

1997

Gamma Sigma Delta, Nebraska Chapter Newsletter, August 1997

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Gamma Sigma Delta

NEWSLETTER

Nebraska Chapter

August 1997

**Dayle Williamson Seminar
and
Annual Meeting
September 19, 1997
East Campus Union
2:00 p.m.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As summer activities reach a peak, it is once again time to think of our major Gamma Sigma Delta activities. The Annual Meeting will be held as usual in September, as noted in the event block above my message. We will again have a seminar precede the meeting. Dayle Williamson, Director of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, will be our speaker and will bring us a message involving the leadership needed by professionals involved in agriculture and natural resources. Please put the event on your calendar.

Because the primary objective of Gamma Sigma Delta is to recognize outstanding achievements by students and professionals working in agriculture and related areas, I'm asking each of you to think about those that are worthy of recognition by Gamma Sigma Delta. A nomination for membership is required for all individuals, except undergraduate students. A nomination does not require a lengthy write-up, but only requires the completion

of a nomination form, which is enclosed with this mailing, and a brief statement of the noteworthy accomplishments that can be used by the membership committee to make a recommendation to the members voting at the annual meeting. Please review the membership criteria and submit a nomination to the Membership Committee. Very few nominations for alumni have been made in the last few years. The important dates are given with the nomination materials.

Likewise, recognition of noteworthy achievement by our Chapter originates by nominations from Chapter members. Nominations are needed for the annual awards: the Chapter Award of Merit and the Chapter Awards for Teaching, Extension, and Research. Again, forms are enclosed with this mailing and do not require an extensive write-up to be considered by the respective Awards Committees. So, put on your thinking caps and nominate worthy individuals. In my opinion, it is better to nominate individuals and present awards when the professionals are still active rather than wishing the Chapter had presented an award when the individuals are gone.

Your Chapter had a good Scholarship Recognition Dinner this past Spring, and we were encouraged by the attendance of the students. Whenever possible, put in a good word for Gamma Sigma Delta and

encourage students that are invited to attend the Recognition Dinner and Initiation Banquet to become a part of the worldwide network of Gamma Sigma Delta Scholars.

Our Chapter Constitution and Bylaws can best be described as antiquated. The International Office suggested that these documents be updated. The Chapter Constitution and bylaws date to the time the Chapter was founded with an amendment dated sometime prior to 1966. Rather than work with the old documents, a Committee of Loyd Young, Keith Niemann and myself began with constitutions and bylaws from several other Chapters that were sent to us by the International Office. A draft version has been submitted to the International Committee for comment. It is our intention to have the new Chapter Constitution and Bylaws voted on at the Annual Meeting on September 19. A copy is enclosed with this mailing. If anyone wishes to see a copy of the old Constitution and Bylaws, please let me know and a copy will be sent to you.

Thanks to all Committee members that perform their tasks with minimal input from the Executive Committee. Such support is what really makes the Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta tick!!!

Kenneth Von Bargen
President, Nebraska Chapter

**Gamma Sigma Delta
Initiation and Awards Banquet
November 23, 1997
Nebraska East Union
6:00 pm**

NEWS FROM THE HISTORIAN

Since our last NEWSLETTER in February, Gregory L. Davis, Horticulture, has transferred to our Chapter. He was initiated into the Kansas State Chapter on November 16, 1990. If you have had new people who have come to Nebraska and have been initiated at another chapter, please let us know so we can invite them to become active in our Chapter.

As for International Gamma Sigma Delta news, a new chapter was installed in April at Florida A & M University, Tallahassee. This is the first new chapter since 1989 and brings the total to 48 chapters. Also, as of June 1996, there have been over 92,000 members initiated since the beginning of the Society. Of these 3,269 have been from our Nebraska chapter.

We have also had seven of our members die since our February NEWSLETTER. *Joseph O. Young* died on February 9, 1997. He had been initiated here as a faculty member and Chairman of the Horticulture Department on May 21, 1963 and became an inactive member on June 8, 1979 and retired in 1980. He was the founder and first director of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. *Paul E. Fischbach* died February 25, 1997. He had been initiated here as a faculty member of the Agricultural Engineering Department on May 16, 1956. He received our Chapter Award of Merit in 1981. *Walter L. Tolman* died on March 14, 1997. He was initiated into our chapter as a Senior in Animal Husbandry on May 21, 1926 and had retired July 1, 1974 from doing Animal Science Research at the Northeast Nebraska Experiment Station. He became inactive in 1982. *Senator Jerome Warner* died on April 20, 1997. He was an

active member who had been initiated into our chapter as a Senior in Animal Husbandry on May 10, 1951. He had served as one of our State Senators from 1962 until his death. *John Muehlbeier* was initiated on May 16, 1956 as a faculty member from the Department of Agricultural Economics. He received our Chapter Award of Merit in the spring of 1968 and retired in 1974. He died on May 17, 1997. On June 18, 1997 *J. Russell Batie* died. He had been initiated into our Chapter on May 15, 1930 as a Senior in Animal Husbandry and became an inactive member on February 5, 1967. He was a former County Extension Agent and also a Supervisor for the Soil Conservation Service. *John W. Schmidt*, an active member of our Chapter, died July 15, 1997. He had been initiated into the Kansas Chapter in January 1949 where he had received his master's degree and later, in 1984, an Honorary Doctorate Degree. He came to the Agronomy Department at UNL in 1954 and retired December 31, 1985. On November 23, 1969 he and Virgil A. Johnson received the GSD International Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture for their work in wheat breeding. They are the only team of researchers to receive this GSD International Award of Merit. Of our seven Nebraska Chapter International Award recipients, he is the second to die. Dr. George A. Young received the 1961 award on March 8, 1962. He was the first UNL member to receive this award. He died in 1964. If you know of other members who have died and have not been listed in one of our NEWSLETTERS, please notify me.

The following is current information about our active members. There are 437 on our mailing list to receive this NEWSLETTER which is 12 more than the

425 at this time last year. This includes a total of 406 in Nebraska with 240 on campus, 59 in Lincoln and 107 in Greater Nebraska. There are 27 in 16 other states plus one in Brazil, one in Equador, one in Mexico and one in Turkey. We have active members in Goodyear, Phoenix and Tuscon, AZ; Russellville, AR; Commerce City, Fort Collins and Parker, CO; Hilo, HI; Ames and Mondamin, IA; Manhattan and Overland Park, KS; Lexington, KY; Sault Ste. Marie, MI; Egan, Jasper and Willmar, MN; West New York, NJ; Santa Fe, NM; Raleigh (2), NC; Fargo (2), ND; Stillwater, OK; Walla Walla, WA and Racine, WI.

This year there are 68 who have paid dues for 1998 or beyond. We now have 53 on our retired list and 41 on our Award of Merit list for a total of 94 who are not required to pay dues. Last year there were 96 who were not required to pay dues on our mailing list. "Thank you" to all of you who have sent in your annual dues.

*Charles H. Adams, Historian
Nebraska Chapter*

**THE BALLOT FOR THE
ELECTION OF TREASURER IS
ENCLOSED**

RETURN BY SEPTEMBER 5, 1997

**Member Nominations
And
Award Nominations Due
September 10, 1997**

SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION DINNER RECIPIENTS

Outstanding Sophomore

Travis J. Woollen, Agronomy major, from Alma, Nebraska. Travis is the 49th Sophomore to receive this award since it was started in 1961.

Outstanding Seniors

Teddy E. Kingham, Agricultural Engineering major, from Norton, Kansas.

Judi L. Woitalewicz, Horticulture major, from Loup City, Nebraska.

Teddy and Judi become the 49th and 50th students to receive this award since we started recognizing seniors in 1962.

Thirty-eight Juniors and 34 Sophomores with High Scholarship (above 3.7 GPA for sophomores and above 3.656 for juniors and also in the upper 10 percent of their class) were recognized at this dinner.

*Charles H. Adams, Historian
Nebraska Chapter*

GAMMA SIGMA DELTA ACTIVITIES

Executive Committee Meetings

11:45 am, Nebraska East Union

August 19, 1997

October 15, 1997

December 9, 1997

Seminar & Annual Business Meeting

2:00 pm, Nebraska East Union

September 19, 1997

Initiation & Awards Banquet

6:00 pm, Nebraska East Union

November 23, 1997
