

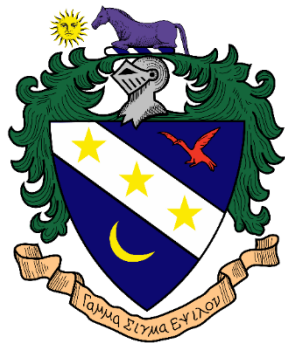
THE RAY

OF

GAMMA SIGMA EPSILON



2021



Gamma Sigma Epsilon

The Ray

of Gamma Sigma Epsilon

The Ray is published on a biennial basis and is the official publication of Gamma Sigma Epsilon, the National Honor Society in Chemistry.

The Ray is provided exclusively in a digital format available at the Society's website:
www.gammasigmaepsilon.org.

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EXPLANATION OF THE RAY



The official insignia of GSE appears on the cover of *The Ray* since the first issue in 1924. The insignia of $\Gamma\Sigma\epsilon$ is a 10-sided shield that represents the Philosopher's Stone which symbolizes the power of Chemistry to discover what is hidden. The straight edges at the bottom are meant to be a "diamond point" that is intended to signify a member's responsibility to use their knowledge to solve problems as diamond cuts through all substances. The "X" radiating light at the top represents X-rays which further symbolize the ability of Chemistry to make visible or known that which is invisible. This X-ray radiating light is now found on all $\Gamma\Sigma\epsilon$ charters and $\Gamma\Sigma\epsilon$ member certificates. Finally, the balance at the bottom is meant to symbolize the precision and care with which scientific endeavors should be undertaken.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF GSE



President: Nicole L. Snyder
Davidson College
Box 7120
Davidson, NC 28035
Phone: 704-894-2309
e-mail: nisnyder@davidson.edu

President-Elect: Gregory R. Boyce
Florida Gulf Coast University
10501 FGCU Blvd. South
Fort Myers, FL 33965
Phone: 239-590-1471
e-mail: gboyce@fgcu.edu

Recorder: Lindsey A. Welch
Cedar Crest College
100 College Drive
Allentown, PA 18104
Phone: 610-606-4666 ext. 3615
e-mail: lawelch@cedarcrest.edu

Treasurer: George H. Fisher
Barry University
309 NW 21 Court
Wilton Manors, FL 33311
Phone: 954-870-8458
e-mail: gfisher@barry.edu

Communications: Richard V. Macri
Catawba College
2300 W. Innes St.
Salisbury, NC 28144
Phone: 704-645-4588
e-mail: rvmacri@catawba.edu

Archivist: Frank L. Switzer
2040 Deer Park Road
Finksburg, MD 21048
Phone: 443-280-8569
e-mail: fswitzer4@yahoo.com

Alumni Relations: Marcus Kozloff
marckozloff@gmail.com

A Message from the President, Dr. Nicole L. Snyder

Greetings! The world has changed a lot since we held the Gamma Sigma Epsilon Centennial at the Davidson College in the fall of 2019. COVID-19 continues to impact our daily lives, particularly as we see a rise in incidence of the delta variant across the United States and around the globe. We also continue to reflect on our own actions and responsibilities as we work to address years of systemic racism and other social injustices. The work we do together to creating a more inclusive and just society is more important than ever, and I am proud to work with all of you as we take our next steps together.

I also wish to introduce you to the newest edition of *The Ray*, which provides several highlights from the Society. In this edition, you can peruse an engaging recollection of the Centennial held at Davidson College nearly 100 years to the day of the Society's founding (p. 7-8). You can also read about the newest version of our coat of arms (p. 6) and the induction of twelve new chapters (p. 10)! In addition, we highlight selected chapter awards and special projects (p. 11-12). We also recognize Dr. George Fisher as an ACS Fellow (p.

6), and mourn the loss of our colleague and friend, Dr. Mark Stauffer (p. 5). Finally, we encourage you to attend the 49th Biennial Convention to be held at Florida Gulf Coast University in 2022 (p. 9).

I would like to send a special thanks to Dr. Greg Boyce, advisor to the Beta Eta Chapter of Florida Gulf Coast University, for his stewardship of *The Ray*. He has continually championed the use of *The Ray* for highlighting the stories and achievement so our Society, and he is responsible for the latest edition you see before you. I encourage you to reach out to him to thank him for the excellent work he has done in service to our community. I also encourage you to contribute stories/articles from your chapter for inclusion in the next edition. We always look forward to hearing from our members, advisors, and friends. Thank you for your time and service.

I wish you a successful semester, and hope that you, your family, your friends, and other loved ones remain safe as we make our way through the fall. And if there is anything we can do to support you and your chapter with your work, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here for you.

A Message from the Editor, Dr. Gregory R. Boyce

It is my honor to present this issue of *The Ray of Gamma Sigma Epsilon* for 2018-2021. The main purpose of this edition is to highlight national news to the chapters and to report on the last biennial convention (p. 7-8) and announce the next (p. 9). It is also my hope to provide some historical information about our Society.

It's with great sadness that we announce the passing of former president of GSE, Prof. Mark Stauffer, (p. 5) who will be missed. The

challenges of COVID since 2019 have effected all aspects of our lives and Gamma Sigma Epsilon is no different. We appreciate the work of all the chapter advisors during this very challenging time. Additionally, the executive board has decided to **postpone** the next biennial convention at **Florida Gulf Coast University to Fall 2022** (p. 9) which we hope will allow advisors time to plan and hopefully have a safe and well attended convention.

Seeking Faculty Advisors to Join the Executive Committee of Gamma Sigma Epsilon!

GSE is seeking faculty advisors interested in assisting with writing, planning, web design, hosting future conventions and supporting and recognizing student achievement!

Elections to the Executive Board are held biennial at the GSE convention. Please contact the Recorder, Dr. Lindsey Welch, at lawelch@cedarcrest.edu for more information.

In Memoriam – Prof. Mark Stauffer

Mark Thomas Stauffer, PhD, passed away Sunday, January 3, 2021 at the age of 63. Dr. Stauffer served Gamma Sigma Epsilon as Executive President-Elect (2013-2015) and Executive President (2015-2017). Dr. Stauffer organized and hosted the 46th GSE Biennial Convention October 9-11, 2015, at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. He was devoted to the aims and future of GSE.

Dr. Stauffer earned his bachelor's and PhD degrees at the University of Pittsburgh and went on to spend time working for the Ethyl Corporation in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, as well as Shippensburg University and Carnegie Mellon University Outreach Program. For the 19 years since 2002, Dr. Stauffer worked as an Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg – spending 9 years as Chair of the Natural Sciences Division. His enrollment in the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh, Pittcon, Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, and Gamma Sigma Epsilon made him well-known and well-liked by the many he encountered.

Dr. Stauffer created Pitt-Greensburg's chemistry major in 2007, established the Rho Theta chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon in 2009, created a multitude of analytical chemistry courses on campus, and served as a research mentor for chemistry majors. His students and colleagues alike noted his passion for analytical chemistry and for instruction. Dr. Stauffer was a brilliant and constantly supportive mentor, and his specialty area of research in analytical chemistry centered on the environmental impact of acid mine drainage, with specific emphasis on heavy metal contaminant



concentrations in the Sewickley Creek Watershed. His profound impact on students' education and career pursuits – coupled with a pleasant and approachable disposition – meant that he pushed his students to achieve their version of success, and not his. The consummate mentor, he helped younger colleagues approach the tenure process, instruction of new courses, and learning where things are on campus. His friendly presence became well-known to those within the Natural Sciences and beyond on our campus.

Dr. Stauffer's presence on our campus has already been sorely missed. Many student organizations (Gamma Sigma Epsilon included) are working to honor his memory with events and commemoration. Additionally, Pitt-Greensburg alumni are establishing a scholarship in his memory. Finally, an organization of faculty members is working to raise funds for the Chemistry wing of the new Natural Sciences building, with the intent that we will name the new Analytical Chemistry Lab after him.

Treasurer George H. Fisher honored as an ACS Fellow

Congratulations to our treasurer, Prof. George H. Fisher for being named a 2019 ACS Fellow! Prof. Fisher was recognized for his contribution to science “for his long-term commitment to providing significant opportunities for undergraduate and high school students, many from under-represented populations and/or economically disadvantaged backgrounds, to engage in scientific research.” For the ACS community, Prof. Fisher was “recognized for longstanding service to the ACS Committee on Project SEED as a committee member, consultant, coordinator, and mentor and for substantial service to the Florida and South Florida local sections.” Well deserved!



DR. GEORGE FISHER

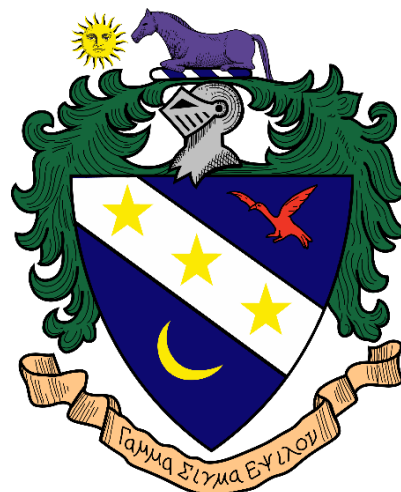
Named a 2019 American Chemical Society (ACS) Fellow

GSE @ ACS 2019

Gamma Sigma Epsilon was represented at ACS Orlando in 2019 where a poster on the society was presented at Sci-Mix and a talk on the past 100 years of the society was delivered in the Chemical History Division of ACS. The Executive Committee would like to be more involved in conferences post-pandemic. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please let us know!

Unveiling Redrawn Coat of Arms and Insignia!

A frequent request from chapters is a better resolution version of the Gamma Sigma Epsilon Coat of Arms and Insignia, and we are pleased to reveal the new versions! This updates the previous version which was created in the 1990's. Mr. Japhz Paimalan redrew the art and we've very pleased with the result! The new high definition image files will be available on the Gamma Sigma Epsilon website for chapter use!



Gamma Sigma Epsilon



Centennial Convention at Davidson College

The 48th Biennial Conference for GSE was held at Davidson College in Davidson, NC on November 9-10th, 2019. This was a particularly momentous occasion as it was the centennial celebration of the society's founding and the convention was held at the founding institution. The convention was organized by the **Alpha Alpha** chapter and their advisor, **Prof. Nicole Snyder**.

The voting delegates and guests convened on the morning of November 9th where 56 chapters were represented for the governance meeting. The meeting established new positions on the executive council, handled activation and deactivation of new chapters, and approved naming the Special Projects Award after the executive treasurer, **Prof. George H. Fisher** in recognition of his 20 years of service as treasurer for GSE. It was also requested that a new high-definition coat of arms be created for the society which is

unveiled on page 6 of this issue and is available for download at the GSE website.

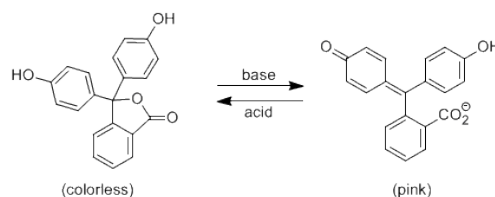
The convention also included two guest speakers. The first presentation was by Prof. Malcolm Doubles Jr., who is the son of one of the three founding students at Davidson College in 1919, Malcolm Doubles! His talk went over his father's career and his role in Gamma Sigma Epsilon.



Centennial Convention at Davidson College

A second presentation was done by **Prof. Greg Boyce** of the **Eta Beta** chapter at Florida Gulf Coast University on the history of Gamma Sigma Epsilon. The talk covered the founding and expansion of GSE over the past 100 year and examined the symbols and heraldry of the society. The talk also went over the original induction ceremony which included invitations that had the initiates names written in phenolphthalein which functioned as a disappearing ink.

The evening began with a poster session where attendees could present either a research poster or a poster on their chapter's activities. The poster session was followed by a dinner and awards ceremony where awards were given to the best research posters, best chapter posters, and the **John Conn Award** for presenting a poster at the convention. To highlight the centennial occasion, special plaques were also presented to the **Delta Beta** chapter at **University of Alabama** (95 years) and the **Mu Gamma** chapter at **Mercer University** (77 years) for being the longest continuously active chapters.



The 49th Biennial Convention will be at Florida Gulf Coast University in 2022!

The **Beta Eta** chapter and their faculty advisor, **Prof. Greg Boyce**, will host the 49th Biennial Convention at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) in sunny Fort Myers, FL! The campus is near renowned white sand beaches and is roughly 20 miles from Sanibel Island. The campus is also close to the Thomas Edison Estates which houses Edison's natural product extraction lab in his studies on rubber isolation.

FGCU is a public university founded in 1991 and with over 15,000 students. The campus includes 400 acres of protected wetlands and is home to several animals including alligators, key deer, turtles, blue heron, and boar. FGCU also has a 15-acre solar field which provides energy to several campus buildings.

The convention is postponed one year due to the COVID pandemic. Further details on dates, registration, travel will be provided in the **Spring of 2022.**

One student representative from each chapter is required to attend and the Executive Committee **will reimburse for travel and lodging** to the convention.



New Chapters (2018-2021)

Westfield State University

Chapter: Tau Eta

Advisor: Dr. Maria Graciela Carranza

Inducted: 2018

Columbus State University

Chapter: Mu Epsilon

Advisors: Dr. Kerri Taylor and Dr. Jonathan Meyers

Inducted: 2018

Andrews University

Chapter: Eta Alpha

Advisor: Dr. Lisa A. Ahlberg

Inducted: 2019 (reactivated)

Schreiner University

Chapter: Xi Theta

Advisor: Dr. Adrian L. Zapata

Inducted: 2019

Marietta College

Chapter: Pi Epsilon

Advisor: Dr. Kevin Pate

Inducted: 2019

Lebanon Valley College

Chapter: Rho Rho

Advisor: Dr. Anderson L. Marsh

Inducted: 2019

Southern Connecticut State University

Chapter: Tau Theta

Advisors: Dr. Candy S. Hwang and Dr. James K. Kearns

Inducted: 2019

New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)

Chapter: Sigma Delta

Advisor: Dr. Kathleen M. Gilbert

Inducted: 2019 (reactivated)

Georgia Gwinnett College

Chapter: Mu Zeta

Advisor: Dr. Ying Guo

Inducted: 2020

East Texas Baptist University

Chapter: Xi Iota

Advisor: Dr. Marissa Smith

Inducted: 12/2020

Ouachita Baptist University

Chapter: Nu Alpha

Advisor: Dr. Sharon Hamilton

Inducted: 2020 (reactivated)

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Chapter: Xi Kappa

Advisor: Dr. Ruth Ann Murphy

Inducted: 2021

Special Project Awardees (2019-2021)

Special Project Awards are provided to chapters to perform projects that relate to outreach, and the betterment of the society, profession, or local community. and host events for the society. A proposal can be submitted to the Executive Council Secretary at any time for consideration. Up to \$500 can be requested and a final report is due upon the completion of the project.

Special Project Highlight

Rho Nu at Saint Francis University

For this edition of the Ray, we are highlighting a recent Special Project grant awardee, the **Rho Nu** chapter at **Saint Francis University** in Loretto, PA. The chapter is organized by **Prof. Rose Clark** and we thank her and her students for this great project and for submitting this highlight to *The Ray*. If your chapter has a great idea for a project, we strongly encourage you to apply for the GSE Special Project grant!

By Prof. Rose Clark

Educating the community about science is a passion for the Saint Francis University Faculty and Students. When our students realized the new hiking trail on campus passed by the water treatment plant, they wanted to share the science of water treatment with the local community and SFU students alike. To accomplish this task, the Rho Nu chapter decided to incorporate the Biology, Chemistry, & Engineering involved with the operation of the SFU Wastewater Treatment Plant into a display of educational signs. The students had a great time working



with the biology club and environmental engineering club to design the signs and to write the script for the signs. We are very excited with the final product and encourage other Gamma Sigma Epsilon Chapters to take advantage of the Special Projects Grants to help educate your local community about the chemistry that is all around them. The Rho Nu chapter with help from Gamma Sigma Epsilon completed the production of the signage for the McGuire Park Walking Trail, connecting McGuire Park to the SFU Campus Grotto. The signs were designed by the students and are amazing.