Spring 2011

Nebraska Chapter Gamma Sigma Delta Newsletter Issue #42 Spring 2011

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President’s Message

Gamma Sigma Delta is an honor society dedicated to recognizing academic achievements and/or accomplishments of students, faculty, alumnus, or industry and university supporters. Membership in Gamma Sigma Delta is more than an honor. It is a challenge and an obligation to contribute to the understanding and furthering of agriculture and natural resources, human sciences, and biological systems engineering.

This past year, UNL Gamma Sigma Delta chapter welcomed 26 new members and provided awards to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty. Our newsletter provides you with a recap of our award winners – Congratulations to our award winners!

Each fall we host a seminar of broad interest to our membership and open the seminar university-wide. Entrepreneurship will be the theme of the Gamma Sigma Delta Fall Seminar and Annual Meeting scheduled for October 5, 2011. Hold the date on your calendar and plan to attend!

Julie Albrecht
GSD Nebraska Chapter President

Welcome New Members
We want to welcome the following new members who were initiated at our Awards Banquet on January 30.

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
Rory DeGanahl Applied Science
Jeremy Grauf Fisheries & Wildlife
Joshua Hogrefe Agricultural Education
Amanda Leafgren Plant Biology
Landon Peterson Animal Science
Crystal Pribyl Food Science
Melinda Rathman Agribusiness

College of Engineering
Suzanne Higgins Biological Systems Engineering

Graduate Students
Bethany Bettenhausen Nutrition
Theresa Bohnert Animal Science
Kayla Colgrove Nutrition & Health Sciences
Elijah Dacy Nutrition & Health Sciences
Kumud Dhakal Animal Science
Natalie Group Nutrition & Health Sciences
Sara Keller Nutrition & Health Sciences
Jose Barron Lopez Animal Science
Ningxia Lu Animal Science
Kevin Sargent Animal Science
Adam Summers Animal Science

Faculty/Staff
Mark Balschweid Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
Jill Kerl Animal Science
Angela Pannier Biological Systems Engineering
Jennifer Rees SE Research and Extension Center
Jennifer Wood ISU/UNL Cooperative Veterinary Medicine

Alumni
Rhonda Griess Animal Science

Honorary Member
Marilyn Weidner Entomology
Recipients of
2010 Gamma Sigma Delta Awards

The Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta Award Committee announces the 2010 recipients of the Gamma Sigma awards. These awards were presented by the Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma at the Awards Banquet held January 30, 2011. These awards are presented to individuals that exhibit outstanding service in research, extension, teaching, administration, and leadership in the field of agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences.

Keith L. Glewen began his career in University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in 1980 as an Extension Agent-agriculture in Saunders County, a unit of the Southeast Research and Extension District, headquartered at Mead. A native of Waupan, Wisconsin, he received a B.S. in Crop and Soil Science from the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, in 1975 and a M.S. in Agronomy from UNL in 1980. Before joining Extension, Glewen served four years as an agricultural technician in what is now the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at UNL.

Keith has been termed the “consummate professional” in designing, delivering, and evaluating educational programs. His commitment to quality is such that he continuously refines his work to keep it on the cutting edge, both in terms of content and the method of delivery. This commitment to quality and dedication to educational programs has resulted in endorsement by other faculty members and agricultural business partners.

Keith is a “great collaborator” whether coordinating scores of crop production clinics or acquiring local support and resources for relocation of the Saunders County Extension Office from Wahoo to the UNL Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead. Working with teams involving farm operators, fellow faculty members and industry professionals, Glewen annually develops multiple educational programs relating to soybeans, crop and diagnostic clinics, farm management, machinery updates, irrigation and energy, no-till, chemigation and nutrient management.

Partners in many of his educational programs include the Nebraska Corn Board, Corn Growers Association, Nebraska Soybean Board, Natural Resources Districts and experts from other states and private companies. Glewen’s relationships with these entities help ensure that Nebraskans have access to the latest in research-based information so necessary for success. One example is his involvement with the University’s Crop Management and Diagnostic Clinics. Now completing the 12th year, the clinics continue to be an educational resource for farm operators and agribusiness professionals across the region. Since 1996, clinic participants represent 25 to 35 percent of Nebraska’s row crop acres. Participants estimate the value of their knowledge from the clinics to be about $25 million to $50 million each year. One participant said that “Knowledge is power. I feel what I’ve learned today is important.”

Award of Merit for Service
Recipient: Keith L. Glewen

Keith Glewen, Elbert Dickey
Keith has been recognized through more than two dozen awards during his career. These awards include the UNL Distinguished Service Award, Holling Family Award for exemplary education, election to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, and a Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. A past president of the Nebraska chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, he served as president of the Wahoo Lions Club and is a member of nearly 20 organizations including the American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops and Soils.

**Excellence in Extension Award**
Recipient: **Harshavardhan Thippareddi**

Harshavardhan earned a Ph.D., Kansas State University, Food Science, 1998 and a M.S., Kansas State University, Food Science, 1992. He received a B.S., Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University (India), Dairy Science and Technology in 1987.

![Harshavardhan Thippareddi, Elbert Dickey](image)

The focus of Harshavardhan’s Extension program at the University of Nebraska is to assist food processors and meat and poultry processors in the state of Nebraska and throughout the United States to be more profitable through production, processing and marketing of **safe** and **wholesome** food products. Majority of the food processors require food safety assistance. Good examples of these are the Better Process Control Schools, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) workshops. However, majority of the operations require assistance when there is a change in the regulatory environment or when new regulations are implemented or enforced. Good examples of this type of assistance to the industry are the Lethality and Stabilization Performance Standards by the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS), *Listeria monocytogenes* control programs required by USDA-FSIS.

Harshavardhan’s Extension program is supported by his highly successful, USDA funded research activities focusing on the current food safety issues such as *Salmonella* spp. in egg and egg products, *Listeriz monocytogenes* on ready-to-eat meat and poultry products, *Clostridium perfringens* in cooked, RTE meat and poultry products has benefited the food industry in mitigating the risks of these foodborne pathogens. He has provided direct one-on-one assistance to the processors, as well as through web-based technologies to reach the food industry audience.

Harshavardhan developed and organized a series of web seminars focused on mitigating the risk of *L. monocytogenes* on RTE meat and poultry products. His sessions were the most attended, with approximately 60 participants from across the United States, every week, with 18 speakers from academia as well as the industry for 18 sessions. He organized and obtained funding for the “Third Governor’s Conference on Ensuring Food Safety – *E. coli* O157:H7: Progress and Challenges” conducted in Lincoln, NE. This conference attracted attendance from around the world. He has established partnerships with scientists from academia, industry, federal government research labs, regulatory agencies throughout the U.S. and around the world in conducting cutting-edge scientific research of relevance to the industry in ensuring food safety. Often, the regulatory agencies seek his counsel to determine the safety of food manufacturing
processes for validating their efficacy in reducing the risk of foodborne pathogens.

Harshavardhan working with the food industry, has realized that Extension cannot rely on a single mode of delivery of programs as the clientele is diverse with generational differences and hence has developed and delivered content using a wide array of methods, including the web, video, workshops as well as face-to-face interaction. A highlight and an example of his efforts is the food safety training program for the Lincoln-Lancaster Department of Health, the “Food Handler Training”. While the previous mode of delivery through traditional classroom style was effective, it was not efficient and timely for the hotel, restaurant, and institutional industry as they had to wait to train their new staff until the day of the training. The development of the “online” training was very effective, efficient and extremely popular with the audience as well as the management.

Harshavardhan has been recognized by the meat and poultry industry by honoring him with the “Harry L. Rudnick Award” for his contributions.

Martha received a Ph.D. in Soil Chemistry/Fertility, Univ. of Minnesota, St Paul, an M.S.in Soil Science, Alabama A&M Univ. and a B.S., Chemistry, Alabama A&M Univ. She is responsible for teaching Soil Resources 153 (AGRO/SOIL/HORT 153) in the fall semesters (since 2000) and Soil Nutrient Relationship (AGRO/SOIL 366) in the spring semester (since 2001). Under her supervision, student numbers in these courses have increased and learning level of the students that enroll in her classes has increased. Following is a student testament of her teaching skills and relationship with her students.

“With Dr. Mamo, it is not about memorizing a bunch of random facts that even the most well studied student will forget after a few months.

She helps develop our analytical skills to be able to decipher information and then synthesize ideas that are well thought out and grounded scientifically by researched support. She would often times display a graph or graphic that we had never seen before, and then she would push us mentally to deduct and reason what is going on. I appreciate this more now than at the time because it took a great deal of mental energy, but it has strengthened my skills. Now, I am more confident as student and person with more of an ability to form structured arguments and ideas that have backing instead of just irrational thought.”

Curtis Weller joined the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Departments of Biological Systems Engineering, and Food Science and Technology in 1992. He received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering in 1987, his M.S. in Food Science in 1983, and his B.S. in Food Science in 1977, all from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign. Weller’s research responsibilities are in the broad area of food engineering with particular attention to value-added processing of agricultural commodities and physical properties determination. His...
research effort concentrates on the recovery and utilization of valuable lipids in grain sorghum, e.g., for nutraceuticals, and predicting microbial growth in meat products based on time and environmental conditions. Curtis is a Program Coordinator for the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at UNL and also a member of the Nebraska Gateway for Nutrigenomics.

Weller has nearly 25 years of continuous activities on the international scene. He has had major involvement with individuals and institutions in Korea, France and Columbia and significant involvement in at least another dozen countries including The Netherlands, Chile, Venezuela, Tajikistan, Brazil, Tanzania and Zambia. He has hosted numerous faculty members from different countries here at the University of Nebraska for periods of time ranging from a few months to several years.

Curtis has published 104 peer-reviewed and 46 non-refereed papers. He gave 82 research presentations, 37 invited presentations, and received 8 research awards, including this year’s Gamma Sigma Delta Research Award.

Susan Fritz, Curtis Weller

Susan Fritz, Jessie Fernandez, Rich Wilson

She has received several fellowships and awards including:
- Shear-Miles Distinguished Fellowship Award, 2010-2011
- Goss Memorial Graduate Award from Plant Pathology, 2010-2011
- Milton E. Mohr Fellowship Award from Agronomy and Horticulture, 2009-2010
- Widaman Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award, UNL 2008-2009
- Milton E. Mohr Fellowship Award from Biotechnology, UNL, 2008-2009
- Recognition of outstanding students in Agricultural Science at the University of Puerto Rico, 2005
- SOPCA AWARD for Agricultural Science Student-Puerto Rico, 2004
- Recognition of the valuable contribution as a Teaching Assistant in General Biology, 2003. Biology Department, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez Campus.
Outstanding Senior Student Award
Recipient: Zach Badura

Zach is a senior from Saint Paul, NE and is majoring in Animal Science – Veterinary Science option. His career goal is to attend veterinary school at either Colorado State University or the UNL/ISU cooperative program.

His future career goals entail specializing in equine sports medicine and lameness. His goal is to become a leader in equine sports medicine. In January Zach was interviewing for an opportunity to work with one of the country’s largest and most prestigious racetrack practices in New York, NY. Zach has spent most his summers at the racetrack. Last summer he was the head exercise rider for the leading trainer at Arapahoe Park Racetrack. The horses that he routinely exercised at Arapahoe Park won 9 stake races.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award
Recipient: Ross Jensen

Ross is a sophomore from Wisner, NE. His major is Agribusiness – Banking and Finance. Ross plans after graduation are to return to a small town as an agricultural loan officer. He has a desire to help farmers and feeders improve their operations and financial well-being. He foresees the rural communities’ need of individuals willing to commit themselves to community development and improvement.

Ross has the skill set that wherever he finds employment, he will make it a priority to get involved in community events in an effort to improve the lives of its citizens. Ross was involved in a Freshman Honor’s Project and conducted a survey of Nebraska feedyards to collect salary and wage information for their employees. Using this data, he authored an extension publication. In addition, the results were featured in the February issue of BEEF Magazine.
Gamma Sigma Delta Committees 2011

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- President: Julie Albrecht
- President-Elect: Rick Rasby
- Secretary: Tamra Jackson
- Treasurer: Terry Hejny
- Membership Coordinator: Bob Wright
- Historian: Z B Mayo
- Past-President: Dennis Brink

AWARD OF MERIT COMMITTEE
- Alan Baquet (2011)*
- Elbert Dickey (2012)
- Keith Glewen (2013)

EXTENSION AWARD COMMITTEE
- Rick Rasby (2011)*
- Dennis Bauer (2012)
- Harshavardhan Thipparreddi (2013)

RESEARCH AWARD COMMITTEE
- Andrew Benson (2011)*
- Clinton Jones (2012)
- Curtis Weller (2013)

TEACHING AWARD COMMITTEE
- Bryan Reiling (2011)*
- Tiffany Heng-Moss (2012)
- Martha Mamo (2013)

INITIATION AND AWARDS BANQUET
- Fayrene Hamouz*
- Julie Albrecht
- Tamra Jackson

INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
- TBA

SEMINAR COMMITTEE
- Julie Albrecht*
- Tamra Jackson

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
- Bob Wright (Coordinator)

OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE
- Dennis Brink (2011)*
- Keith Glewen (2012)
- Clayton Kelling (2013)

SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION COMMITTEE
- Dennis Brink (2011)*
- Keith Glewen (2012)
- Z B Mayo (2013)

AUDITING COMMITTEE
- Brad Lubben (2011)*

* Chairperson

Schedule of Events
Fall Seminar and Annual Meeting
- Wednesday, October 5, 2011
- 3 p.m., Hardin Hall Auditorium

Awards Banquet
- Sunday, January 29, 2012
- 6 p.m., Beacon Hills

WE HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND!
In Memoriam

The Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta recognizes the lifetime achievement of Ed Vitzthum who was a member of the Nebraska Chapter.

Edward Francis Vitzthum, 74, of Lincoln, NE, died on December 17, 2010. Ed was born April 23, 1936, in Pontiac, IL. He attended Creighton University, graduating in 1958. Ed met his wife, Patricia, while attending Creighton. Beginning his career as a journalist in Montrose, CO, he then worked for the Salt City Tribune for several years before moving to Nebraska with his wife and children. After many years with Nebraska Educational Television, he earned a Master’s Degree and Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Nebraska and began a 25-year career in the Agriculture Extension Department at the University of Nebraska's Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Ed also retired as a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves in 1988 after serving more than 30 years. A farm boy at heart, Ed enjoyed working at the Husker Harvest Days each year and collecting John Deere memorabilia.

Ed is survived by his wife of 51 years, Patricia; his three children, Theresa Vitzthum (Lincoln), John Vitzthum and his wife Debra (Sewell, NJ), Barbara Melbourne and her husband Steve (Bettendorf, IA); grandchildren, Jared and Kaitlyn Vitzthum and Katie and Abby Melbourne; and his four sisters, Mary Taylor and Judy Vitzthum of Seattle, WA, Marge Hattrup of Overland Park, KS, and Jan Herbert of Salt Lake City, UT.

Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund

Your Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta has established a new fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation to allow us to expand our recognition of high standards of scholarship to the graduate student ranks. The Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund was initiated with a $750 grant from the international Gamma Sigma Delta organization. The fund is an expendable fund at this time, however, our goal is to raise $25,000 to endow it permanently. Your contributions will assist us in reaching this goal.

A Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Selection Committee will organize the application and selection process. Graduate students in Human Sciences, Agriculture, and related sciences who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishment in their teaching, research, or extension endeavors, and great promise for future academic contributions in their field of expertise are eligible.

Please send your donations to the University of Nebraska Foundation at 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68508 with the attached pledge sheet. Questions? Contact Kevin Meyer at kmeyer@nufoundation.org.

**See page 9 for Pledge information.**
Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund #10996

☐ Enclosed is my check for $__________ payable to the University of Nebraska Foundation.
☐ Please charge $__________ to my: □ VISA □ MasterCard □ Discover □ American Express

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☐ My matching gift form is enclosed. If your employer or your spouse’s employer has a matching gift program, your gift could be increased! Contact your employer’s personnel office for information.
☐ I have already included the Foundation in my estate plans through my will, trust or life insurance.
☐ Please send information about making a planned gift. You may call 1-800-432-3216 to speak with a planned giving professional.

Campaign: 1L09 ● GSD

If making a gift, please print and mail to:
University of Nebraska Foundation
P.O. Box 82555
Lincoln, NE 68501-2555

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Omaha, NE 68106

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Scottsbluff, NE 69361

For more information, call 800-432-3216 or visit our website at www.nufoundation.org.
May 27, 2011

TO: Gamma Sigma Delta Members

FROM: Robert J Wright, (402) 472-2123

SUBJECT: Renewal of Active Membership / Dues for 2011

It is time again for many of us to renew our membership in Gamma Sigma Delta. We are changing procedures this year and sending membership renewals with the Spring newsletter. Please recall that GSD membership is based on the calendar year and runs from January 1 – December 31. In keeping with tradition, I am sending just this single notification for paying your 2011 dues. We are counting on your continuing support of our honorary society. Please be sure to print off and complete the appropriate form and respond today.

Dues are $20 per year. Please make your check ($20 for 2011, or $20 per year for multiple years) payable to Gamma Sigma Delta (please don’t mail cash) and send it, along with your completed membership form to me at one of the addresses indicated.

If you wish to be placed on the GSD Inactive list, do not send dues but check the appropriate box on the form and return it to me. If I do not hear from you by June 30, 2011, I will remove your name from our mailing list. You can always return to active membership just by sending me your annual dues. Also, if you know of GSD members who have moved to Nebraska, please send me their name(s) and address(es) or have them contact me so they can become active here. We wish to welcome all of you who have recently transferred into our Nebraska Chapter.

Those of you who have Retired (refer to list next page) or received the Distinguished Service of Agriculture Award of Merit (refer to list below) are not required to pay dues and should have previously received a Permanent membership card. Retired persons who do not return the completed form to me by June 30, 2011 will be removed from the mailing list due to the cost of mailing our newsletters.

Those of you who have paid dues in advance are so noted on the Prepaid list. Please check to see if my extension date is correct for your prepaid dues. For those of you who have a campus email address, please use that address to help reduce our postage expenses.


If you have retired and wish to stay on our mailing list, you must complete the attached form and mail it to the appropriate address below by June 30, 2011. If you wish, you may call the information in to me at (402) 472-2123. Please ask for our secretary, Ms. Marilyn Weidner.

Best regards,

Robert J Wright

Robert J Wright
Membership Coordinator

NOTE: New members inducted in 2011 are also Prepaid through December 31, 2011!!
GAMMA SIGMA DELTA
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

_____ I am enclosing $20 as I wish to remain an active member for 2011.

_____ Payment in ADVANCE. I am enclosing $ _________ to extend my active membership
__________ years at $20 per year.

_____ I am NOT enclosing a dues payment as I wish to become inactive.

_____ I have RETIRED and wish to remain ON the mailing list

_____ I have RETIRED and wish to be taken OFF the active mailing list.

To save mailing costs, please provide your email address below.

NAME

ADDRESS

ZIP CODE

PHONE

E-MAIL

Please return the completed form to:

For On-Campus Mail

Robert J. Wright
GSD Membership Coordinator
Entomology Department
ENTO 202 - 0816

For U.S. Mail

Robert J. Wright
GSD Membership Coordinator
Entomology Department
University of Nebraska
Lincoln NE 68583-0816