



Annual Newsletter for 2008

Important Dates

Membership Nominations Due	January 23, 2009
Award Nominations Due	January 23, 2009
Abstracts for Research Expo Due	February 27, 2009
GSD Research Exhibition	March 18-19, 2009
Initiation and Awards Reception	April 8, 2009

Message from the Chapter President: Fred Gildow

Hello and welcome to our 2008 Newsletter. As the 2008 President of our Penn State Chapter, I want to take this opportunity to share with you information of interest to all our members.

- ❖ First, our Penn State Chapter received 1 of 5 Golden Chapter Awards from the International office of Gamma Sigma Delta, due in part to our sponsorship of the Annual Research Exhibition and our scholarship awards.
- ❖ Second, we were awarded a grant from Gamma Sigma Delta help purchase a display case to recognize outstanding scholars in our college and to advertise chapter activities. Assoc. Dean of Research, Bruce McPheron generously supplied matching funds for the purchase. Our new display has been ordered and should appear in the lobby of the ASI building soon.
- ❖ Third, over this coming year we plan to increase member participation in chapter activities. I encourage faculty members to
 - Please consider volunteering to help when opportunities arise. We are a booster club for Agricultural Sciences working to increase awareness of the academic excellence in our Departments and College. We especially need help in setting up for and judging at the annual Research Exhibition in March.
 - Nominate your colleagues and graduate students for membership and encourage them to join our society.
 - Make your annual donation to the Chapter in any amount you feel comfortable with. These funds are used exclusively to support our award programs.

As the Honor Society for all Agricultural Sciences, our Chapter's goal is to encourage and acknowledge the highest standards of scholarship in all aspects of agricultural extension, research, and teaching. We do this primarily through our annual Faculty Excellence Awards, undergraduate scholarship awards, and awards distributed to outstanding undergraduate and graduate researchers at the annual Research Exhibition. The annual Research Exhibition Awards are supported in large part by the College Research and Resident Education Offices. However, the Faculty Excellence Awards and the Undergraduate Academic Excellence Awards are funded entirely through your donations. Therefore, if you believe in the value of promoting

and recognizing academic excellence in our College of Agricultural Sciences, then I hope you will continue to make an annual donation so we can continue our chapter's activities highlighting faculty and student academic excellence in our College.

- ❖ Fourth, in order to continue our ability to support the above functions and to enhance future membership participation, the *officers have voted to initiate annual dues for active membership*. Our local chapter receives no university funding for general operations and has been totally dependent on your donations to date. Because all of our donations are spent on awards each year, we have no funding to plan additional activities or for maintaining the chapter organization. Our plan for using dues and what you will get for them are explained below. If you have any questions about the Penn State Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, feel free to contact me at feg2@psu.edu.
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Your officers have planned several excellent activities for the current academic year. We look forward to your participation in our local chapter activities. Please check the activities and dates below and mark your calendars.

New Members in 2008

This year, 5 juniors, 10 seniors, 18 graduate students, and 3 faculty member were initiated into the Penn State Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta at April 2008 initiation/award ceremony. The speaker at the ceremony was **Deanne Behring**, Director for International Programs at the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Awards for 2008

Chapter Recognized as the 2008 GOLD Chapter Award Recipient

Last year our Chapter was selected by the international organization of Gamma Sigma Delta to receive the 2007 Bronze Chapter award during the 2006-07 academic year. We did even better this academic year. Our chapter won Gamma Sigma Delta Gold Chapter award in recognition of the activities and accomplishments of the chapter during 2007-2008 academic year. Only five chapters were recognized in this category; University of the Philippines (Las Banos), University of Tennessee, University of Kentucky, Pennsylvania State University, University of California-Davis. Congratulations to all members and officers!

Scholarship Awards – Gamma Sigma Delta awarded citations and scholarships to sophomore **Lorraine J. Cretsinger** and **Ron A. Moshers**, junior **Emily H. Thomas**, and seniors **Bradley M. Rekstad** and **Clare K. Wagner** at the April 2008 initiation/awards ceremony.

Faculty Awards – At the April 2008 ceremony, Gamma Sigma Delta recognized the following faculty members for their outstanding achievements: Teaching, **Dr. Rama Radhakrishna** (Ag & Extension Education); Extension, **Dr. Gregory Roth** (Crop & Soil Science); Research, **Dr. Gregory Ziegler** (Food Science)

Gamma Sigma Delta Student Research Exhibition MARCH 21-22, 2008 – The Penn State Chapter and the College of Agricultural Sciences sponsored the first Annual Gamma Sigma Delta Student Research Exhibition in March 1995. On March 19 and 20, 2008, over 70 research posters were presented by graduate and undergraduate students from all academic units in the College at the 14th Annual Gamma Sigma Delta Research Expo. Our chapter, along with generous support from the Research and Resident Education offices of the College, provided over \$2,500 for student awards at the Research Expo. **Rob Shannon**, Immediate Past President organized this year's event that was held in the new Forestry

Resources Building. Many thanks to Rob, the student presenters and the judges for making the 2008 Expo a rewarding and successful event!

The following students were recognized at the Research Expo.

Graduate:

Biological Sciences: *First Place*, **Karen Racicot** (Dairy & Animal Science, Advisor Troy Ott); *Second Place*, **Courtney Smith** (Poultry Science, Advisor Guy Barbato); *Third Place*, **Beth Houser** (Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences, Advisors Bhushan Jayaro and Arthur Hattel), *Fourth Place*, **Mandeep Sharma** (Crop & Soil Sciences, Advisor Surinder Chopra); *Fifth Place*, **Farag Ibraheem** (Crop & Soil Sciences, Advisor Surinder Chopra).

Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences: *First Place*, **Sarah Pabian** (Forest Resources, Advisor Margaret Brittingham); *Second Place*, **Ashlee Dere** (Crop & Soil Sciences, Advisor Richard Stehouwer); *Third Place*, **Ruth Mick** (Crop & Soil Sciences, Advisors Sjoerd Duiker and William Curran).

Physical and Engineering Sciences: *First Place*, **Farzaneh Rezaei** (Ag & Biological Engineering, Advisors Tom Richards and Bruce Logan); *Second Place*, **Jino Chacko** (Food Science, Advisors John Floros and R.C. Anantheswaran).

Social Sciences: *First Place*, **Ginger Fenton** (Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences, Advisor Bhushan Jayaro); *Second Place*, **Bart Gill** (Ag & Extension Education, Advisor John Ewing); *Third Place*, **Sabrina Chrznowski** (Environmental Pollution Control, Advisor Dennis Decoteau).

Undergraduate:

First Place, Michael Woods (Ag & Extension Education, Advisor John Ewing); *Second Place*, Matthew Gardner (Entomology, Advisor Kelli Hoover); *Third Place*, Janelle Hartzell (Dairy & Animal Science, Advisor Gabriella Varga); *Fourth Place*, Shara Terrill (Dairy & Animal Science, Advisor Jud Heinrichs); *Fifth Place*, Erin Nowelsky (Dairy & Animal Science, Advisor Troy Ott).

Planned Events and Deadlines: Check your calendars

Annual Gamma Sigma Delta Research Expo – The 2009 Research Expo will be held March 18-19, 2009. Abstracts deadline is February 27, 2009. Please check the website for more information (<http://gsd.cas.psu.edu>).

Spring Initiation and Awards Reception April 8, 2008 – The reception and Initiation and Award ceremony will be held in the Keeney Commons and Room 252 in the Food Science Building, respectively. This year's guest speaker is Dr. Robert Steele, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State. New initiates – senior students, graduate students, faculty, and alumni – and our 2008-2009 extension, research, and teaching awards will be presented during this Spring Initiation and Awards Ceremony. The outstanding sophomore, junior, and senior students in the College of Agricultural Sciences will also be recognized at this time. The Initiation and Awards Ceremony is an important occasion for student and faculty members, so we encourage attendance by our members for this event.

Membership Nominations – All members are encouraged to nominate outstanding faculty, extension educators, alumni, and graduate students to become members. Nominations should be directed to GSD representatives or unit leaders. Graduate students must have: (1) completed at least 2/5 of the required program for the Master's or Ph.D. degree; (2) shown **superior** ability to conduct research and/or advanced study in our College; (3) shown **promise** of making further contributions; and (4) obtained at least a 3.5 grade-point average in graduate work. The nomination forms are available from your GSD representative, or on the Gamma Sigma Delta website (<http://gsd.cas.psu.edu>) or you may also contact Ali Demirci, Secretary-Treasurer, (3-1098, demirci@psu.edu). Nominations are due by **January 23, 2009**.

Nominations for Awards – Our extension, research, and teaching awards recognize excellent faculty for their contributions. Nomination forms are available from your GSD representative and unit leader. Please nominate outstanding faculty and help prepare the documentation by **January 23, 2009**. If you need copies of the forms, visit the GSD website (<http://gsd.cas.psu.edu>) or contact Ali Demirci, Secretary-Treasurer, (3-1098, demirci@psu.edu).

Contributions needed– Our Gamma Sigma Delta chapter depends on contributions from the members to fund its programs. Each year we present cash awards to the outstanding sophomore, junior, and senior in the College; provide financial support for awards and expenses at the GSD/College of Agricultural Sciences Research Exhibition; and underwrite expenses at our Spring Initiation and Awards Reception. Our ability to sponsor awards and have chapter activities depends completely on your financial contributions. The officers appreciate very much the contributions of members in the past year. Please consider making a monetary contribution to the chapter this year so that we can continue our outstanding programs that emphasize the scholarly achievements and promise of our students, faculty, and staff. This year we are asking members to contribute \$25 or whatever each of us is able to contribute. It is particularly important that active members contribute. **Last year, 20 retired and active faculty members donated a total of \$625.** All these activities listed above wouldn't be possible without the help of GDS members and the college. The Gold Chapter Award that we received last year was a clear indication of the success of our chapter. We should continue to do so. Along with the form at the end the newsletter, please make your check payable to Gamma Sigma Delta and send it to *Ali Demirci, 231 Agricultural Engineering Building, University Park, PA 16802* by January 23, 2009. **Thank you for your support of our chapter!**

Thank You

A special thank you to our Penn State Chapter donors in 2008:

R. S. Adams	Stanley Gesell	Gretchen Kuldau
Paul M. Anderson	Karl R. Girton	Robert H. Rumler
John S. Boyle	Henry A. Gruber	Alletta Manbeck Schadler
Diane V. Brown	Samuel Hayes	Robert D. Shannon
J. Lynne Brown	Kenneth D. Hickey	Stephen M. Smith
Joseph M. Duich	Leon R. Kneebone	Donald V. Waddington
Robert G. Elkin	Peter H. Krall	John H. Ziegler

Chapter Roster – If you know of chapter members who passed away recently or have moved away from the University, please contact Ali Demirci, Secretary-Treasurer, (3-1098, demirci@psu.edu) so that we can continue to update our roster. Also, please contact Ali if you know of faculty or other individuals at Penn State who were inducted into GSD at another university, whether as a student or as a faculty member, so we can invite them to participate in our Penn State chapter activities.

Department Representatives – The following individuals are serving as GSD department/unit representatives during the 2008-2009 year. Contact them for tickets to the Spring Initiation and Awards Reception, to get more information about Chapter activities, or to submit change of address information.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>GSD Rep</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Ag & Bio Eng	Rob Shannon	233 Ag Engr	5-7153	rshannon@psu.edu
Ag & Ext Ed	Joan Thomson	323 Ag Admin	3-3825	jthomson@psu.edu

Ag Ec & Rur Soc	Jill Findeis	112 E Armsby	3-8246	fa2@psu.edu
Crop & Soil Sci	Marvin Risius	243 ASI	5-1169	mlr6@psu.edu
College Admin	Nancy Ellen Kiernan	311 Ag Admin	5-1209	n1k@psu.edu
Dairy & An Sci	Gabriella Varga	324 Henning	3-4195	gvarga@psu.edu
Entomology	Nancy Ostiguy	542 ASI	3-2872	nxo3@psu.edu
Food Sci	Bob Beelman	404 Food Sci.	3-2964	rbb6@psu.edu
Forest Resources	Bill Sharpe	104 Land & Water	3-8564	wes@psu.edu
Horticulture	Dan Stearns	306 Tyson	3-6167	dstearns@psu.edu
PlantPathology	Paul Backman	222Buckhout	3-6733	pbackman@psu.edu
Poultry Science	Roland Leach	205 Henning	5-5082	lnr@psu.edu
Veterinary Sci	Lester Griel	115 Henning	5-7696	lcg1@psu.edu

2008- 2009 Officers – With your active participation, we’ll have a good year! Please contact the officers if you have questions about our activities or any other aspects of Gamma Sigma Delta.

The following individuals are your 2008-2009 Chapter Officers:

President: **Frederick Gildow**, 319 Buckhout Lab, feg2@psu.edu

Vice President: **Gretchen Kuldau**, 321 Buckhout Lab, kuldau@psu.edu

Secretary-Treasurer: **Ali Demirci**, 231 Agricultural Eng. Bldg, demirci@psu.edu

Historian: **Patreese Ingram**, 002C Ferguson Building, pd11@psu.edu

Immediate Past-President: **J. Lynne Brown**, 219 Food Science, f9a@psu.edu

For more information about the Penn State Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, including links to forms for Research Expo participation, membership nominations, and Award nominations, please visit our website (<http://gsd.cas.psu.edu/>).

PENNSTATE



College of
Agricultural Sciences

Gamma Sigma Delta



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

_____ I am enclosing \$15 as I wish to remain an active member for 2009.

_____ Payment in ADVANCE. I am enclosing \$ _____ to extend my active membership
_____ years at \$15 per year.

_____ I would like to donate \$ _____ to be used for scholarships and various activities.

Please note that your membership fee will cover the initiation/awards reception fee (*participation needs to be confirmed prior to the reception*) and the names of the active members will be included on website and recognized at the initiation/awards ceremony.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Please return the check and completed form to:

***Dr. Ali Demirci
231 Agricultural Engineering Building
Dept. of Agricultural and Biological Eng.
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802***