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Fall 2019

## Gamma Sigma Delta, Nebraska Chapter Newsletter, Issue #58 Fall 2019

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Excellence in the practice of agricultural pursuits

# Gamma Sigma Delta

## The Honor Society of Agriculture

### Nebraska Chapter Newsletter

Issue #58

Fall 2019

#### Important Dates

- Membership & Award Nominations Due: December 2, 2019. All Nomination information and forms are available at the following link: [Award and Membership Nominations](#)
- Annual Initiation & Awards Reception - 3:00 PM January 26, 2020

## President's Message

### President's Message

With this, my last President's Message, I will take a moment to remind us of who we are and ask us to look to the future represented by our student members.

Nebraska Gamma Sigma Delta is an honorary society and we exist to recognize member accomplishment in the Agricultural, Natural Resources, and Family & Consumer Sciences and to celebrate student success in academics and service. We do this by recognizing outstanding accomplishment at our annual awards ceremony that will be held on January 26, 2020. With the ongoing remodeling of the East Union we are still looking for a venue and welcome suggestions.

Student members of Gamma Sigma Delta are our future and students have been asking, if I join the society, how will my membership be meaningful? We will be challenging students to appoint members to participate in the Executive Committee and help guide what we do and how as a society we can best serve them.

Last year, we inaugurated a New Perspectives theme for our spring meeting that featured Dr. Elizabeth VanWormer. She informed us about One Health, a developing perspective that assists us in considering how what we do intersects with a larger environmental and social framework than we are used to considering and that provides opportunities for expanded impacts. We will be asking our student members to be active in helping us consider and define the theme for 2020 and the next few years and tell us how Gamma Sigma Delta can best be of value to them.

In closing, I will circle back to the Award Reception that is only a few months away. We ask all Gamma Sigma Delta members to recognize accomplishment by encouraging new members and by submitting award nominations. Nomination information, forms and past recipients are available by following the link in the Important Dates box above.

We ask student members to participate in Gamma Sigma Delta leadership and be active in what we do and how we move into the future.

Finally, I want to congratulate Paul Hay, long-time Gamma Sigma Delta member, who will serve as Nebraska Chapter President for 2020 and John Westra as International President Elect. Congratulations and thank you Paul and John!

**Gary Brewer, President,  
Nebraska Chapter Honor Society of Agriculture, Gamma Sigma Delta**

## **Nebraska Chapter and Undergraduate Members Recognized by Gamma Sigma Delta International**

As indicated in the pages from the newsletter our chapter was recognized as the Outstanding chapter. Congratulations to Micah Most, the 2019 recipient of the Honor Society of Agriculture Gamma Sigma Delta International Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship Award and Kaitlin Taylor is the 2019 winner of the Gamma Sigma Delta International Foundation Service Scholarship. It worthy to note 2019 is the fourth consecutive year a Nebraska Chapter undergraduate has received the Undergraduate Scholarship Award and the John Riley Service Scholarship.

### **F. Y. 2019 Outstanding Chapter Award University of Nebraska**

The University of Nebraska Chapter is the recipient of the 2019 Outstanding Chapter Award.

The Chapter initiated 48 new members and presented 22 awards. The following are other activities for the year.

- Gamma Sigma Delta Initiation and Awards Reception: The reception was held on January 27, 2019, to initiate new members and award recipients. The reception was attended by 110 people, including the Vice Chancellor and Deans of Extension, Research, and Teaching.
- Five executive committee meetings held.
- Annual seminar: The Nebraska Chapter Seminar and Annual Meeting was held on April 11, 2019. It began with an informative presentation by Dr. Elizabeth VanWormer, University of Nebraska-Lincoln's One Health Coordinator, "One Health in Nebraska and Beyond."
- Published two newsletters, each in the Fall and Spring, containing information on new members, award recipients, business meeting minutes, and seminar presenter.
- Nebraska Chapter Past President, John Westra, was elected as International President Elect.

***Congratulations to the University of Nebraska Chapter for Earning the 2019 Outstanding Chapter Award!***



## **F. Y. 2019 International Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship Award**

The 2019 recipient of the Honor Society of Agriculture Gamma Sigma Delta International Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship is Micah Most.



Micah Most, a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is the 2019 winner of the Gamma Sigma Delta International Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship. Micah's major is Animal Science and is an exceptional student with a 3.98 GPA.

Micah Most is an individual with very high academic standards and levels of performance in the classroom and research lab. Micah's academic achievements are exemplary. He has 50 graded courses with ten A+'s, 39 A's, and a single A-. He is a member of the University Honors Program and is a recipient of a Summer 2018 Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience Undergraduate Research Grant. He has been a very productive undergraduate in the research lab. His presentation of findings from his cell culture experiments with fetal myoblasts to explore how maternofetal stress impacts post-partum development presented at the UNL Summer Research Symposium was outstanding.

Micah displayed leadership in Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity developing, presenting and obtaining approval of constitutional amendments increasing academic expectations and standards required for membership. Micah also provided leadership for the CASNR Coffee Club, where the participation in the monthly informal gatherings of faculty and students grew from 8- 10 to over sixty under his leadership.

## **F. Y. 2019 International John Riley Service Scholarship**

The John Riley Service Scholarship was created to honor John Riley and his many years of dedicated service to Gamma Sigma Delta at the Chapter and International Level. John served many years as Secretary and was President. His tireless service kept Gamma Sigma Delta functioning at a high level.

The 2019 recipient of the John Riley Service Scholarship is Katlin Taylor.

Kaitlin Taylor, a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is the 2019 winner of the Gamma Sigma Delta International Foundation Service Scholarship. Kaitlin is an Agricultural Education major with a perfect 4.00 GPA.



Kaitlin held multiple positions in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) and her department, including the Jr. Chair of the CASNR Week Program Council, and the Vice President of the Horticulture Club. She was also selected into the Nebraska Corn & Soybean Ambassador Program, sponsored by the Nebraska Corn Growers Association and the Nebraska Soybean Association, to learn more about the agricultural industry and become better advocates for agriculture.

Kaitlin is also very active in leadership and volunteer efforts in her community and has served as an intern in Phelps County Extension (Holdrege, NE), Lauritzen Gardens (Omaha, NE), and Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (Lincoln, NE). Source: 2019 GSD Newsletter

# **Gamma Sigma Delta Committees 2019**

## **EXECUTIVE**

President: Gary Brewer  
President-Elect: Paul Hay  
Secretary/Treasurer: Dennis Brink  
Membership Coordinator: Bob Wright  
Historian: Dana W.R. Boden  
Past-President: John Westra

## **AWARD OF MERIT**

Ron Yoder (2019)\*  
Allen Blezek (2020)  
P. Stephen Baenziger (2020)  
Marjorie J. Kostelnik (2021)  
Terence Hejny (2021)

## **EXTENSION AWARD**

Robert Wright (2019)\*  
Matt Spangler (2020)  
Amit Jhala (2021)

## **RESEARCH AWARD**

Stephen Kachman (2020)\*  
Rodney Moxley (2021)

## **TEACHING AWARD**

Tom Burkey (2019)\*  
Tom Weissling (2020)  
Jennifer Wood (2021)

## **AUDIT**

Julie Albrecht

## **INITIATION AND AWARDS**

### **RECEPTION**

John Westra  
Dennis Brink  
Bob Wright  
Dana W.R. Boden

### **INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE - TBA**

### **SEMINAR - TBA**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Bob Wright (Coordinator)

### **SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION - TBD**

\* Chairperson



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## GAMMA SIGMA DELTA

### 2020 ANNUAL DUES NOTICE FOR NEBRASKA CHAPTER

November 4, 2019

**TO:** Gamma Sigma Delta Members

**SUBJECT:** Renewal of Active Membership / Dues for 2020

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership in Gamma Sigma Delta. 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 2020 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 2020, 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 on the form.

Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta members who have paid their dues are listed on the next page year. Those of you who have paid dues in advance please check to see if my extension date is correct for your prepaid dues. If you were an active member in 2018 and your name is not on this list, your membership has expired.

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. 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.

Best regards,

*Robert J. Wright*

Robert J. Wright  
Membership Coordinator

The following list includes dates active membership ends. If you are not included in the list your active membership has expired.

Please consider paying your 2019 dues before the end of the year and remain active or become an active member of the Nebraska Chapter for 2020 or multiple years in advance?

Annual Dues \$20.00

***MORE ACTIVE MEMBERS equals more opportunities for increasing recognitions of outstanding students and presentations of programs!***

Last Name	First Name	Date Active Membership Ends
Barnes	Ethann	12/31/2019
Beede	Kristin	12/31/2019
Bernthal	Rebecca A	12/31/2019
Bidne	Katie	12/31/2019
Bierma	David L.	12/31/2019
Boden	Dana W	12/31/2019
Brewer	Gary J.	12/31/2019
Briese	Lee	12/31/2019
Cadaret	Caitlin	12/31/2019
Clutter	Archie	12/31/2019
DeBoer	Karen	12/31/2019
Erickson	Galen	12/31/2019
Grassini	Patricio	12/31/2019
Hartman	Terra	12/31/2019
Hejny	Terrence A.	12/31/2019
Husmann	Dann	12/31/2019
Isom	Loren D.	12/31/2019
Larson	Jonathan L.	12/31/2019
McFee	Renee	12/31/2019
Nixon	Jennifer S	12/31/2019
Petersen	Jessica L.	12/31/2019
Read	Paul E	12/31/2019
Reinders	Jordan	12/31/2019
Spangler	Matthew	12/31/2019
Springman	Shelby	12/31/2019
Weissling	Thomas	12/31/2019
Westra	John	12/31/2019



Aiken	David	12.31/2019
Blankenship	Erin	12/31/2020
Breesawitz	Stacy	12/31/2020
Carmona	Gabriela	12/31/2020
Jacobson	Julie J.	12/31/2020
Jacobson	Michael B.	12/31/2020
Moxley	Rod	12/31/2020
Schmidt	Jessica	12/31/2020
Yang	Junsi	12/31/2020
Yates	Dustin T.	12/31/2020
Youm	Ousmane	12/31/2020
Baenziger	P Stephen	12/31/2021
Burkhart-Kriesel	Cheryl A	12/31/2021
Calkins	Chris R	12/31/2021
Louis	Joe	12/31/2021
Sindelar	Michael	12/31/2021
Zempleni	Janos	12/31/2021
Gilley	John E	12/31/2022
Jhala	Amit	12/31/2022
Lubben	Bradley D.	12/31/2022
Rasby	Richard J	12/31/2022
Wright	Robert J	12/31/2019
Hibberd	Charles A	12/31/2023
Zempleni	Janos	12/31/2023

In addition, there are 29 Award of Merit and 14 retirees remaining active who are exempt from paying dues.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing \$20 as I wish to remain an active member for 2020

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing \$ 20 for my 2019 active membership dues

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 e-mail 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 103 - 0816

### **For U.S. Mail**

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

## **Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund**

Your Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta has established a 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. The current balance in the fund is \$20,851.25.

A Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Selection Committee will organize the application and selection process. Graduate students in Agriculture, Human Sciences, 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.

For more information, call 800-432-3216 or visit the website at [www.nufoundation.org](http://www.nufoundation.org)

Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund #10996.

You may make your donation by

I. Mailing the following form to:

University of Nebraska Foundation  
P.O. Box 82555  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2555

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to the **University of Nebraska Foundation** for the Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund #10996

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

OR

II. Give online at: <https://nufoundation.org/search?fundSearch=true&q=10996>

***In Memoriam***

## **Robert Sorensen**

Robert Carl Sorensen (“Bob”) passed away on June 4, 2019 at Pemberly Place in Lincoln. He was born on July 24, 1933 in Omaha to the late Carl and Dorothy (Dietz) Sorensen. Bob was a professor of Agronomy at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln for 35 years, having retired in 1999. He taught over 6000 students, had 31 research publications, 11 educational publications, and received numerous teaching awards. He was a member of Sigma Xi, Alpha Zeta, and North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA). Bob was inducted into the Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta May 5, 1955. He served 8 years in the Army Reserve. Bob was a member of New Hope United Methodist Church (formerly Warren UMC) since 1965.

Bob is survived by his wife of 60 years, Nancy (Wilbanks) Sorensen and their immediate family: son David, his wife Tracy, and their children: Anne, Alexandra, and Erik Sorensen; son Bill, his wife Karen, and her daughter Kari Walters; brother Richard Sorensen, his wife Connie, and their children: Susie, Barb and Steve. Bob was preceded in death by his sister, Janet Sorensen.