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Gamma Sigma Delta, Nebraska Chapter Newsletter, August 1996

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Gamma Sigma Delta

NEWSLETTER

Nebraska Chapter

August 1996

**Robert Raun Seminar
and
Annual Meeting
September 13, 1996
East Campus Union
2:00 p.m.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I began to write my message for this newsletter, I found myself doing some reminiscing, looking at the present and doing some future thinking for the Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta.

I was very pleased to represent our chapter at the conclave of the Society in late June in Moscow, Idaho. I hope by my attending the conclave I can contribute to the success of the Nebraska Chapter.

My attendance at the conclave stimulated my thinking about the past, present, and future.

The Past

My reminiscing included studying the national handbook for officers of local chapters. Here are some informative facts about Gamma Sigma Delta:

Objectives: The broad objective of the Society is to encourage advancement and improvement in all branches of agricultural science and the agriculture industry. Specific objectives encourage high standards of scholarship and leadership in all branches of agricultural science and education; encourage high quality achievement, professional ethics, and devotion to service of those entering into and working in all branches of agriculture; render service that will benefit all

branches of agriculture; and promote a better understanding of the agricultural sector by the general public.

Our Name: The Greek meaning of our name is "the binding together of earth, the mother of all, and the practice of agriculture and the arts relating thereto for the welfare of mankind."

Colors: The standard colors of the Society are sand and forest green; to represent the soil and growing plants, in accordance with the Greek meaning of the Society's name.

Awards: The Society and the Nebraska Chapter give several awards each year. The highest award of the Society is the Distinguished Achievement in Agriculture. Individuals are nominated by the local chapter. Recipients must be members of Gamma Sigma Delta and have made great contributions to agriculture in the form of teaching, research, extension, or other distinguished service. The Nebraska Chapter has the most honorees of the 47 chapters, with seven members honored since the award was initiated in 1951. Dr. Dermot Coyne from Horticulture, was the latest honoree in 1995. A committee from our chapter is beginning to prepare a nomination in 1997 for consideration by the awards committee of the International Society.

National Officers: We have had three Nebraska members who have served as president, one as treasurer (Dr. Earl Ellington currently serving) and four members have served as historian.

The Present

At the recent conclave, I was able to compare our chapter with other chapters around the country. In some areas the Nebraska Chapter excels, while in other

areas we have some work to do. Overall, I found the meeting very helpful. It will take some time to study some possible changes that should be considered. However, we have a very fine, progressive group of officers who will approach the future in a very positive manner. I have asked Earl Ellington, International Treasurer, to give a more detailed report of the 1996 conclave in this newsletter.

Now to our chapter -- a special thanks to the committee headed by Fayrene Hamouz on a successful Scholarship Recognition Banquet held March 10, 1996. Thanks also to the scholarship committee, led by Marilyn Schnepf, for the selection of the 41 juniors and 26 sophomores who ranked in the upper ten percent of their classes in CASNR. Dr. Priscilla Grew, UNL Vice Chancellor for Research, addressed the group on the "Challenge of Change."

The Future

The annual meeting of the Nebraska Chapter will be highlighted with a seminar by an agriculturist recognized for contributions to his community, state, and nation. Robert Raun, a lifelong farmer, past director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and a former member of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, will make a public address on the future of agriculture at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 13, at the Nebraska East Union. The seminar is open to anyone. Members are encouraged to attend. We ask that you invite students as well as anyone interested in our Society.

The annual business meeting of Gamma Sigma Delta will follow Mr. Raun's presentation at approximately 2:45 p.m.

The last chapter activity for 1996 is the Initiation and Awards Banquet to be held Sunday evening, November 24, 1996. For this event we need the help of all the members of our chapter. The call for nominations for membership, awards for research, teaching, extension and merit will be mailed in early August. **Please** consider making nominations for membership and/or the awards. The viability and growth of the Nebraska Chapter is very dependent upon your effort to make these nominations. The nominations require some work, but the selection of new members is crucial to the success of our chapter. Nominations for member-

ship are due on September 6 to the Chair of the Membership Committee, Doyle Wolverton (Animal Science). Nominations for awards are due to the respective chairs on September 13.

This has been a long column, but we had a lot to share.

*Loyd L. Young, President
Nebraska Chapter*

Initiation and Awards Banquet

November 24, 1996

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Conclave Highlights

The most recent activity for the international officers of Gamma Sigma Delta was the 1996 Conclave and Executive Meetings. This 45th Biennial Conclave was held June 22 - 25 in Moscow, Idaho and it was hosted by the University of Idaho and Washington State University. The Executive Meetings were held prior to and following the Conclave. A total of 18 chapters were represented with delegates, and several chapters were represented by two or three participants. The Nebraska Chapter was represented by Chapter President and Delegate, Loyd Young, and Earl Ellington as an international officer.

The Biennial Conclave featured speaker was Geoffrey Gamble, Acting Provost, Washington State University, and his topic, which was of interest to all, was "Restructuring Higher Education for the 21st Century." Other parts of the Conclave consisted of business meetings, workshops, poster displays and chapter reports. Loyd Young prepared the display for the Nebraska Chapter and gave the chapter report. Three workshops were conducted during the Conclave by the international officers. Jim Mortensen and Joe Kotrlík provided leadership for one entitled "Providing Leadership and Service for the 21st Century." John Riley conducted another on "Chapter Operations", as did Earl Ellington for one on "Building a Top Chapter."

Award recipients for 1996 were as follows: Outstanding Chapter, Louisiana State University Chapter; New Activity, Texas A and M Chapter; Distinguished Achievement in Agriculture, Dr. Fuller Bazer at Texas A and M; and Poster, Louisiana State University Chapter. Officers for 1996-98 are as follows: President, Joe Kotrlik, Louisiana State University; President Elect, John Riley, University of Tennessee; Secretary, Richard Bull, University of Idaho; Treasurer, Carolyn Boyle, Mississippi State University; and Historian, Mary Warnock, University of Arkansas. At this Conclave, Earl Ellington completed two terms as International Treasurer and agreed to continue working with the board by providing leadership for the Chapter Enrichment Project. As invited in previous newsletters, ideas for chapter enrichment activities are most welcome.

A most enjoyable activity was a dinner cruise on the beautiful Lake Coeur D' Alene. This activity was hosted by the University of Idaho Chapter in celebration of the Society's 90th anniversary.

Please see the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for additional information on the Conclave.

Earl F. Ellington
International Officer

Member Nominations Due

September 6, 1996

NEWS FROM THE HISTORIAN

Recently I had an inquiry about what our dues are used for during the year. One of the largest items is the Scholarship Recognition Dinner in March. At that time we invite sophomore and junior students with high grades to be our guests and to present a \$250 sophomore scholarship award. We also recognize the outstanding senior in agriculture at that dinner. There are also expenses related to our November Initiation and Awards Banquet. The cost of printing these NEWSLETTERS, dinner and banquet programs, letters, envelopes, and postage for the past year was \$1,666.07.

Keeping our membership informed is expensive, and we hope you feel you are getting your \$10 worth.

The following is current information about our active members. There are 425 on our mailing list to receive this NEWSLETTER, which is 13 less than the 438 at this time last year. This included a total of 391 in Nebraska with 221 on campus, 65 in Lincoln, and 105 in Greater Nebraska. There are 31 in 19 other states plus one in Ecuador, one in Mexico, and one in Turkey. We have active members in Goodyear, Phoenix and Tucson, AZ; Russellville, AR; Commerce City, Fort Collins, and Parker, CO; Hilo, HI; Aberdeen, ID; Ames and Mondamin, IA; Manhattan (2) and Overland Park, KS; Lexington, KY; Sault Ste Marie, MI; Eagan, Lakeville and Willmar (2), MN; Columbia, MO; Rutherford, NJ; Santa Fe, NM; Dunn and Raleigh, NC; Fargo (2), ND; Stillwater, OK; College Station, TX; Brookfield, VT; and Walla Walla, WA.

This year there are 86 who have paid dues for 1997 or beyond. We now have 55 on our retired list and 41 on our Award of Merit list, for a total of 96 who are not required to pay dues. Last year there were 86 who were not required to pay dues on our mailing list.

Since our last NEWSLETTER in February, two of our inactive members have died. Clarence LaRue was initiated as an Animal Husbandry senior on April 30, 1929 and died March 9, 1996 in DeKalb, IL where he had retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1972. Robert L. Ogden was initiated on May 18, 1965 as a faculty member in the Biochemistry and Nutrition Department and retired from the University of Nebraska on December 31, 1987. He was a past treasurer, vice-president, and president of this chapter from 1967 - 1970. He died on March 31, 1996. Please notify me if you know of other members who have died and have not been listed in one of our NEWSLETTERS.

Charles H. Adams, Historian
Nebraska Chapter

Award Nominations Due

September 13, 1996

**SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION
DINNER AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Outstanding Sophomore

Mary Beth Nabity, Pre veterinary Science major, from Chapman, Nebraska. Mary Beth is the 48th Sophomore to receive this award since they were started in 1961.

Outstanding Senior

Rebecca Jo Filkins, Agribusiness major, from Brunswick, Nebraska. Rebecca is the 48th Senior to receive this award since they were started in 1962.

Ag Alumni Membership Awards

Tracy J. Goesch, Agronomy major, from Spencer, Nebraska.

Jess J. Spotanski, Agronomy major, from York, Nebraska.

Tracy and Jess are the 28th and 29th students who have been nominated for this award by Gamma Sigma Delta since the awards were started in 1980.

Forty-one Juniors and 26 Sophomores with High Scholarship (above 3.70 GPA and in the upper 10% of their class) were recognized at the dinner.

*Charles H. Adams, Historian
Nebraska Chapter*



GAMMA SIGMA DELTA ACTIVITIES

Executive Committee Meetings

11:45 am, Nebraska East Union
August 20, 1996
October 15, 1996
December 10, 1996

Seminar and Annual Business Meeting

2:00 pm, Nebraska East Union
September 13, 1996

Initiation and Awards Banquet

6:00 pm, Nebraska East Union
November 24, 1996