Message from the Chapter President: Gretchen Kulda

Welcome to the 2009-2010 Gamma Sigma Delta newsletter for the Penn State chapter. In this newsletter, you will find information about last year’s events including the faculty, staff and students honored with our awards, as well information and dates about this year’s upcoming events. Please note the dates for the research exhibition and spring awards and initiation ceremony and consider attending these events. Also included in the newsletter is information about nominations for membership and the faculty awards. Give this some thought and consider nominating one of your colleagues. I would like to personally invite you to participate in the chapter’s activities. Our research exhibition for students is highly successful, is well attended by student participants and has garnered the chapter recognition from Gamma Sigma Delta International several times. The success of the exhibition depends on the volunteer work of members in the College. Every year the exhibition needs between 25 and 30 judges to examine the posters presented. Please consider volunteering to do this. It is a great help to the chapter and it is quite satisfying to see the students presenting their research. Overall the quality of the posters is very high. We receive generous support from the College for the exhibition award monies and also last year for rental of the poster boards for this event. All other activities are funded through membership fees and donations from members. Last year the officers instituted a membership fee of $15 to be considered an active member of the chapter. This fee also covers the cost of the spring reception for those members. Please consider this relatively small donation to help keep the chapter functioning. As always we also welcome donations as well. Please contact me with any questions you may have about the chapter. I look forward to seeing at one of our events in the spring.

Enjoy the newsletter!
New Members in 2009
This year, 6 juniors, 20 seniors, 20 graduate students, 11 faculty, and 3 staff members were initiated into the Penn State Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta at April 2009 initiation/award ceremony. The keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Steele, Dean of College of Agricultural Sciences.

Awards for 2009
Chapter Recognized AGAIN as the GOLD Chapter Award Recipient
In the past few years, Penn State Chapter was selected by the international organization of Gamma Sigma Delta to receive the 2007 Bronze Chapter award and the 2008 Gold Chapter award. We did it AGAIN! Our chapter won the 2009 Gamma Sigma Delta Gold Chapter award in recognition of the activities and accomplishments during 2008-2009 academic year. Only five chapters were recognized in this category; Kentucky, Nebraska, Penn State, Arkansas, Arkansas-Pine Bluff. Congratulations to all members and officers!

Scholarship Awards – Gamma Sigma Delta awarded citations and scholarships to Sophomore, Christine E. Rowehl; junior, Stephanie P. Heilman; senior Emily H. Thomas at the April 2009 initiation/awards ceremony.

Faculty Awards – At the April 2009 ceremony, Gamma Sigma Delta recognized the following faculty members for their outstanding achievements: Teaching, Dr. Edward C. Jaenicke (Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology); Research, Dr. C. Peter Romaine (Plant Pathology); Extension, Patricia M. Comerford (Dairy and Animal Science).

Gamma Sigma Delta Student Research Exhibition MARCH 18-19, 2009 – 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 18 and 19, 2009, over 70 research posters were presented by graduate and undergraduate students from all academic units in the College at the 15th Annual Gamma Sigma Delta Research Expo. Our chapter, along with generous support from the Gerald T. Gentry Endowment for Graduate Education ($2,500) and Resident Education office of the College (over $700), provided for student awards at the Research Expo. We are also grateful to the College of Agricultural Sciences for covering the cost of poster board rental for the Research Expo. Lynne Brown, Immediate Past President organized this year’s event that was held in the new Forestry Resources Building. Many thanks to Lynne, the student presenters and the judges for making the 2009 Expo a rewarding and successful event!

The following students were recognized at the Research Expo.

Graduate:
Biological Sciences: First Place, Mankit Law (Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences; Advisor Avery August); Second Place, Danny W. Bruce (Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences; Advisor Margherita Cantorna); Third Place, Dharmendra Singh (Intercollege Graduate Degree Programs; Advisor Timothy W. McNellis); Fourth Place, Joseph Loquasto (Food Science; Advisor Robert Roberts).
Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences: First Place, Ermita Hernandez (Horticulture and Plant Pathology; Advisors Elsa Sanchez, Paul Backman, and Shelby Fleischer); Second Place, Shawn Rummel (School of Forest Resources; Advisor William Sharpe).

Physical and Engineering Sciences: First Place, Tanuj Motwani (Food Science; Advisor R.C. Anantheswaran); Second Place, Kuan-Chen Cheng (Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Advisors Ali Demirci and Jeffrey Catchmark).

Social Sciences: First Place, Mary Marete (Agricultural & Extension Education; Advisor Rama Radhakrishna); Second Place, Carla Shoff (Rural Sociology and Demography; Advisors Diane McLaughlin and Leif Jensen).

Undergraduate:
First Place, Matthew Gardner (Entomology; Advisor Kelli Hoover); Second Place, Kelly Over (Agribusiness Management; Advisors John Ewing and Tracy Hoover); Third Place, Erica Stuber (Poultry Science; Advisor Paul Bartell).

Planned Events and Deadlines: Check your calendars

Annual Gamma Sigma Delta Research Expo – The 2010 Research Expo will be held March 17-18, 2010. Abstracts deadline is February 26, 2010. Please check the website for more information (http://gsd.cas.psu.edu).

Spring Initiation and Awards Reception April 7, 2010 – 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. Bruce McPheron, new Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State. New initiates – senior students, graduate students, faculty, and alumni – and our 2009-2010 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, staff, extension educators, alumni, and graduate students to become members. Nominations should be directed to GSD departmental 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 25, 2010.
**Nominations for Awards** – Our extension, research, and teaching awards recognize excellent faculty for their contributions. Please nominate outstanding faculty and help prepare the documentation by **January 25, 2010**. For 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. Last year, we initiated membership dues for active members. The response was outstanding; 44 members paid active membership dues and 29 members made additional contribution, which all together totaled **$1,515**. All these activities listed above wouldn’t be possible without the financial help of GSD members and the college. The Gold and Bronze Chapter Awards that we received in the past years were 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 December 31, 2009. Thank you for your support of our chapter!**

**Thank You**

A special thank you to our Penn State Chapter active members and donors in 2009:

- Richard S. Adams
- Paul M. Anderson
- Jessica M. Bagdonis
- Craig R. Baumrucker
- John E. Baylor
- John Becker
- Ernest L. Bergman
- J. Lynne Brown
- Charles O. Crawford
- Barbara J. Christ
- Marilyn A. Corbin
- Ali Demirci
- Joseph M. Duich
- Robert G. Elkin
- Robert J. Flipse
- Beth K. Gugino
- Joseph D. Harrington
- Samuel E. Hayes, Jr.
- Milford Heddleson
- Matthew T. Henderson
- Tracy Hoover
- Patreese D. Ingram
- Stanley G. Gesell
- Fred Gildow
- Karl R. Girton
- Lester C. Griel
- Robert E. Graves
- Robert E. Graves
- Seogchan Kang
- Peter H. Krall
- Gretchen Kulda
- Melinda M. Marconi
- H. Louis Moore
- Gary W. Moorman
- Arthur W. Nesbitt
- Marvin L. Riusus
- Shawn M. Rummel
- Rob Shannon
- John S. Shenk
- Grant W. Sherritt
- Stephen M. Smith
- Troy L. Oh
- Dale Olver
- Robert J. Van Saun
- Fern K. Willits
- 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 2009-2010 academic year. Contact them to get more information about Chapter activities, or to submit change of address information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>GSD Rep</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ag &amp; Bio Eng</td>
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<tr>
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**2009–2010 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**: Gretchen Kuldau, 321 Buckhout Lab, kuldau@psu.edu
- **Vice President**: Patreese Ingram, 002C Ferguson Building, pdi1@psu.edu
- **Secretary-Treasurer**: Ali Demirci, 231 Agricultural Eng. Bldg, demirci@psu.edu
- **Historian**: Michael Saunders, 514 Ag Sci & Ind Bldg, mcs5@psu.edu
- **Immediate Past-President**: Frederick Gildow, 212 Buckhout Lab, feg2@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/).
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

_____ I am enclosing $15 as I wish to remain an active member for 2010.

_____ 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 Ali Demirci by December 31, 2009.

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