



## Annual Newsletter for 2009

### Important Dates

Membership Nominations Due	January 25, 2010
Award Nominations Due	January 25, 2010
Abstracts for Research Expo Due	February 26, 2010
GSD Research Exhibition	March 17-18, 2010
Initiation and Awards Reception	April 7, 2010

### Message from the Chapter President: Gretchen Kuldau

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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	Beth K. Gugino	Melinda M. Marconi
Paul M. Anderson	Joseph D. Harrington	H. Louis Moore
Jessica M. Bagdonis	Samuel E. Hayes, Jr.	Gary W. Moorman
Craig R. Baumrucker	Milford Heddleson	Arthur W. Nesbitt
John E. Baylor	Matthew T. Henderson	Marvin L. Risius
John Becker	Tracy Hoover	Shawn M. Rummel
Ernest L. Bergman	Patreese D. Ingram	Rob Shannon
J. Lynne Brown	Stanley G. Gesell	John S. Shenk
Charles O. Crawford	Fred Gildow	Grant W. Sherritt
Barbara J. Christ	Karl R. Girton	Stephen M. Smith
Marilyn A. Corbin	Lester C. Griel	Troy L. Oh
Ali Demirci	Robert E. Graves	Dale Olver
Joseph M. Duich	Seogchan Kang	Robert J. Van Saun
Robert G. Elkin	Peter H. Krall	Fern K. Willits
Robert J. Flipse	Gretchen Kuldau	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](mailto: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.

<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	414 Ag Admin	3-4428	mlr6@psu.edu
College Admin	Nancy Ellen Kiernan	311 Ag Admin	3- 7621	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
Plant Pathology	Gary Moorman	111A Buckhout	3-7401	gmoorman@psu.edu
Poultry Science	Roland Leach	205 Henning	5-5082	lnr@psu.edu
Veterinary Sci	Lester Griel	115 Henning	5-7696	lcg1@psu.edu

**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](mailto:kuldau@psu.edu)

Vice President: **Patreese Ingram**, 002C Ferguson Building, [pdi1@psu.edu](mailto:pdi1@psu.edu)

Secretary-Treasurer: **Ali Demirci**, 231 Agricultural Eng. Bldg, [demirci@psu.edu](mailto:demirci@psu.edu)

Historian: **Michael Saunders**, 514 Ag Sci & Ind Bldg, [mcs5@psu.edu](mailto:mcs5@psu.edu)

Immediate Past-President: **Frederick Gildow**, 212 Buckhout Lab, [feg2@psu.edu](mailto: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/>).**



# Gamma Sigma Delta



## 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***