees, the National Council held a

meeting and discussed a variety of issues. Dr. Elswick had received a letter from the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) asking if we would like to have them as a co-sponsor at our SGE Poster session at the annual meeting of GSA. After much discussion, it was decided we would prefer to have complete ownership of our poster session, including the awarding of the two best poster awards. President Elswick agreed to respond to CUR indicating that we are not interested in co-sponsorship at this time. Dr. Walters shared with the National Council a communication he had received from Wikipedia inviting SGE to participate in a new pilot program whereby members of our honor society would volunteer to edit Wikipedia articles in the Earth Sciences. Officers felt we do not need to endorse this at the national level but local chapters could be encouraged to participate. Dr. Elswick stated that her chapter (Rho Chapter at Indiana Univ.) regularly hosts a “clean up night” during which students “clean up” Wikipedia content dealing with their specific geologic interests. It was suggested that we consider including such a “clean up” activity on our Website as a possible chapter activity under the Activities and List of Ideas section. Activities such as this could be appropriate and can even be encouraged at the chapter level, but we do not see the need or desirability to involve the National Office. Another item of discussion included the desirability to scan old SGE membership cards so that we can develop an electronic membership database (we did away with the membership cards in 2010). It was also

suggested that we investigate the possibility of setting up an SGE scholarship foundation account. If we have a significant foundation account, we could begin to consider funding various SGE scholarships such as a field trip scholarship or a research scholarship for example.

CENTENIAL FIELD TRIP

At 11:30 am the National Council and the several committees ended their discussions and we exited the building to board the buses for the afternoon fieldtrip. Dr. Anthony Walton (fig. 6) of the Department of Geology at KU led a half-day field excursion on the *Pennsylvanian Stratigraphy of Douglas County, Kansas: Glacioeustatically Modulated Cyclic Deposition on a Remarkably Smooth Shelf* (see v. 87, no. 1, 2015 of *The Compass* <http://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/compass/vol87/iss1/2/> for a copy of the field trip guide). Over 70 field trippers enjoyed the warm and sunny spring weather and the interesting geology. The field trip stressed the nature and interpretation of Pennsylvanian cyclothems in Kansas. The rock sequence reflects repeated changes of sea level across a gently sloping shelf. The first stop was at Wells Overlook County Park, where we had lunch and observed the landscape of the area (figs. 7, 8, 9). This allowed us to get a feel for the pleasantly rolling topography of the area, which consists essentially of upland cuestas underlain by more resistant limestone and cuesta slopes underlain by shales with some local lenses of sandstone.



Figure 6. Dr. Anthony Walton, Department of Geology at KU, led a half-day field excursion on the *Pennsylvanian Stratigraphy of Douglas County, Kansas: Glacioeustatically Modulated Cyclic Deposition on a Remarkably Smooth Shelf.*



Figure 7. Dr. Walton explains how the overlook sits on a finger of the cuesta defined by the Oread Limestone.



Figure 8. Groups of students take turns climbing to the top of the Wells Park Overlook.



Figure 9. Participants enjoy lunch at Wells Overlook Park.

Stop 2, known locally as Hole in the Rock, featured a small waterfall over a ledge of cross-bedded sandstone of Late Pennsylvanian age (figs. 10, 11). This sandstone is interpreted as a valley-fill deposit, with its lower part dominated by fluvial processes and its upper part showing evidence of tidal influence.



Figure 10. The cross-bedded sandstone near Hole in the Rock.



Figure 11. The second stop, Hole in the Rock, features a small waterfall over a ledge of cross-bedded sandstone

Our third stop was an extensive road cut along US Highway 59, showing excellent exposures of the Pennsylvanian Lawrence Shale and several units of the Oread Limestone (figs. 12, 13, 14). Some of these units, although less than a meter thick, can be traced for hundreds of kilometers on the surface to the north and south and in the subsurface to the west.

Figure 12. Dr. Walton explains the significance of the geology at the road cut.





Figure 13. Field trip participants explore the area.



Figure 14. Dr. Don Neal examines a fossil found by Alexander Logsdon from Delta Chi Chapter.



Figure 15. Participants gather at the last stop of the day as Dr. Walton explains how the rocks of the cyclothem tell a story of a rise and then a fall of sea level.

Our last stop of the afternoon was another road cut, this one exposing limestones and shale beds of the Upper Pennsylvanian

Lansing Group (fig. 15). Here again, the rocks of the cyclothem tell a story of a rise and then a fall of sea level.

BANQUET PROGRAM

Returning to the hotels at about 5 pm, the participants were given some time to refresh themselves and change clothes for the SGE banquet that evening. The banquet was held in the Ballroom of the KU Union and the program featured several past presidents of SGE. National Council officers in attendance were President Dr. Erika Elswick, Secretary-Treasurer Dr. James Walters, Editor Dr. Larry Davis, Past President Dr. Richard Ford, Central Province Vice President Dr. Aaron Johnson, Northeastern expressed a welcome on behalf of Alpha Chapter.



Figure 16. President Dr. Erika Elswick opens the Convention Centennial banquet program with introductory remarks and introductions.

After the introductions and welcome, Past President Dr. Rick Ford gave the keynote address for the evening (fig. 17). Dr. Ford's presentation was titled "The View

Province Vice President Dr. Mark Noll, Southeastern Province Vice President Dr. Michael Gibson, and Secretary to the National Council and Administrative Assistant Paula Even. The program began with introductory remarks by President Elswick (fig. 16). She then introduced Dr. Luis González, KU Department of Geology Chair and Dr. George Tsoflias, Alpha Chapter Advisor. Dr. González welcomed the group on behalf of the University and the KU Department of Geology, and Dr. Tsoflias from 2015: Sigma Gamma Epsilon Celebrates its Centennial."



Figure 17. Past President Dr. Rick Ford gives the keynote address at the centennial banquet.

Following Dr. Ford's presentation, Dr. James Walters recognized the past presidents in attendance. Dr. F.D."Bud" Holland, Jr. (fig. 18), Professor Emeritus in

the School of Geology & Geological Engineering at the University of North Dakota, was SGE President 1970 – 1975, a past VP of the Central Province, and was named an Honorary Member in 1978. It was noted that Dr. Holland’s son Del was in the audience and he indicated that not only are he and Bud both KU grads, but his grandfather (Bud’s father) was also a KU grad and a very early member of SGE.



Figure 18. Dr. F. D. "Bud" Holland, Jr. was SGE President 1970 – 1975, a past VP of the Central Province, and was named an Honorary Member in 1978.

Dr. George R. McCormick (fig. 19) is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences at the University of Iowa. He was SGE President 1978 – 1982 and is also a past VP of the Central Province.



Figure 19. Dr. George R. McCormick was SGE President 1978 – 1982 and is also a past VP of the Central Province.

Dr. Daniel F. Merriam is a Senior Scientist, Emeritus, with the Kansas Geological Survey. He was SGE President 1990- 1995. He served as Editor of *The Compass* for several years and was also named an Honorary Member in 1995. (Dr. Merriam was unable to attend the banquet, but he was able to attend part of the Sunday morning session of the meeting and was recognized at that time.)

Dr. Donald Neal (fig 20.) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at East Carolina University. He was SGE President 2000 – 2005. He is also a past VP of the Southeastern Province and was Editor of *The Compass* for several years.



Figure 20. Dr. Donald Neal was SGE President 2000 – 2005. He is also a past VP of the Southeastern Province and was Editor of *The Compass* for several years.

Dr. Richard L. Ford (fig. 21) is a Professor of Geosciences and Department Chair in the Department of Geosciences at Weber State University. He was SGE President 2005 – 2010, and he is also a past VP of the Western Province.



Figure 21. Dr. Richard L. Ford was SGE President 2005 – 2010, and he is also a past VP of the Western Province.

Dr. James C. Walters is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Earth Science at the University of Northern Iowa (fig. 22). He was SGE President 1995 – 2000. He is also a past VP of the Central Province and was named an Honorary Member in 2007. He is currently National Secretary-Treasurer of SGE.



Figure 22. Dr. James C. Walters was SGE President 1995 – 2000. He is also a past VP of the Central Province and was named an Honorary Member in 2007. Currently, he is serving as National Secretary-Treasurer of SGE.

Dr. Erika Elswick is an Assistant Scientist in Geochemistry in the Department of Geological Sciences at Indiana University (fig. 23). She is the current President of SGE 2010 – 2015, and tomorrow, when we hold election of officers, she will become our newest Past President. Dr. Elswick is also a past VP of the Northeastern Province and she has the distinction of being the first woman National President of SGE.



Figure 23. Dr. James Walters acknowledges Dr. Erika Elswick who has served as President of SGE the previous 5 years (2010 – 2015). Dr. Elswick is also a past VP of the Northeastern Province.

Also recognized was Betty Bellis-Mankin (fig. 24), Secretary to the National Council 1967 – 2009 (42 years!). Charlie Mankin became National Secretary-Treasurer of SGE in 1967 on a “temporary” basis and he hired Betty to serve as Secretary to the National Council. For the next 42 years Charlie and Betty were the face of SGE. For the first 10 years or so Betty ran the National Office out of her home in Norman, Oklahoma. Then the Oklahoma Geological Survey generously provided office space for SGE’s national operations for about 30 years until Charlie retired as State Geologist and he and Betty also stepped down from their positions with SGE. Betty’s daughter Karen was in attendance at the banquet and it was noted that over the years she assisted in helping box and mail issues of *The Compass* when it was still a print journal. In addition, Karen was instrumental in organizing and

boxing up materials when the SGE National Office moved from Oklahoma to Iowa in 2009.



Figure 24. Betty Bellis-Mankin served as Secretary to the National Council for 42 years (1967 – 2009).

Finally the banquet program concluded with recognitions of appreciation to Dr. Luis González (fig. 25) and Dr. George Tsoflias (fig.26) for their support in hosting the SGE Biennial Convention and Centennial event.



Figure 25. President Dr. Elswick thanks Dr. Luis González with a SGE centennial memento for his support.



Figure 26. President Dr. Elswick expresses appreciation to Dr. George Tsoflias for his assistance.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Sunday morning, March 29, at 8:45 the Convention business meeting got underway in the Kansas Room of the KU Union. The first committee to report was the Chapter Affairs Committee, chaired by Tyler Sundell (fig. 27). Suggestions in their report

included changing the time allotted chapters to vote on the acceptance of new chapters or possibly not having chapters vote at all, providing active member privileges to Life Members, and establishing a SGE Foundation.



Figure 27. Chapter Affairs Committee.

Next the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, chaired by Michael Hess (fig.

28), reported on their deliberations, which included directing the National Council to

examine the wording of the non-discrimination phrase in the Constitution to make sure it is inclusive and up to date. They also suggested that subsections in the

Constitution be indented to make the document easier to read, and they provided a list of editorial changes that included things like proper capitalization.



Figure 28. Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Emily Bunse, chair of *The Compass* and Finance Committee (fig. 29), then presented their report. It was determined that the current initiation fee of \$25 and annual dues of \$15 are sufficient and should not be changed. It was also suggested that, as the Chapter Affairs Committee had suggested, we investigate the possibility of establishing a SGE Foundation that would be tax exempt and could in the future be a source of scholarship monies. Discussion then centered on *The Compass* and how there could be more incentives to submit papers,

such as a best undergraduate paper of the year that would include a monetary award. There could also be other types of papers, such as editorials, photo features, thematic issues, etc. They also suggested that all back issues of *The Compass* be scanned and made available online. The Committee also spent some time looking at the SGE Website and suggested that members send e-mails to Paula Even, SGE Administrative Asst. and SGE Webmaster, regarding changes and ideas for things to include on the site.



Figure 29. *The Compass* and Finance Committee.

The Scholarship and Membership Committee (fig. 30) next presented its report. Chair Megan Beeler began with some discussion of improving the officers' resources section of the SGE Website to perhaps include a list of officers' duties, what works and what doesn't work, how to run a successful meeting, etc. They next discussed the need to re-establish the Best Paper Award in *The Compass*. This should be an annual

award and the winner should be determined by the Vice Presidents. Their final item was the possibility of both a Field Camp Scholarship and an Undergraduate Research Award. This relates to the previous idea brought up by the Chapter Affairs Committee and *The Compass* and Finance Committee of setting up a tax exempt SGE Foundation, from which monies could be drawn to support these awards.



Figure 30. Scholarship and Membership Committee.

Thomas Gaetano, chair of the Ritual and Insignia Committee (fig. 31), next gave their report. They spent much of their committee time examining and discussing the traditional SGE induction ceremony and created a new version of the ceremony that would preserve the original themes, update the Old-English vocabulary, and be especially amenable to a banquet style ceremony. The National Council of SGE was given license to edit the script and make changes they deem necessary. The Committee also suggested the SGE National

Office arrange to have vinyl stickers made for SGE members. They could be given gratis to new members and could also be sold for a nominal fee. Finally, the Ritual and Insignia Committee learned that some universities do not permit the wearing of honor cords during commencement. The Committee recommended that the National Council conduct a survey regarding the use of SGE honor cords. After the completion of the survey a formal letter conveying the importance of the SGE cords should be sent to those schools not permitting their use.



Figure 31. Ritual and Insignia Committee.

Dan Curtis, chair of the Nominations Committee (fig. 32), then presented the following slate of officers:

President: Aaron Johnson, current Vice President of the Central Province; Northwest Missouri State University.

Central Province Vice President: Diane Burns, Eastern Illinois Univ., new to the National Council.

Northeastern Province Vice President: Mark Noll, incumbent; SUNY College at Brockport.

Southeastern Province Vice President: Michael Gibson, incumbent; University of Tennessee at Martin.

Western Province Vice President: Richard Langford, incumbent; University of Texas at El Paso.

Editor of *The Compass*: Larry Davis, incumbent; Bryce Canyon National Park.

Each nominee present was given a chance to speak to the Convention, and the floor was then opened for the nomination of any further candidates. Hearing none, a motion was made and approved to accept the above slate of officers as our new national officers.



Figure 32. Nominations Committee.

The final committee to report was the Resolutions Committee (fig. 33). Grace Chang, chair of the Resolutions Committee, informed the audience that they had written thank you notes to several individuals involved in the planning and logistics of the Convention. They especially singled out the KU faculty, KU Department of Geology, the shuttle drivers, all members of the National Council and Chapter Advisors in attendance. They thanked the group as a whole for being so energetic and productive.

Following the committee reports, soon-to-be Past President Erika Elswick asked if there were any proposals from

attending chapters to host the next SGE Convention in the fall of 2017. Discussion ensued about the need to have an active chapter that is close to major transportation and is a good location for a field trip, but no invitations were forthcoming. It will therefore be the responsibility of the National Council to arrange the location of the next SGE Convention.

Dr. Elswick then thanked all in attendance for their participation and passed the SGE gavel on to the new SGE President Dr. Aaron Johnson (fig. 34). The 43rd Biennial Convention of SGE was adjourned at 11:45 am on Sunday, March 29.



Figure 33. Resolutions Committee.



Figure 34. Dr. Elswick passes the SGE gavel on to the new SGE President, Dr. Aaron Johnson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chapter Affairs Committee

The Chapter Affairs Committee, chaired by Tyler Sundell, discussed the current procedure for the voting of new chapters into SGE. They felt the traditional 30-day voting period is outdated and not necessary. For that matter, it was suggested that it is not really necessary for chapters to vote at all. Also, it was pointed out that there are no negative site visit reports. In other words, if it appears that the group initiating the request to establish a Chapter on their campus does not have the ability to maintain a chapter, the visiting officer advises the group of such and the request is withdrawn.

In summary, the Committee proposes that site visits to groups requesting to establish an SGE Chapter on their campus should continue and the visiting officer should prepare a site visit report, but it should suffice to submit this positive report only to the National Council and have them vote. It was decided that the site visit report should be sent electronically to the members of the National Council, and they will have seven days to vote their acceptance. A majority of the members of the National Council must vote positive for the new Chapter to be established. The SGE membership will then be notified of the establishment of the new Chapter. After a lengthy discussion, a vote was taken and this proposal passed.

The Chapter Affairs Committee next discussed the updating of the SGE Website. If possible, we would like to see a profile of members and Chapters on the site. This

would assist in better networking among Chapters. It was pointed out that this depends entirely on members submitting the information they desire to be available. It was also suggested that the website could include an interactive map that would show the location of currently active Chapters and could then provide information on those Chapters. Administrative Assistant, Paula Even, was asked to look into these possibilities.

There was also brief discussion of the idea to give Life Members of SGE the same privileges as Active Members. Currently Life Members do not have voting privileges. But since Alumni, Associate, and Honorary Members also do not have voting privileges, it seemed appropriate to also keep Life Members in that category.

Finally the Committee proposed that the National Council investigate the desirability of setting up an SGE Foundation 501c(3) in order to allow for tax-deductible contributions to the Society. If there was an SGE Foundation we could use the monies to provide for SGE scholarships. This proposal was taken to a vote and it passed.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee, chaired by Michael Hess, presents the following list of suggestions.

Article I Section 3

Replace the word sex with gender; suggest adding orientation; might be reworded to be more inclusive.

Article II Section 3

Remove "...and a majority vote of all voting active chapters....".

Article II Section 3

Change timeline to 7 calendar days for both when communications must be acted upon and when an officer asks for further information.

Article II Section 11d

Suggest that Life Members shall have active membership privileges.

Article III Section 5d

Capitalize L in the word letter

Article IX Section 4

Change Article VI to Article IV.

Throughout the document

Capitalize Earth and/or Earth Science.

Indent subsections.

Capitalize all instances of Active Member, Associate Member, Alumni Member, Honorary Member, and Life Member.

The Compass and Finance Committee

The Compass and Finance committee, chaired by Emily Bunse, had quite a few topics to discuss at the 2015 National Convention in Lawrence, KS. On the finance side, the committee mostly discussed how we needed to be more proactive about getting lifetime members since they have the potential to become a huge source of revenue for the organization. Currently, our major source of revenue comes from the fees paid by new members. We discussed that sometimes these fees can become a hindrance to chapters gaining new members, which is why we would like to gain more lifetime members. One chapter brought up that they offer to cover a new member's fees

if they submit an essay outlining what they expect to get out of membership in SGE and any ideas they have for the chapter. In order to promote the lifetime membership, we briefly considered decreasing the fee. We were told this was also brought up at the previous convention in 2012 and agreed with the previous committee's reasoning for keeping the fee at \$175, the major reason being that recent lifetime members may feel cheated if we lower the fee.

Another topic discussed on the financial side was the creation of a couple of scholarships for SGE members. We proposed to the convention the idea of a field camp scholarship for undergraduates which would award \$500 to one member of each section. Also discussed within our group was awarding research grants, especially for undergraduate research. These ideas are most likely dependent upon our society becoming a 501(c)(3) organization, which other committees brought to the convention's attention, since the funds for these awards will likely come from donations made to an endowment fund. The inception of these awards was not voted upon by the convention, but we hope that with a little bit of financial work, they can be created at the next convention.

On *The Compass* side of the discussion, the committee mostly discussed how to raise awareness within the society of the publication and all it can do for students. We recommended that it be promoted at the chapter level through email reminders sent either to the chapter's faculty advisor or the chapter president. The idea is that from there

the email can be forwarded to the membership. These emails would be sent out quarterly when there is a new issue uploaded to the Digital Commons. When this was recommended, the convention voted to make it mandatory for each chapter to create their own email address exclusively used by their chapter and make that known to the National Council. The email addresses can either be created through university email or a public service. After receiving this email list, the *Compass* editor would be responsible for sending these emails. The committee also recommended that submission requests could be made through these emails and proposed a new photo feature since the publication can now have unlimited pages and contain full color photos. We suggested creating several awards to boost submissions such as ‘best field photo’ and ‘best undergraduate paper of the year.’ Through our suggestions, the committee hoped to make the *The Compass* more well known to members as a resource where they can have their work peer reviewed and published.

Scholarship and Membership Committee

The Membership and Scholarship Committee, chaired by Megan Beeler, presents the following suggested resolutions.

1. Affiliated members

Whereas recruiting new, interested members to Sigma Gamma Epsilon is a goal, and
Whereas many students show potential to be future leaders, but do not yet meet requirements for initiation, and

Whereas interest in and dedication to Sigma Gamma Epsilon can be built over an entire college experience, therefore

Be it resolved that an affiliated membership category be created to be managed by the local chapter.

2. Best Undergraduate Authored Paper

Whereas it is beneficial to have an increase in undergraduate student research publications in the *Compass*, and

Whereas Sigma Gamma Epsilon members have a need to foster their own professional development, such as scientific writing skills, therefore

Be it resolved to create an annual Best Paper Award with a monetary award of \$100 to be given to an undergraduate authored paper published in *The Compass*.

3. Professional Development for Chapter Officers

Whereas chapter officers and future Sigma Gamma Epsilon learners can benefit from professional development opportunities, and
Whereas preparation of chapter officers will make for seamless transitions, therefore

Be it resolved that Sigma Gamma Epsilon will seek to improve and expand its Chapter Resources section of the SGE website to include a variety of professional and leadership development materials.

4. Facebook Page Expansion

Whereas delegates expressed a desire to increase communication between chapters nationally to facilitate comradery, and
Whereas increased communication would allow chapters to share information about events and best practices, therefore

Be it resolved that a mechanism for these communications be established via the existing SGE Facebook page.

5. Establish a LinkedIn Members Only Site

Whereas it is recognized that professional networking among peers is essential, and
Whereas it is important for members of chapters to more readily share experiences, therefore

Be it resolved that Sigma Gamma Epsilon create a LinkedIn group for all current members and alumni to serve these purposes.

6. Develop an Endowed Field Camp Scholarship

Whereas the benefits of field camp participation are understood, and

Whereas it is recognized that the cost of attending field camp has risen and may present some financial burden, and

Whereas undergraduate members of Sigma Gamma Epsilon represent some of the best geoscience students, and

Whereas SGE members are the future of the profession, therefore

Be it resolved that the National Council pursue the development of a Field Camp Scholarship award(s) of a monetary value to be determined.

7. Undergraduate Research Award

Whereas the benefits of undergraduate research participation are understood, and

Whereas it is recognized that there may be financial ramifications of participation, and

Whereas undergraduate members of Sigma Gamma Epsilon represent some of the best geoscience students, and

Whereas SGE members are the future of the profession, therefore

Be it resolved that the National Council pursue the development of an Undergraduate Research award(s) of a monetary value to be determined.

Ritual and Insignia Committee

I, Thomas Gaetano, served as the chair to the Rituals and Insignia committee. The committee members consisted of Michael Gibson, of the Eta Alpha chapter, Amber Huston, of the Sigma chapter, Ashley Worthy, of the Gamma Sigma chapter, Promise Caesar, of the Gamma Upsilon chapter, Tyler Urban, of the Epsilon Theta chapter, Micki Carlton, of the Eta Alpha chapter, Rick Jayne, of the Beta Phi chapter, George Tsoflias, of the Alpha chapter, and Sara Bennett, of the Delta Psi chapter. Our initial discussion on day one highlighted the use of the traditional Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE) induction ceremony. Although popular, some chapters do not appreciate the theatrical aspect of the traditional version and therefore do not use it. Some members even noted their university's objections to blindfolding students on the grounds of hazing. Our committee saw an opportunity for expansion, and our main goal was to create a new version of the induction ceremony that can be administered like a banquet.

To preserve the original themes several compromises were established. First, we agreed to simply remove the Old-English vocabulary. Second, we agreed to encourage the use of the traditional ceremony within the

heading of our new version. Third, we analyzed the statements by Agricola, Lyell, Anning, and Werner so that the banquet version conveyed the same message.

Each of the committee members interpreted the statements of a historical figure featured in the shorter version of the induction ceremony. Agricola was interpreted by Amber Huston and Rick Jayne. Lyell was interpreted by Micki Carlton and was assisted by Mackenzie Scharenberg from Nominations committee. Anning was interpreted by Sara Bennett, and Werner was interpreted by Tyler Urban. We modified the lines so that they may be presented by the vice president or an SGE member rather than by someone portraying the figures. This involved changing pronouns and the Old-English language. After a final proof-read by Micki Carlton and myself, we created a new version that is an approximately a ½-1 hour long ceremony.

Other goals of the committee included creating a series of complementary vinyl stickers for SGE members. From stickerrobot.com, these stickers would cost \$0.27 per sticker if we ordered more than one thousand. These are inexpensive and could be sold for \$0.50 per sticker. Also, since some schools do not allow cords from outside honor's societies to be worn at graduation, we proposed a survey among different chapters about university policies and honor's society graduation cords. After the surveys are completed a formal letter will be sent to dissenting schools imparting the importance of the SGE cords.

Our committee's proposals were adopted at the convention without much debate. The national committee was given license to edit the script at their discretion, because it may be included in future SGE publications. The stickers and the surveys also were left to the national committee to produce. Overall, the Rituals and Insignia committee had a very productive and enjoyable weekend, and the members were pleased to contribute to SGE on a national scale.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee, chaired by Dan Curtis, comprised of the following members: Dan Curtis-Gamma Chi (Chair), Erika Elswick-Rho, Mackenzie Scharenberg-Sigma, Savannah Ballangee-Theta Theta, Richard Bell-Alpha, Don Neal-Epsilon Phi, Lonnie E. Treese-Epsilon Theta. The goal of the nominations committee is to decide the nominations for national officers, to be voted on by the assembled delegates.

On Friday, March 27th, the committee had its first meeting where we were introduced to our duties and the candidates. We began by establishing the goals of the committee; to determine the nominees, and present all of our findings to the assembled delegates on Sunday. To start, we had this list of individuals seeking nomination:

For president, Dr. Aaron W. Johnson (currently Central Vice President)

For North-Eastern Vice President, Dr. Mark R. Noll (Incumbent)

For South-Eastern Vice President, Dr. Michael A. Gibson (Incumbent)

For Western Vice President, Dr. Richard Langford (Incumbent)

For Central Vice President, Dr. Diane M. Burns (Advisor, Gamma Chi)

For Compass Editor, Larry Davis (Incumbent)

One initial issue was that we were awaiting confirmation from Dr. Langford that he wished to seek nomination again; because of this we set out to contact members present from the Western region who may have known any other interested candidates. As of the end of Friday's discussions we had not found any. Meanwhile, other group members set about meeting with the nominees present to get to know them better.

On Saturday morning, March 28th, we continued to seek candidates for the western V.P. We received suggestions from *The Compass* editor Larry Davis but the individuals did not respond to our emails. We did however receive confirmation from incumbent western V.P. Dr. Langford that he would agree to continue in his role, giving us at least one candidate. Having candidates for all nominees and no further suggestions of any alternates, we continued meeting with the candidates present. This concluded the day's deliberations.

On Sunday morning, March 29th, not having received any further candidates, we presented the following slate of officers to the delegates as our nominations:

National President, Dr. Aaron W. Johnson (currently Central Vice President)

North-Eastern Vice President, Dr. Mark R. Noll (Incumbent)

South-Eastern Vice President, Dr. Michael A. Gibson (Incumbent)

Western Vice President, Dr. Richard Langford (Incumbent)

Central Vice President, Dr. Diane M. Burns (Advisor, Gamma Chi)

Compass Editor, Larry Davis (Incumbent)

Each nominee present was given a chance to speak to the convention, and then we opened the floor to any further candidates. With none given, the national officers left the room for the delegation to begin discussion. There were no objections to any of the nominees, and still no further candidates, and with no competition for any of the positions the presented slate of officers was accepted as the new national officers. This concluded our committee's activities.

Resolutions Committee

The Resolution Committee, chaired by Grace Chang, wrote out thank you notes to University of Kansas faculty members and students assisting with the convention and driving shuttles. They also wrote thank you notes to some members of the national office.

Upon request of Dr. Erika Elswick, SGE President, they polled the delegates where they would like to see the next convention and the format of the convention they would prefer. Students said they preferred a weekend long format, possibly close to the time of GSA. Main points of focus for securing a location included having an active chapter to host, being close to major transportation and having a field trip location nearby that will attract participation. Students also discussed ways to increase

participation for the fall 2017 convention. Suggestions to increase participation included more effective communication, focusing on field trip in publicity and having a keynote speaker.

NATIONAL OFFICER REPORTS

Report of the National President

Since the last convention in Charlotte there have been several National Council activities of interest to report to the Society.

The annual *Sigma Gamma Epsilon - Undergraduate Research* poster session has continued to be a popular forum for undergraduates to share their quality research activities during the national meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA). At the Charlotte meeting in 2012 a record 97 posters were presented with 92 and 52 the following two years. The current and past national officers of the society conducted judging of the Austin A. Sartin and National Council Best Poster awards at each meeting. We are always impressed with the high quality of the research. We look forward to the continued success of this poster session at GSA that provides a friendly atmosphere for students to present their research and network with their peers.

With the publication of Volume 85 (2) of *The Compass* in fall 2013, the last of the print copies of the journal were mailed. *The Compass* has gone to a digital format, which is a big change since Volume 1 was published in 1920. Beginning with Volume 84, *The Compass* began featuring a new series titled *On the Outcrop* highlighting

important localities of geologic interest. We look forward to your continued submissions to keep abreast of your research progress.

At the request of the convention delegates in 2012, the Society website was updated and a SGE Facebook page was established for the chapters to network.

Five new chapters have been installed since the last convention: *Theta Beta* of SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz, NY; *Theta Gamma* of Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX; *Theta Delta* of Columbus State University in Columbus, GA; *Theta Epsilon* at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA; and *Theta Zeta* at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT. Several previously inactive chapters re-activated, including: *Alpha Kappa* at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD; *Sigma* at The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH; *Xi* at Washington State University, Pullman, WA; and *Delta Chi* at Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY.

Petitions have been approved by the membership and initiations are pending this spring for *Theta Eta* at the Department of Geology, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA and *Theta Theta* at the Department of Physical Sciences at Concord University, Athens, WV.

As I step down as National President, I wish all of SGE members, current and future, enjoyable and productive careers in the Geosciences.

Erika Elswick
National President

Report of the National Secretary-Treasurer

Since our last convention in 2012 Sigma Gamma Epsilon has shown good growth, both in terms of total number of members and in terms of our financial status. We currently have a total of almost 1,400 active members, and our largest source of income continues to be initiation fees and dues paid by new members. Our second largest source of income is provided by dividends from our stock portfolio. As I reported at the last convention, we have now moved all of our investments into a portfolio managed by Edward Jones. This has proven to be a wise strategy, as we receive monthly statements of our holdings and meet regularly with our agent to discuss our portfolio and review any appropriate transactions. As I have reported previously, since the SGE journal *The Compass* has become an open-access online publication, we no longer incur the expense of printing and mailing the journal. This has saved us a considerable expense and, of course, it looks very professional, is easily accessible, and receives a much wider readership than when it was a print journal. Major expenses continue to be the annual W.A. Tarr Awards, Quality Chapter Awards, and Chapter Service Awards, the SGE best poster awards at the GSA annual meetings, funding the biennial conventions, expenses associated with the SGE booth at GSA annual meetings, expenses associated with site visits to schools petitioning for the establishment of SGE chapters, and our Administrative Assistant's part-time salary.

The following is a summary of our expenses and income and information on number of awards presented since the 42nd Biennial Convention in 2012.

2012-2013 Income and Expenses

770 Initiates	\$28,549
559 Returning members	\$8,385
2 New Life members	\$350
73 SGE pins	\$219
355 SGE honor cords	\$4,260
Stock portfolio dividends	\$19,617
Total Income	\$61,380
2012-2013 Expenses	\$49,477
Net Income	\$11,903

2012-2013 Awards presented

33 W.A. Tarr Awards
7 Quality Chapter Awards
2 Chapter Service Awards

2013-2014 Income and Expenses

735 Initiates	\$26,645
641 Returning members	\$9,622
2 New Life members	\$350
25 SGE pins	\$75
391 SGE honor cords	\$4,692
Stock portfolio dividends	\$21,130
Total Income	\$62,514
2013-2014 Expenses	\$50,186
Net Income	\$12,328

2013-2014 Awards presented

31 W.A. Tarr Awards
6 Quality Chapter Awards
4 Chapter Service Awards

Dr. James Walters
National Secretary-Treasurer

Report of the National Editor

The first electronic issue of *The Compass* was v. 84, 2012. There were four issues of v. 84 for a total of 252 pages. Beginning with Volume 84, *The Compass* began featuring a series titled On the Outcrop. The purpose 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. Response to this series has been surprisingly light, and yet, the papers have had a significant number of full-text downloads. To date, only four papers have been submitted for the On the Outcrop series:

1. *Algal Stromatolites in the Willow River Member of the Lower Ordovician Shakopee Formation near Chatfield, Minnesota, USA.*
2. *Dinosaur Tracks and Trackways in the Escalante Member of the Entrada Formation (Middle Jurassic), Twentymile Wash, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah.*
3. *Polyphase Laramide Structures and Possible Folded Tertiary(?) Sills at Dagger Mountain, Big Bend National Park, Texas.*
4. *The Coffee Sands: A Cretaceous Beach Deposit in the Mississippi Embayment of Western Tennessee.*

Volume 85, 2013, had 4 issues for a total of 159 pages. One major change in v. 85 was making the pages consecutive for the 4 issues. This was a recommendation made by delegates to the 42nd Biennial Convention. Volume 86, 2014, had 4 issues for a total of 141 pages. Volumes 84 (2012), 85 (2013), and 86 (2015) contain a total of 60 papers.

According to the statistics provided by the Digital Commons, as of 28 February 2015, *The Compass* has had a total of 14,553 full-text downloads. The ten most downloaded papers are:

1. *Is Geology a Real Science?*, v. 84(3), 2012. 1736 downloads
2. *Mary Anning: Princess of Palaeontology and Geological Lioness*, v. 84(1), 2012. 1320 downloads
3. *Tools of the Geology Trade and Their Origin*, v. 84(1), 2012. 1042 downloads
4. *Polyphase Laramide Structures and Possible Folded Tertiary(?) Sills at Dagger Mtn, Big Bend N.P., Texas*, v. 85(3), 2013. 814 downloads
5. *Dinosaur Tracks and Trackways in the Escalante Mbr of the Entrada Fm (M. Jurassic), Twentymile Wash, Grand Staircase-Escalante N.M., UT*, v. 84(3), 2012. 784 downloads
6. *Mineralogical Composition of Diabase and Altered Dolostone from the St. Francois Mtn near Annapolis, MO, USA*, v. 84(1), 2012. 736 downloads

7. *U.S. Presidents and their Geological Thinking*, v. 84(2), 2012. 546 downloads
8. *Sigma Gamma Epsilon Undergraduate Research Poster Session*, v. 84(3), 2012. 533 downloads
9. *An Assessment of the Relationship between Air Mass Frequency and Extreme Drought in the Midwest United States*, v. 84(2), 2012. 471 downloads
10. *42nd Biennial Convention of the Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon*, v. 85(2), 2013. 465 downloads

The Digital Commons has recently added an interesting feature that is displayed with the most current issue of *The Compass*. It is a counter showing the number of downloads for the week, the city where a download occurred, and the title of the downloaded paper. In addition, a world map indicates the downloaded city with a dot. At the time of this report, 3 pm, 28 February 2015, there had been 14,553 full-text downloads. The most interesting thing about the downloads, at least for me, there were downloads in the following countries: South Africa, Argentina, Ivory Coast, Brazil, Canada, Iceland, Spain, Turkey, Iran, China, England, Poland, Australia, India, The Congo, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Russia, Scotland, Germany and France. That's 21 different countries!

1. As with the paper version of *The Compass*, there could always be more papers submitted.

2. Some papers are submitted without following the 'requirements' for submission as outlined on the SGE web site.

Larry Davis
National Editor

Report of the Southeastern Province Vice President

There are eleven states in the southeastern province of Sigma Gamma Epsilon with a total of 47 chapters. The section remains strong although there has been little chapter growth over the past couple of years. Southeastern chapters were well represented at the annual Geological Society of America meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia in November of 2014 with a total of 14 student-authored research posters. Indications are that the southeastern province will also be well represented at the upcoming SGE Centennial Celebration and 43rd biennial convention hosted by the Alpha Chapter in Lawrence, Kansas.

While there were no chapter installations in the southeast province this past year, the Theta Delta Chapter at Columbus State University being the southeast SGE's most recent installation in 2013, I did receive several inquiries from schools that are considering petitioning for chapters in the future. I also received several inquiries from chapters about revitalization activities. In an unusual turn of events that may be a historic first in SGE chapter establishment, I helped out the northeastern section by scheduling a site visit for Concord University in West Virginia as that campus is

a shorter and supposedly quicker trip for me to make than for northeast vice president Dr. Mark Knoll. However, record-breaking winter storm Octavia created much havoc with the trip, ultimately leaving me stranded in a hotel in Roanoke, VA for two days. I never actually was able to set foot onto the campus at Concord. Instead we arranged a “remotely sensed” site visit by conducting an extended Skype session which included interviews with faculty and students and a “walking tour” of their facilities. I would like to thank the faculty and students of Concord University for their flexibility and hard work to arrange for my “visit”.

The southeastern province chapters of SGE join with all other chapters of SGE in congratulating Sigma Gamma Epsilon on the occasion of our 100 year anniversary! We thank the members of the national council, the Kansas University Alpha chapter of SGE, and the Kansas University Geology program for their hard work and diligence in organizing the celebration.

*Michael A. Gibson
Southeastern Province Vice President*

Report of the Central Province Vice President

The central region includes 32 active chapters in nine states. Chapters in the section remain active in what traditionally has been called the Upper Midwest. The region has been well represented at the National Meeting of the Geological Society of America, with a total of 17 posters submitted for competition in the Sigma Gamma Epsilon undergraduate research

poster session in 2013 (Denver) and 2014 (Vancouver). The total number of active chapters in the region remains static. No new chapters have been initiated, no inactive chapters have been reactivated, and no active chapters have become inactive.

I reached out to faculty at universities where chapters are inactive in hopes of garnering interest in reactivating their existing chapter. Results were mixed. Some faculty colleagues presented the idea to students at their university, but were unable to garner support. Others were unwilling to bring the idea to students at their institution. During our conversations, I was able to identify three common themes that influenced faculty and student attitudes with respect to their chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon. The first and most common statement was, “What does Sigma Gamma Epsilon offer to students that they can’t get anywhere else?” The second general theme was that geology departments tend to be small with fewer than 50 geology majors in most departments. In these departments, multiple student organizations are hard to sustain. Third, faculty especially pointed to the lack of a motivated faculty sponsor who truly had a passion for Sigma Gamma Epsilon. These three things combine to make it difficult to reactivate an existing chapter. I urge members, advisors, and officers to use the 2015 Centennial Convention as an opportunity to address these observations.

*Aaron W. Johnson
Central Province Vice President*

Report of Northeastern Province Vice President

Organizations are built on the people in them. Sigma Gamma Epsilon is no different. During the last two years, one objective of the Northeastern Province has been to build membership by adding chapters. To date, much of this has been by students learning about SGE on their own and submitting petitions, but one is the result of outreach efforts in conjunction with the 100th anniversary.

Two new chapters have been installed at Central Connecticut State University and the University of Massachusetts Boston. Additionally, the chapter at Johns Hopkins University was reestablished. Two more petitions have recently been submitted. The petition from Concord University has been reviewed and sent to chapters for their consideration, and a petition from SUNY College at Oswego is under review.

Outreach to institutions without chapters in conjunction with the 100th anniversary is underway. Several institutions

have indicated that they are considering submitting petitions, hopefully within the next year. I hope these efforts will continue to add several chapters a year to further build the membership and network of SGE.

Mark Noll

Northeastern Province Vice President

Report of Western Province Vice President

Since the last meeting in 2012, the Western region has had one petition to establish a chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon at the University of Puget Sound in Washington. The election of the chapter is proceeding at this time and a student from Puget Sound is attending the convention in Lawrence Kansas. If admitted, Puget Sound will become the third chapter in the State of Washington and will join the 14 chapters of the Western Region.

Dr. Richard Langford

Western Province Vice President

CHAPTER REPORTS

Alpha - The University of Kansas

Logan Byers, Alpha President, presents his chapter's report (fig. 35). The Alpha Chapter at The University of Kansas has been successful in our mission statement of the scholastic, scientific, and professional advancement of its members. Our officers and members have continued to demonstrate their commitment to these goals and remain

enthusiastic to share those inherent values with a broad set of parties. Our position among the many student organizations hosted within the Department of Geology remains strong, and we continue to collaborate with these partner organizations to benefit learners within and outside the University. In 2012, we saw a split of the social-wing of our chapter into an unaffiliated Geology Club. This club is exclusively officiated by undergraduates,

which provides an important opportunity to run an organization at an early stage in their academic career. Having such a club also results in more involvement from the Department's students by reducing some of the barriers to entry into organizations such as this Society.

The Alpha Chapter has invested most of its collective energy towards academic outreach within the local communities. It is with these interactions that we seek to educate the public and future scientists. The common focuses of these presentations are (1) the processes and products of the Earth, (2) the interdisciplinary and applied nature of the Earth Sciences, and (3) the importance of geology to the commonplace activities of our everyday lives. We have continued to make a show at yearly 'science nights' for a local public school district and have additionally made new connections with other primary schools through our involvement in their events. We have established a healthy collaboration with the University's Museum of Natural History and have participated in their 'Science Saturday' series aimed at families and children. At a request, we arranged to help a local Boy Scouts of America troop earn their Geology Belt Loop and Geology Pin. In a new event this year, we collaborated with another student organization to lead a two-day short course for academically-gifted middle school and high school students over a weekend. We have also jointly held a workshop on the LaTeX typesetting program. This workshop was attended by both students and faculty in the Department.

Our members, both past and present, continue to excel in scientific research. Evidence for this comes from the numerous awards earned by our students at professional conferences such as the national meetings of the Geological Society of America, American Geophysical Union, and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Research grants from these organizations have also gone to our members, demonstrating the admirable potential of our members for advancing the scientific understanding of the Earth. This potential has been further realized by the publication of new scientific hypotheses and results in academic journals across the disciplines of the Earth Sciences.

With the centennial anniversary of this Society upon us, we look forward to the wonderful accomplishments that will surely arise from our chapter over the next hundred years or more.

*Logan Byers
President*



Figure 35. Logan Byers, Alpha President, presents his Chapter's Report.

Eta - Missouri University of Science & Technology

Tyler Sundell, president, presents Eta's chapter report (fig. 36). Eta Chapter at the Missouri University of Science and Technology has been sitting at around 15 members over the past year. The leaders of the chapter are proactively working to try and increase our membership size and fundraisers.



Figure 36. Tyler Sundell, Eta chapter president.

Eta Chapter prides ourselves in our involvement at Missouri Science and Technology's Expand Your Horizons and Rolla Merit Badge University. The purpose of these events is to bring in Middle Schools and present to them the different majors on our campus. Eta Chapter teaches the middle school girls that participate in *Expand Your Horizons* about our trash, volcano and sand box tectonics models. The Boy Scouts of the Merit Badge University get to tour our experimental mine, rock museum, and sit in on presentations that cover all the basic of the geosciences and geological petroleum

engineering majors. Our chapter and the members of AAPG are working to begin a new program with a local elementary school's outdoor classroom where both clubs would come and do a science week for the students.

Sigma - The Ohio State University

Sigma's chapter report was presented by Amber Huston, chapter secretary (fig. 37). The Ohio State University Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon holds inductions every semester, and this year alone inducted 17 new students into its membership to join the many returning members. Our chapter focuses on outreach, fundraising, and being active within our department.



Figure 37. Amber Huston reports on Sigma Chapter's activities since the last convention.

One of our main goals each year is to raise funds for scholarships for our school's field camp. Each summer a group of students makes the journey to Ephraim, Utah, for a six week field course. Though an essential part of geological education, it turns out to be rather costly and can be a financial burden for some students. We work to offset some of that cost by providing scholarships

to two or three students, amounting to a few hundred dollars each.

We have two main ways we raise funds. One is volunteering to clean up the Schottenstein Center, an arena on campus, after public events. This is a good way to raise a large amount of funds quickly. We also host a weekly coffee hour in our school's main building, where we sell coffee, bagels, and donuts. Not only does it provide a consistent way to earn money, but it also brings together faculty members, students, and other employees who may not normally interact.

To further encourage community in our department, we collaborate with our school's chapters of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the American Institute of Professional Geologists on events such as faculty members presenting on how to apply for graduate school and guest speakers from industry.

We also encourage our members to participate in outreach activities. Our main endeavor in this area is coaching a Science Olympiad team from a local middle school. We help out with rocks and minerals, fossils, and other Earth science topics. We enjoy preparing them for their competitions, but also introducing them to what our school has to offer, such as the Orton Geological Museum.

The Sigma Chapter at Ohio State University is proud to represent the Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon and promote the values of excellence.

*Amber Huston
Secretary*

Alpha Lambda - University of Texas at El Paso

Alpha Lambda's chapter report was presented by Kameron Ortiz, chapter treasurer (fig. 38). The Alpha Lambda Chapter was reactivated in 2012. Since then, we have become one of the most active clubs in our department. This year we had six new members and thirteen returning members. Alpha Lambda started off the spring semester of 2015 by organizing a club mixer/recruiting event. During this club mixer event, each of the different student chapters in the UTEP geology department (including Society of Exploration Geophysicists, and American Association of Petroleum Geologists) gave short presentations introducing their clubs and activities.



Figure 38. Kameron Ortiz, Alpha Lambda Treasurer, shares what his chapter has been doing.

Alpha Lambda's main focus is on community service and outreach. Every fall we help with an annual community outreach event, Earth Science Day. During this event we open the UTEP geology department to the public. Professors and students present talks and kid-friendly experiments. We have

had multiple volunteer opportunities with children. These include helping Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts earn geology badges, loops and patches. On two occasions, we have taught Girl Scouts about dinosaur tracks at an El Paso geologic landmark called Mount Cristo Rey. Members have donated time to judge multiple El Paso area science fairs. Alpha Lambda partnered with UTEP's AAPG student chapter for a campus wide community clean up called Project MOVE. Last year we helped maintain and build trails at Mount Cristo Rey. In the fall of 2014, Alpha Lambda also did an informative table at the El Paso Gem and Mineral Show.

For the past three years, our chapter's biggest fundraiser was a silent rock auction that took place during the geology department's Earth Science Day celebration. We have had several other small fundraisers where we sold T-Shirts and Regional Geology Brochures. From the money we saved, Alpha Lambda spent the 2014 Easter weekend in Big Bend National Park.

*Kameron Ortiz
Treasurer*

Beta Upsilon - Bowling Green State University

Beta Upsilon's chapter report was presented by Thomas Gaetano, chapter corresponding secretary (fig. 39). Our chapter, originally founded in 1959, was recently reactivated after a brief hiatus of two years. Many students graduated after the spring term of the 2011-2012 academic year, leaving only one member. During the

following year, the organization essentially went inactive. However, our organization continued to recruit in order to meet Bowling Green State University's enrollment requirement for student organizations. The recent expansion of our membership (five new members in the fall of 2013 and eight in the spring of 2014) gave us the chance to reboot, revive the constitution and elect new leadership. The students began to make plans for activities and fundraisers immediately.



Figure 39. Thomas Gaetano presents a PowerPoint highlighting the activities of Beta Upsilon.

There were many plans for the most recent inception of the Beta Upsilon Chapter and the first was a fundraiser during the holiday season. We hosted a two-day rummage sale and offered present wrapping services for those shopping at our university bookstore during the fall 2014 semester. This event was a success, and it encouraged our ambitions for the following term.

Our first project has been to develop plans to host guest speakers to discuss careers in geology, environmental science or research. We decided that this was appropriate for our chapter because it would help us reach out to students in our department. Some students, while happy in the geology department, might still be unsure of how to apply their skills in the workforce. An interesting speaker can be a source of inspiration for our undergraduate students, and we are proud to facilitate it.

Our chapter also assists in science related events on campus. At BGSU's *STEM in the Park* event, we promoted science and education for children of all ages staffing a "Fun with Fossils" table, showing kids interesting fossils and helping them look for fossils in slabs of local Devonian limestone. Another event called Kid's Tech University was held in February 2015 and enlisted the help of several student organizations including the Beta Upsilon Chapter. It was targeted to children from nine to twelve years old and we used a variety of age-appropriate activities to generate enthusiasm for the sciences. Heavy emphasis was placed on the geosciences, but the activities also included environmental science and marine biology. Science requires support from the public and our chapter actively participates in promotional events on campus.

Matt Witte was elected as chapter president in the fall of 2014. He was assisted by Jocelyn Hicks, serving as VP, Maureen Haley, Secretary-Treasurer, and Thomas Gaetano, Corresponding Secretary. The current leadership is very grateful for the

opportunity to lead a new beginning for the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon. It is our hope to continue planning events that will help the students in our department, like a field skills program for those attending field camp or inviting career geologists to present. Our new membership is dedicated to supporting student success, promoting youth science education, and growth for our department.

Thomas Gaetano
Corresponding Secretary

Gamma Sigma - University of Northern Iowa

Brita Berry, chapter president, presented Gamma Sigma's chapter report (fig. 40). In the last few years the Gamma Sigma Chapter has had a lot of wonderful members come and go! We have also done a lot of different activities as well. Our chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon is focused on trying to spread our love and knowledge of Earth Science to the immediate and local communities surrounding us.

At the beginning of every year we have a departmental welcome back open house. This is a very popular event in the department. Another thing that we do every year is helping out with Sunday and the Quarry. We help visitors identify rocks and answer any other questions they might have. A new event that we participated in this year was a collaboration with a few other groups on campus. It was a Halloween themed open house filled with knowledgeable and fun activities to help young children get interested in the many areas science. We

also participate in many Earth Week activities on campus and we hold our own activities as well. We have also been participating in Honors Week. We've been holding a Rock Museum as a way to make this an interesting, yet fun week. We have in the last few years participated in a Snapshot event. This event was testing water quality along Dry Run Creek. This was done with the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Last year we became Blue Zone Certified, this shows that our organization is committed to well-being. This year we have also been holding "Bad Science Movie Nights". This has been getting a lot of people involved, both in the department and outside of the department. We watch popular science movies and debunk the science within them.

The chapter is very active with both members and non-members. We have also been doing quite a bit of fundraising the last few years. The two things we have been selling are rock and mineral study kits and shirts. We also sell snacks and pop in our student room as well. Our chapter has held a lot of social events over the last few years. These include Geo-Thursdays, dinner nights, movie nights, bowling, holiday parties, and discussing documentaries. We also plan to have some day trips coming up in the near future.

We have been having a lot of fun over the last few years. SGE has helped many of our graduates gain so many helpful experiences and connections. One of our advisors, Dr. James Walters, retired this last

year. He is a wonderful person and inspired so many of us to join the program, and we already miss him! Dr. Alexa Sedlacek stepped in, and has a lot of spunk and great ideas to bring to our chapter. We are all very thankful for our advisors who help us through a lot of our questions. We are also thankful to anyone who has helped or supported us over the last few years as well!

*Brita Berry
President*



Figure 40. Joseph Reinder from Gamma Sigma discusses what his chapter has been involved with since 2012.

Gamma Upsilon - West Texas A & M University

Ashley Farren, chapter president, presented Gamma Upsilon's chapter report (fig. 41). Through the hard work and dedication of a handful of students at West Texas A&M University, we have brought our chapter back from the dead. Since reactivating our campus-based operations, we

have seen growth and an eagerness for more. Do more, be more, achieve more. These have been the words of litany for our students, and this past year has shown the fruits of that labor. We now have 17 active chapter members on campus, both graduate students and undergraduate students. We have established a mentorship program that encourages undergraduate research, and we have begun to rebuild our regalia and ceremony for inducting new officers and members. We now utilize the new membership status of ‘recruit member’ and have seen tremendous potential in our freshmen and sophomore recruits. This coming year we will have elections for new officers. This will be the first election since our comeback where we have enough members to have a full election as opposed to a handful of members appointed to office. I am thrilled to report that we have successfully collaborated with the geology society and environmental science society for campus events such as Join the Herd, Buff Branding, and other social events. We are still growing, still establishing our foundation, but through the growing pains we have seen a reinvigoration of our geology and environmental science program. We look forward to what will be a promising future, and thank all of our ‘refounders’ and our chapter advisor Dr. Gerald Schultz for their dedication and diligence to re-establish our chapter. GO BUFFS!

*Ashley Farren
President*



Figure 41. Ashley Farren, president of Gamma Upsilon, updates attendees on what is happening with her chapter.

Gamma Chi - Eastern Illinois University

Daniel Curtis, chapter delegate, presented Gamma Chi’s report (fig. 42). The student chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon at Eastern Illinois University is Gamma Chi (fig.43). We have an active and thriving chapter which has not only won numerous awards from the national association, but our activities have also earned us notoriety at Eastern Illinois University. In large part due to the high visibility and continued success of our chapter, the Geology Program was chosen to be one of the few ‘featured majors’ that are promoted by the higher end of EIU’s administration. Our chapter and our activities have been reported in several newspaper articles, and we have established an on-going educational relationship with the local public library. Following is a detailed recap of our activities since the last convention.



Figure 42. Daniel Curtis makes a PowerPoint presentation of the numerous Gamma Chi's activities.



Figure 43. Members of Gamma Chi spelling out some Geology fun on a recent camping trip.

Gamma Chi has been successful in keeping our numbers robust with an active group of members. Several years ago, the chapter was down to one member. An increase in number of majors along with active recruiting has brought us up to approximately 40% of enrolled Geology students. Many of the current majors are awaiting initiation but do not yet have the required number of completed semester hours.

Some of the service activities/projects are on-going in that we hold them every year. When this is the case, all of the previous years' actions are combined under a singular heading identifying the project.

Our campus is situated fairly close to a very nice lake that is a regional playground for fishermen, kayakers, picnickers and the like. 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. Our chapter organized a lake cleanup, enlisting the help of volunteers from across campus. We had approximately 25 people help, picked up 35 bags of garbage, a mattress, box spring and two car tires. We stripped out recyclables for reclamation and ended up with four forty gallon trash bags worth.

Our group found out about Operation Gratitude, which is an organization that gathers items for the military and makes care packages for them. One of the projects they have is to make paracord bracelets, which are lengths of parachute cord braided onto snap on bracelets that the individual can use if in an emergency situation. Another item the troops like to receive are home-made crocheted/knitted scarves. These have to be made to a certain size so that they fit inside the care package, and there is a limited number of colors that can be used in the construction (to protect our troops from identification). Altogether, we produced 200 paracord bracelets and 18 scarves.

Our 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. Gamma Chi applies for on-campus funding to pay for refreshments to host the guests (\$500/year) and then members purchase, set up and break down the food/drink for each event. The talks/presentations we helped host were:

Sept. 28, 2012 - Colonel Robert Sinkler, ""Solving the Nation's Toughest Geology and Geography Problems;"

March 22, 2013 - John Hudson, "The World's Wheat Crop: Who Produces It, Who Consumes It;"

Apr, 2013 – panelists James Bruehler, Steven Daniels, Jonelle DePetro, Barry Kronenfeld and Rich Wandling field questions and debated topics after an on-campus screening of "Chasing Ice;"

Sept 18, 2013 – Tom Medder, National Geospatial Agency, "The Power of NGA;"

Oct 16, 2013 – Katherine Lewandowski, "Mid-Pleistocene fossil material from off the coast of Tasmania;"

Nov 18 and 19, 2013 – Donald Luman and Redina Herman, "Geography Awareness Week;"

Feb 19, 2014 – Sonya Baumstein, "Ocean Exploration and Climate Change;"

Mar 28, 2014 – Lynn Smith, "Road to Success - A Cautionary Talk;"

Apr 22, 2014 – Earth Day mini talks by Ashley Burkett, "Indiana Fossils;" Cameron Craig, "How Many Showers Do YOU Take a Day?" and Diane Burns, "Antarctic Rocks;"

Sep 30, 2014 – Ashley Burkett, "Colonization and Geochemistry of Benthic Foraminifera at Pacific Methane Seeps;"

Nov 17, 2014 – Stacey Brown, "Empty Carts? Supermarket Accessibility and Affordability in Oklahoma City, OK;"

Nov 18, 2014 – Richard Greene, "Agricultural Land Conversion along Urban/Rural Gradients of Midwestern Cities."

On Nov 17, 2013, a freak storm occurred that had over 50 tornadoes touch down on a single day. The town of Washington, IL was significantly impacted with over 1,000 houses completely demolished. Families lost everything. Our chapter immediately sent out a call for donations for an emergency care package. Throughout the course of a 3 day collection, we gathered blankets, shoes, clothes, towels, canned goods and monetary donations (\$200) and got them to the city's residents by the fourth day after the storm.

Gamma Chi has helped create and present numerous demonstrations for the Children's Program at the local public library, mostly geared for 6th graders. Over the last few semesters, we have had a 'scavenger hunt' in the library, with four stations marked on a map of the library. At each station, we had set up different learning situations, such as matching minerals to everyday products in which they are found, making fossil casts and learning about dinosaur trackways and how we can tell how fast they ran/walked. We created a presentation on meteorites and showed them some from a member's personal collection. We obtained samples of rocks and fossils from Antarctica and gave a presentation on how similar they are to IL rocks/fossils. We

gave a presentation on fossils, had them ‘excavate’ them from buckets and color in a large wall-sized creature to decorate the room.

For a larger scale project, we decided to construct educational boards on individual dinosaurs/animals to be a fun learning tool for the kids (fig. 44). There were six boards altogether, and each board consisted of the animal's name and a series of three questions with four possible 'flap choices' for answers, only one of which was correct. A graphic depicting the animal was affixed to the back. Each board had to be laid out accurately, the information researched and the answers/flaps painted, shellacked and mounted onto the boards. These were meant to be durable after many hours' use, so acrylic was applied to all finished surfaces. The “dino board” set was presented to the library on Earth Day, April 22, 2014.



Figure 44. Ryne Robertson, a member of Gamma Chi, holding up two of the finished educational “dino boards” the chapter created from scratch to donate to the Charleston Public Library’s Children’s Center.

Our department was asked by a local junior high school if we would be willing to send representatives over to be participants in a career day that they were holding. We had two SGE members volunteer and create a presentation on careers in the geosciences geared towards 15/16 year olds, as well as develop a hands-on fun activity on mineral identification. As there was a lot of interest in the geosciences, we were asked to repeat this session so that more students could be involved.

Gamma Chi believes that a strong chapter also has a lot of interesting, educational and fun things to do. As such, at least one event per semester is geared towards this goal. In the past two and a half years, we have arranged camping trips in the Garden of the Gods, southern Illinois, geode hunting in western Illinois, fossil hunting for the Tully Monster in Illinois and trilobites in Indiana (fig. 45), museum trips in Indiana and Illinois, fluorite/calcite hunting in southern Illinois, trips to mineral and gem shows in Illinois and Indiana, cookouts, potlucks, pumpkin carving contests and Halloween celebrations.

*Diane Burns
Advisor*



Figure 45. Members of Gamma Chi on a trip to Indiana to look for trilobites. From left to right, front to back – Jeremy Wells, Jordan Knuth, Alex Harper, Nate Fifield.

Delta Theta - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Casimir Wills, secretary, and Maxwell Drexler, delegate, presented Delta Theta's chapter report (fig. 46). The Delta Theta Chapter was reactivated in 2008 under the guidance of our advisor Dr. Mimi Katz. Though we are a small group of 12 students, we're an active part of the Earth and Environmental Science department at Rensselaer. Our main goal is to experience the local geology every semester, and promote enjoyment of the environment, amidst working in our difficult classes. Though our chapter was relatively inactive during 2012 and 2013, we have had a

resurgence of activity under our current president William Skorski.

The activities our members look forward to the most are our field trips. Over the past two years, we have gone prospecting for quartz crystals in Herkimer, NY and we've hiked at the Plotterkill Nature Reserve in Schenectady, NY and at the Poestenkill Gorge in Troy, NY. The Poestenkill Gorge is one of the few places to see Emmons' Line, a large strike-slip fault, in rock exposures. Most recently, we visited the twenty second annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral, and Fossil show at the New York State Museum. At the museum, we saw lots of different samples of

both local and exotic minerals for sale, as well as a fairly large collection of semi-precious stones. Many of the vendors used colloquial terms for the different samples, so it was interesting and fun to try to identify some, as well as debate if they were really the minerals being advertised. Being from New York State, many of the local minerals, like Herkimer diamonds and Gore Mountain garnets, were featured prominently. Two of our members bought minerals at the show, one of them being a very pristine pyrite crystal from Spain, and the other was a Zircon from Freeman, North Carolina.

Along with the field trips, our chapter also helps in the normal activities of the Earth and Environmental Science department. We host our biannual open house and run any promotional activities for earth sciences on campus. We're also responsible for hosting and giving tours to any prospective students who have an interest in geology or environmental science. Our weekly business and activity planning meetings are held at the locally sourced, organic café on campus.

Many of our members are involved in both undergraduate and graduate level research at Rensselaer. A number of people in our chapter work on diffusion in minerals in conjunction with the experimental geochemistry professors and faculty. Others work on core formation, and modeling of early earth systems. On the more environmental side of things, a few of our members research sediment chronologies using gamma ray counting and X-Ray fluorescence with a professor who is an

expert in that field. Some also have research focusing on climate reconstruction using tree cores. Another member has been working on figuring out the concentration of water in nominally anhydrous minerals, especially quartz, and presented his poster on the subject at the Geological Society of America conference. Since Rensselaer is a very active research institution, our chapter strives to have its members take advantage of all opportunities available.

Casimir Wills
Secretary, Delta Theta Chapter
Maxwell Drexler
Member, Delta Theta Chapter



Figure 46. Delta Theta members Casimir Wills and Maxwell Drexler discuss their chapter's highlights and activities.

Delta Chi - Eastern Kentucky University

Laura Norris, president, presented Delta Chi's chapter report (fig. 47). The Delta Chi Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon here at Eastern Kentucky University (Richmond, KY) was reactivated in the fall of 2014, thanks to the help of our current advisor, John White and past president, Jared Dye. We are very excited to be present in the Geography and Geology Department once again and strive to be a part of the campus

community as well. We currently have fifteen (15) student members, two (2) graduates, and will be initiating three (3) more this spring.

Our group's first big campus and departmental movement was the start of being a part of the Colonel's Cupboard project, which our department chair, Melissa Dieckmann directed us to. This is a service promoted through EKU's Student Life where boxes are distributed across campus as a location for donations of food and monetary value. The donations are specifically set aside for University enrolled students who are in a state of emergency. Delta Chi is in the process of receiving a donation 'cupboard' set up to reside in our geosciences building.

Another great way to advertise our geosciences department and chapter is through representing at the colonel 'spotlight day.' This is an Eastern Kentucky University quarterly recruitment day for high school students to attend who are considering applying to the University. Some of our chapter officers have represented at this event with other department professors to share what our department and our Delta Chi chapter has to offer.

Some exciting events that are being planned for the semester include a weekend camping trip to the Cumberland Falls State Park in Corbin, KY. Our chapter is also working towards starting a semester tradition of 'trail days' where members pick a geologic setting close by to visit as a group. This spring, we are planning to take an afternoon and spend time at the Pinnacles in

Berea, KY to observe the profound sedimentary formations and overlooks. Trilobite hunting in Bardstown KY, local Richmond pizza socials, and trips to the Red River Gorge National Geologic Area is in the works as well.

Our officers are working hard on receiving funding to support our new chapter through the SGA as a registered student organization. Other means of fundraising has been in association with local restaurants, and the selling local hand crafted mineral/rock art, such as jewelry and bookends.

Delta Chi is very anxious to get out and enjoy what our region has to offer geologically and to help give back to our Eastern Kentucky University campus and share how truly exciting geosciences can be as we continue to recruit and expand. Our group is small, but mighty, as we have some exciting plans and ideas underway for the years to come.

Laura Norris
Chapter President



Figure 47. Chapter President Laura Norris presents a PowerPoint highlighting the activities of Delta Chi.

Delta Psi - Western Illinois University

Delta Psi's chapter report was presented by Megan Beeler, chapter president (fig. 48). Since the last SGE Convention on November, 3, 2012, the Delta Psi Chapter at Western Illinois University has had an average membership of 10 and we are continuing to grow in our small geology department.



Figure 48. Attendees are updated on Delta Psi Chapter's activities by President Megan Beeler.

This past spring we went around town and installed "no dumping" medallions next to storm drains that empty into local streams. This was one of our more rewarding community service projects.

We have recently started a project that will serve as an extension of our Geology Museum. We are painting a geologic timescale on the sidewalk outside Tillman Hall, where the Geology Department is housed. The timescale will be in a loop of sidewalk roughly 600 feet in length with geologic time periods and events of geologic importance marked at the appropriate distance. Grade school student groups that receive tours of our Geology Museum will be

able to add this outdoor display to their activities. Eventually, we plan for the timescale to be interactive with smartphones so it can be used like a self-guided trip through time.

Many of our members are also members of the WIU Geology Club so we periodically coordinate field trips with them to visit mines, quarries, or to collect geodes from stream beds at choice locations in western Illinois.

Our main fundraiser consists of selling geology-themed t-shirts of our creation and old geology books at the Rock, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show that our university hosts each March. At this show we get to meet a lot of young and interested kids hoping to learn more about the rocks, minerals, and fossils at the show.

*Megan Beeler
President*

Epsilon Theta - Northwest Missouri State University

Epsilon Theta's chapter report was presented by Emily Bunse, chapter president (fig. 49). Since the last national meeting of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the Epsilon Theta Chapter at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO has built upon previous activities, continuing to thrive as a chapter. We have had five initiations since last convention with between four and ten new members being added each time. However, we usually have about the same amount graduate each semester, keeping our average membership at around thirty. After each initiation, we always have a clothing

order featuring a variety of options (all weather jacket, zip-up hoodies, t-shirts, etc.) with the Sigma Gamma Epsilon logo on them so our members can proudly sport the society's insignia.



Figure 49. Emily Bunse, Epsilon Theta President, describes her chapter's noteworthy accomplishments.

Our yearly activities include several fundraisers. In the fall, we put on a bake sale on campus in the building where most science classes take place. Our pumpkin bars have a loyal following. Then, at the end of October, we host a showing of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at The Hangar, our local movie theater. We encourage audience participation, and even sell kits of theater approved items. For the past two years, this has been a very successful fundraiser for our chapter. In the spring, we have either another bake sale or a walking taco sale in our science building. We also host another movie night at The Hangar, with past selections including *The Boondock Saints* and *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Most importantly, the past three spring semesters we have organized an event called Girl Scout

Science Saturday. During this event, girls (anyone is welcome, whether they are a Girl Scout or not) come to Northwest and can participate in various scientific activities. We follow the science curriculum set by the Girl Scouts in order for girls to earn badges but also have developed our own curriculum for a few age groups. Two years ago, we had about 90 girls attend. Last year, attendance was down by about half, but with new ways of advertising the event through the Girl Scouts, we are optimistic to get attendance back up this year. During the event, we partner with the biology honors society to offer entomology, the geography honors society to offer GPS, and offer an astronomy lesson the evening of the event with the help of the astronomy professor. We hope to continue expanding the event by getting other science disciplines involved in the coming years.

In the spring of 2014, our chapter celebrated our thirtieth anniversary. We organized a brunch and invited all of the alumni from our chapter's past to take a tour of the campus, share memories, and catch up. Current members were also able to get advice about the job market and graduate studies from the alumni. Overall, the event was enjoyed by all who participated.

In the coming years, the Epsilon Theta hopes to continue to build upon current events, while also leading the club in new directions to continue growing.

Emily Bunse
President

Epsilon Rho - Georgia State University

Grace Chang, chapter secretary, presented Epsilon Rho's report (fig. 50). The Epsilon Rho Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon at Georgia State University was reactivated in the fall of 2012. Since then, past Officers Peter Razumov and Rebecca Pickering-Turner have received the Tarr award from SGE in 2013, and 2014 respectively. Our former presidents Lucy Mejia and Rebecca Pickering-Turner have both been involved in increasing the role of SGE in our geoscience department. So far our involvement has included volunteering with the other department clubs such as AIPG and the Geoscience club. Looking forward, our current president Nathan Rabideaux has been looking to expand fundraising both within the department and in the university as a whole.

As a chapter, we have been an active source of volunteers for annual events such as Atlanta Science Festival which we helped lead guided hikes around Stone Mountain and provided informational lectures around the visitor's center. There is also a main event where mostly K-12 students come to discover various sciences and we help the department with a geoscience booth by having different rocks and fossils for the students to learn from. The chapter has also been involved in Science Olympiad in conjunction with other departments in the university. This year we organized the fossil event and the dynamic planet event for Science Olympiad. Our members also volunteer time to run the Georgia State Booth at the southeast GSA conference. The

chapter has also helped with the department's Earth Science Week to promote geoscience in the department to recruit new geoscience students.

We are currently organizing a field trip to the coast of Georgia to see firsthand the coastal processes that affect the marine life in the area.

Our chapter has also just started dabbling in fundraising with ideas of selling coffee during finals week.

*Grace Chang
Secretary*



Figure 50. Epsilon Rho Chapter's report is presented by Grace Chang, secretary.

Epsilon Phi - East Carolina University

Cameron Whitley, chapter vice president, presented Epsilon Phi's report (fig. 51). The Epsilon Phi Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon at East Carolina University (ECU) has been busy since our last appearance at convention two years ago. Several of our alumni have stayed at ECU to pursue their graduate degrees, allowing the chapter to maintain numbers and provide undergraduate members advice on chapter traditions. Each year we hold a fall and

spring initiation, and since the fall semester of 2012, 14 new members have joined. Currently, we have 29 active members.

In recent years members of our chapter have become increasingly active in volunteer and leadership roles throughout ECU. The two most prominent volunteer opportunities are Science Olympiad and tutoring. Science Olympiad is a middle- and high-school academic tournament that helps students gain a deep understanding of the sciences. Each year about 15 chapter members have volunteered to help with the tournament. The volunteers take on several different roles in the tournament, including coaching teams from schools in Pitt County, and creating and administering tests for events such as “Dynamic Earth”, “GeoLogic Mapping”, and “Road Scholar”. Many members of SGE also volunteer to tutor students enrolled in introductory geology classes, most commonly Oceanography and Dynamic Earth.

Fundraising is an important aspect of the chapter, as money raised is used to host several events for the department and donated to the C.Q. Brown Scholarship. Epsilon Phi's most successful fundraiser is the annual three day rock sale held during the fall semester. Over the last two years, the chapter has raised approximately \$3600 selling rocks and minerals collected by students or donated by alumni and faculty, and items made by chapter members including rock bookends and picture frames.

Another popular fundraising event is the Valentine's Day chili cook-off. While we weren't able to hold one in the spring of

2014, we brought it back in 2015. Students and faculty from the department were able to enter their chili cook-off and the winner was awarded a small prize. The money raised from chili cook-off was put towards events that are hosted by the chapter. In addition, the Epsilon Phi Chapter sells t-shirts each year. Members of the chapter submit geology related designs for the t-shirt and, after a vote, the most popular design is used. The t-shirts are sold to anyone interested and the funds raised are put towards events hosted by the chapter.

The thing we are most proud of donating to is the C.Q. Brown Scholarship. The scholarship recognizes outstanding rising seniors, and is awarded to the recipient at the end of the spring semester of their junior year. The scholarship is applied directly to their tuition, and the possibility of receiving the award gives students motivation to strive for excellence in their academics and service. Following the fall 2013 rock sale, Epsilon Phi was able to donate \$982.00 to the scholarship awarded in the spring of 2014, and after the fall 2014 sale \$775.00 was donated for the spring 2015 award.

Epsilon Phi is also proud to have been able to partially fund the travel of 10 graduate students to the 2014 Annual Geological Society of America meeting in Vancouver, Canada. All students that were funded presented research; 9 presented posters and 1 gave a talk. Research topics presented included paleoclimate reconstruction on the Sunda Shelf in the South China Sea, short and long term marsh

shoreline change in the Pamlico Sound North Carolina, reservoir quality of the Marcellus shale in West Virginia, and emplacement mechanisms of an intrusive body in the Henry Mountains, Utah. Funds were also provided to several students that presented research at the 2013 and 2014 GSA Southeastern Section Annual Meeting.

Each year Epsilon Phi hosts a departmental cookout that serves as an awards and graduation ceremony. It is at this ceremony that the C.Q. Brown Scholarship is awarded. The chapter uses money raised during fundraising events to buy supplies for the cookout. The majority of the department attends this event, giving students and faculty time to communicate outside of the classroom. An invitation is also sent to alumni and previous faculty members, several of which show up each year.

In the future we hope to continue with many of these traditions, as well as take on new responsibilities. One new tradition the chapter will take on is contributing articles to the departmental newsletter that is distributed to the department and alumni. In the past faculty were the only contributors on the newsletter; now there will be a greater student influence. Articles in the newsletter will be focused on the research students are conducting and their experiences in the department. The chair of the department, Dr. Stephen Culver, hopes “this brings some new vitality to the newsletter as none of the faculty members are getting any younger!” In addition, we are beginning to plan for our department's 50 year anniversary in 2017. As we proceed into the future, continued

growth, active fundraising, and volunteering remain important to the chapter.

*Cameron Whitley
Vice President*



Figure 51. Cameron Whitley, Epsilon Phi vice president, updates the delegates on his chapter's activities.

Eta Alpha- University of Tennessee at Martin

Micki Carlton, delegate, presents Eta Alpha's chapter report (fig. 52). Sigma Gamma Epsilon at the University of Tennessee at Martin has had a busy couple of years. From 2013-2014, the chapter volunteered at a teachers field camp, a Martin Middle School Science Club event, a Girl Scout's badge workshop, a mineral ID event and inducted seven new members. From 2014-2015, the chapter volunteered at another Girl Scout's badge workshop, the Big Cypress Tree State Park annual Fall Festival and inducted seven more new members. Newly inducted members since 2013 include Andrew Eudy, William Abrams, Seth Whitson, Stephanie Sellers, Amy McLemore, Nissa Lomax, Amelia Coalter, Hunter Herring, James Dollahite,

Collin Sutton, Lauren Dollahite, Matthew Adams, Micki Carlton and Elizabeth Smith.



Figure 52. Micki Carlton shares highlights of Eta Alpha Chapter's activities.

In October 2013, William Abrams, Andrew Eudy, Taylor Wilson-Primm and Brandt Gibson volunteered to host the "Oil Up!" Girl Scout badge workshop with the Cadette/Senior Martin Housing Authority Girl Scout Troop 43001 (fig. 53). Some of the activities included demonstrating the processes that created oil, by simulating those processes by crushing chocolate between their hands until it melted, a coloring activity to recognize oil producing regions of the world, a oil clean up simulation and discussing how oil is used to produce products used on a daily basis.



Figure 53. Eta Phi Members host "Oil Up!" Girl Scout badge workshop with the Cadette/Senior Martin Housing Authority Girl Scout Troop 43001.

In fall 2013, Eta Alpha Chapter Advisor Dr. Michael Gibson and faculty member Eleanor Gardner hosted the "Something is Missing Here" Teacher Field Camp in Fossils and Taphonomy at the Coon Creek Science Center near Adamsville, Tennessee (fig. 54). This event was a professional development short field course that provides an opportunity for science teachers to help earth science teachers incorporate the nature of the fossil records, taphonomic bias, and ancient environments into their curriculum. Student members Jake Snyder, Garrison Barnes and William Abrams were on hand to help the teachers with excavating fossils and carrying field supplies.



Figure 54. Eta Alpha Chapter conducts “Something is Missing Here” Teacher Field Camp in Fossils and Taphonomy.

In April 2014, the Science Club at Martin Middle School was visited by our chapter for a Rock and Mineral showing and ID and volcanic eruption simulation that used a bottle filled with nitrogen gas and trashcan filled with water for the simulation (fig. 55). Faculty members Stan Dunagan, Eleanor Gardner, and Michael Gibson, as well as Student members William Abrams, Brandt Gibson, Andrew Eudy, Jake Snyder, and Seth Whitson were on hand for the event.



Figure 55. Eta Alpha Chapter does a volcanic eruption simulation for the Science Club at Martin Middle School.

Towards the end of the spring 2014 semester, William Abrams, Brandt Gibson, and Eleanor Gardner volunteered to teach a group of adults from the Martin Community Development Service (CDS) how to ID minerals at the UTM lab.

In November 2014, SGE President Will Abrams and SGE faculty member Eleanor Gardner volunteered at the Big Cypress Tree State Park Annual Fall Festival (fig. 56). A mock fossil excavation was set up accompanied by a wide assortment of rock and mineral specimens from the geology department and a number of well-preserved fossils from Cretaceous Coon Creek formation, including Tennessee’s state fossil *Pterotrigonia Thoracica*.



Figure 56. Members of Eta Alpha Chapter volunteered at the Big Cypress Tree State Park Annual Fall Festival.

In December 2014, SGE members Seth Whitson, Will Abrams, Taylor Wilson-Primm, Amy McLemore, and Andrew Eudy volunteered to host the Planet Power badge workshop for the Cadette/Senior Girl Scouts in the Martin Housing Authority troop 43001 (fig. 57). Activities included the history of

nuclear energy, an energy audit, and how to survive without electricity.



Figure 57. Eta Alpha conducted the Planet Power badge workshop for the

Cadette/Senior Girl Scouts in the Martin Housing Authority Troop 43001.

On March 10, 2015, SGE inducted seven new members at the university; Hunter Herring, James Dollahite, Collin Sutton, Lauren Dollahite, Matthew Adams, Micki Carlton, and Elizabeth Smith (fig. 58).

*Micki Carlton
Member*



Figure 58. Seven new members are inducted into Eta Alpha March 10, 2015.

Eta Gamma - Weber State University

Michael Hess, president, presented Eta Gamma's chapter report (fig. 59). Over the past two years, the Eta Gamma Chapter at Weber State University (Ogden, Utah) has been successful in recruiting new students

each semester, and currently has 21 active members. Our chapter holds weekly officer meetings, open to all members of Eta Gamma, and monthly socials in collaboration with the WSU Geology Club, which helps our chapter maintain a strong presence in the

Geosciences Department. The overall mission of our chapter is threefold: community service and outreach; professional development and training; and geoscience-related social functions. Since SGE's last convention in 2012, the members of Eta Gamma have met and exceeded the mission goals each year, and hope to continue to do so in the future.



Figure 59. Michael Hess, Eta Gamma's Chapter President, uses an eye catching PowerPoint to highlight his chapter's activities.

Eta Gamma's goals with respect to community service and outreach are to both volunteer in the community through service projects and to promote a growing interest in the geosciences among pre-college students. Each year our members have collaborated with government agencies, local schools, and other organizations to contribute in several areas, ranging from helping to build nature trails behind our campus to inviting pre-schoolers to our Natural Science Museum for hands-on learning about rocks and minerals. Many of our members also participate as

judges in middle and high school science fairs, while others have offered their time to assist the Utah Geological Survey during its Earth Science Week (AGI) activities and the WSU College of Science in hosting its annual Science Olympiad competition for local schools.

Professional development and training is also important to our chapter, and as such, we try to offer at least one training opportunity per year. During fall semester 2013, then President Joseph Schlichter arranged for CPR training and certification for the whole department, including students, faculty, and staff, which was a huge success. More recently, current President Michael Hess collaborated with the U.S. Geological Survey to provide hands-on training with Real Time Kinematic survey equipment.

Our social activities naturally revolve around all things geoscience. In addition to our monthly departmental socials, Eta Gamma puts together one or two field trips a year where students can get to know each other outside of the classroom. Former chapter president Brady Boyter organized an excellent trip to the Mineral Mountains in Milford, Utah, last spring, while the current officers have a camping trip to the San Rafael Swell in the works for the upcoming spring break.

Outside of SGE, our members are very active in the department and exemplify the meaning of being honor students and leaders. Many of the members have ongoing research projects with faculty or other scientific research organizations, some of the members are tutors and others are officers in

different clubs. As our numbers continue to grow, we look forward to more extensive activities as a chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon.

Michael Hess
Chapter President

Eta Sigma - Middle Tennessee State University

Brandy Barnes, chapter delegate, presented Eta Sigma's report (fig. 60). The past two and half years for the Eta Sigma Chapter at Middle Tennessee State University (Murfreesboro, TN) have been a major building period for the chapter. We held initiation ceremonies in both fall and spring semesters each year. Each semester has seen more members joining than the one before it.



Figure 60. Brandy Barnes updates attendees on what is happening at Eta Sigma.

Annually the chapter participates in the Tennessee Geology Conclave, which is held during the fall semester. This is where various honor societies from schools in the Southeastern portion of the country get together for a weekend of camping and

geology/geography challenges that lead to an overall competition. This past year, fall 2014, MTSU was the host school for the event.

During the spring 2014 and fall 2014 semesters our chapter held a rock sale for the general public. This was where chapter members got together on campus and sold various geologic samples that were donated to the chapter. The rock sale is advertised across our campus and receives a large turnout of people. This is our main fundraiser for the chapter each semester and we plan to hold another one soon.

This past semester, fall 2014, our chapter also attended Earth Science Week 2014 at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville, TN. This was where the general public was able to come to the science center and visit various stations that our chapter members had set up. Each station was designed as some sort of small activity that would display various aspects of Earth Science.

Our chapter also holds monthly meetings and does various events such as holiday parties and picnics.

Zachary Blair
Secretary

Eta Phi - Northern Illinois University

Richard Jayne, chapter treasurer, presented Eta Phi's report (fig. 61). The Eta Phi Chapter at NIU has been very active the past two years. Since 2012, chapter membership has been on the rise with 27 active members this year. As a group we have had great success with a number of

community outreach programs. Our chapter provides a sense of community in our department by hosting department events, organizing an annual photo contest, and aiding in the recruitment of undergraduate majors. By taking on new projects each year, our chapter strives to be an active part of the department and community.



Figure 61. Richard Jayne, treasurer, uses a PowerPoint to share the noteworthy activities of Eta Phi.

Our chapter coordinates several community outreach events throughout the year. Since 2012, our chapter has participated in the NIU STEMfest event, an all-day fair aimed at educating and getting children from K-12 interested in STEM based careers. At this event, Eta Phi runs a geology themed booth with giveaways such as rock candy and stickers, as well as interactive activities for children including a fluorescence mineral and rock black box display, an erupting volcano and sandbox paleontology dig for toy dinosaurs and shells. This fall 2014, over 6,000 people attended the STEMfest event. Through the STEM

program at NIU, our SGE chapter has also provided lectures and laboratory tours for underprivileged youths attending the STEM summer camp. Another yearly event our chapter organizes is a Boy Scout's Night where several troops from the area come to our department in order to complete their geology merit badge. During this event, SGE members run activity stations where they are responsible for helping the boy's complete one aspect of the badge. A few examples of station activities include a fossil station where each boy makes a clay cast of a fossil from our department's collection and a glacier station where silly putty is used as an example of glacial movement. Another educational outreach program our chapter has been working on is collaboration with the NIU Loreda Taft Field Campus, an Outdoor Education center in Oregon, IL. Field trips for 4th-8th grade students to the Taft Campus provide schools in the region with hands-on education covering aspects of the environment including geology. Our chapter has taken several sediment samples and tree cores from the area and is working on developing a field guide for the center to use with students. This year our members also participated in the Elgin Public Library Minecraft day where we taught videogame enthusiasts about the rocks from the game as well as the applications for computer modeling in the geosciences.

In addition to community outreach, our chapter also plays an active role in our geology department. This fall we hosted a welcome back BBQ and kickball game. Members of SGE also created a new

departmental brochure providing information about undergraduate courses and research opportunities. At the department's annual holiday party, we also organize an ugly sweater contest and provide small prizes for the winners.

In order to support our volunteer work, our chapter has been very successful at fundraising sales. One of our annual fundraisers is a fall photo contest where students and faculty submit geology themes photos and vote for their favorites. The winning photographs are put into a calendar and sold in time for the holidays. Each spring, we design and sell department t-shirts which have been a great success. This year we also made and sold mineralogy flash cards to students taking the mineralogy course.

Richard Jayne
Treasurer

Eta Chi - SUNY Brockport

Gina Pope, chapter president, presents Eta Chi's report (fig. 62). Over the past two years, a large number of members graduated. This semester, we have added eight new members who are current juniors. Given increased interest, we are considering a second initiation of a group of sophomores.

Our chapter has decided to focus on service activities and outreach in the local community. We have developed several service activities on campus and participate in a couple regional volunteer opportunities.

Members of the chapter have initiated a number of volunteer activities within the department. We annually participate in Erie

Canal Days, a volunteer program to clean up sections of the Erie Canal across New York State. We also participate in a similar event that cleans up public beaches along Lake Ontario.



Figure 62. Eta Chi Chapter President Gina Pope discusses what her chapter has been doing.

Within the department, we assist faculty in several ways. First, several members volunteer as teaching assistants in physical geology labs. Next year, we are planning to help with introductory meteorology labs as well. We also participate in open house events for perspective students, and act as host for students who are interested in shadowing.

We also have started two service activities for the college community. We were able to obtain funds to purchase and install a new weather station. The weather station has a web interface, and the website is linked through our department web page and through the College's radio station website. We have also started a program that provides weather forecasts to the athletics department

for all home and away sports events. Feedback from the athletic director has been extremely positive.

We try to arrange for one trip each year in conjunction with the Earth Science club. Last year we had a camping trip in the southern Adirondacks region and collected Herkimer diamonds. This past fall, we did a fossil collecting trip in the local area.

Members regularly attend monthly dinner meetings of the Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists. The monthly meeting provides an opportunity to network with practicing geologists and there is a technical presentation following dinner.

Six students presented research at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Vancouver. Two students presented their research at the American Meteorological meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

*Gina Pope
Chapter President*

Theta Delta - Columbus State University

Kenneth Roop-Eckart, president, presented Theta Delta's chapter report (fig. 63). Our Chapter, Theta Delta, was founded on May 3rd of 2013, with 15 initial members, by three of the most exceptional students in our program, Emily Randall, Mathew Perry, and Donald Osborne. The following 2013-2014 academic year, our chapter was relatively inactive.



Figure 63. Highlights from Theta Delta Chapter are presented by President Kenneth Roop-Eckart.

During 2014-2015, we worked with student government to secure funds to help active members travel to conferences to present their research, and reached out to companies for donations to secure the longer term availability of these funds. Through these funds, we have already helped one of our members present his research at the American Geophysical Union Conference in San Francisco at the end of 2014.

We initiated 6 new members last semester and are looking to initiate several more this semester. Currently we are coordinating a group field trip/camping trip with our campus AIPG chapter, along with AIPG chapters from Florida and Tennessee, that is planned for later this semester.

*Kenneth J. Roop-Eckart
President*

Theta Eta - University of Puget Sound

Liz Roepke, chapter delegate, provided Theta Eta's report (fig. 64). Fourteen students from the University of Puget Sound petitioned the national office on December 4, 2014 to establish a SGE chapter on their campus. Voting by the national officers and chapters is presently underway. Liz Roepke represented the pending Theta Eta Chapter.



Figure 64. Liz Roepke, who was instrumental in petitioning for Theta Eta Chapter at the University of Puget Sound, shares their future plans.

Theta Theta - Concord University

Savannah Ballangee provided Theta Theta's report (fig. 65). The national office received a petition to establish a chapter from eight students at Concord University on January 22, 2015. Voting by the national officers and chapters is currently underway. Petitioners Savannah Ballangee and Addison Hostetler represented the anticipated Theta Theta Chapter.



Figure 65. Savannah Ballangee updates delegates on the progress of Theta Theta Chapter's petition and upcoming plans.