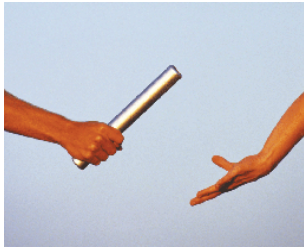




## President's Column

by Burrell E. Montz



My tenure as President of Gamma Theta Upsilon comes to an end as of the new year. Our current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Michael Longan at Valparaiso University, will step into

that role and will provide excellent leadership. I look forward to working with him in my new role as Past President.

Serving on the Executive Committee of GTU and eventually becoming President has been an incredibly rewarding experience. It has shown me how much volunteer time goes into keeping GTU running smoothly, with James Lowry handling the day-to-day responsibilities as Executive Secretary and Michal LeVasseur managing our finances as Comptroller (and running interference for us with the IRS – no small task!). Most importantly, it has allowed me to interact with many institutions and with many individuals, with whom our paths would not likely have otherwise crossed. We are a strong organization because of the commitment of our chapter sponsors and our Executive Committee.

As Mike becomes President, Susy Ziegler (Northern Michigan University) will become 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Jimmy Wilson (Ohio Northern University) is our new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President. What a strong leadership team we have! In my soon-to-be role as Past President, I will chair the Nominating Committee, so if you have an interest in becoming more active in GTU, please let me know. My e-mail is [montzb@ecu.edu](mailto:montzb@ecu.edu).

## GTU Business Meeting at AAG in Boston

By Burrell E. Montz

In the past (the somewhat distant past), GTU held a business meeting for all GTU members and

Chapter Advisors at the annual NCGE meeting. We are going to change that up a bit and hold these meetings at the AAG conferences, starting in Boston. The meeting will take place on Friday, April 7 at noon. The location will be announced later (once we know it). Please plan on attending if you will be in Boston and share your ideas and concerns.

## GTU at Regional Meetings

On October 15, East Lakes Councilor Jimmy Wilson, Second Vice President Susy Ziegler, and two student leaders from the Eta Chi chapter convened a roundtable discussion of GTU students and faculty sponsors at the joint West Lakes-East Lakes AAG meeting hosted by Northern Michigan University. About a dozen GTU members engaged in a lively discussion, sharing ideas on successful activities to recruit members and promote geography. All were reminded about scholarships (<http://gammathetaupsilon.org/scholarships.html>) and the information available for planning initiation ceremonies (<http://gammathetaupsilon.org/initiation-ceremony.html>). A student attendee hopes to help her school reactivate its chapter using instructions (<http://gammathetaupsilon.org/documents/Reactivating-a-Gamma-Theta-Upsilon-Chapter.pdf>). GTU is alive and well in the West Lakes and East Lakes Divisions of the AAG.

A GTU session organized by James Lowry and Burrell Montz was held on November 20 at the SEDAAG meeting in Columbia, South Carolina, hosted by the University of South Carolina. Quantity was small (a few attendees) but the quality of discussion was very high. Among other topics, participants shared ideas for activities to energize chapters and recommended development of marketing ideas for GTU that can be used at the chapter level. Returning to having GTU-sponsored sessions for GTU members at regional meetings was also seen as a high priority. Regional AAG



meetings are excellent places for GTU members to hone their professional skills.

## The Fastest 90 Minutes on Your Campus

By Randy Bertolas

Wayne (Nebraska) State College

GTU International Outreach Coordinator



Looking for a way to raise the campus profile of your GTU chapter? Try a quiz bowl competition with a geography theme.

The sixth annual Geography Bowl sponsored by GTU's Lambda Zeta chapter was held November 2 on the campus of Wayne State College in the rolling hills of northeast Nebraska.

Organized by GTU professors and students, the annual competition is billed as "The fastest 90 minutes on campus" and features exciting, high-speed action interspersed with audience participation, a wide variety of geography-themed door prizes, and a healthy helping of the importance of geography in today's world.

The annual GeoBowl at our school is a way to have fun, win some prizes, and be exposed to geography. GTU chapters can set up geography displays, posters, and artwork to inform and entertain the crowd between rounds during drawings for door prizes.

Eight two-person teams made up of WSC students participated in the event. Selecting team names is half the fun, and some teams choose to coordinate their clothing or create unique costumes to match their name. Teams entered this year included *Make America Great Britain Again*, *Chocolate*

*Malta, Murica, Team Extra Credit, Low Expectations, The French-American Alliance, The Unicorns, and Wonder Worlds.*

Using a single-elimination format and starting with eight teams in the quarterfinals, we progress through seven games (four quarterfinals, two semifinals, one final) using seven different sets of questions. The questions are a mix of fun and serious geography subjects. Chapters can assign question-writing duties to members. The questions can feature material at the local, regional, national, and international level.

This year at our college an exciting Finals match-up came down to the Bonus Bet question, and *The French-American Alliance* defeated *Make America Great Britain Again* by a score of 14-9. Feedback from more than a few respondents tell us that their only regret in attending was that they didn't enter a team of their own.

We take the time and trouble to do this event at our college because it's not just an adrenaline rush for the students, but for the professors as well. Basically, it's exciting to watch the students get excited about geography.

All attendees receive a ticket that is entered for door prize drawings. Grand prize this year was an inflatable 36" globe. Students from all majors were able to participate. We try to make everything fair because some questions can be tough. We have student scorekeepers/timers and faculty judges from other fields as arbitrators just in case we need to review a team's answer.

Admittedly, our Geography Bowl doesn't stress critical inquiry or higher-level thinking skills. But the event gets students excited about geography and brings them to an event where the field is promoted and on display. And if it wasn't fun, we wouldn't be doing it.

For information and materials to conduct your own campus Geography Bowl, email Dr. Randy Bertolas at [raborto1@wsc.edu](mailto:raborto1@wsc.edu).





## Help Wanted: *Geographical Bulletin* Editor

After more than a decade serving as editor of the *Geographical Bulletin*, Steven Schnell (Kutztown University) is transitioning to be editor of the *Journal of Cultural Geography*. Congratulations to Steve! Now, we need to fill the vacancy. If you are interested, please let me know ([montzb@ecu.edu](mailto:montzb@ecu.edu)). If you have questions about what is involved, feel free to contact Steve ([Schnell@kutztown.edu](mailto:Schnell@kutztown.edu)).

## GTU/AAG Travel Award Information

For the past few years, Gamma Theta Upsilon and the AAG have offered travel awards to help students defray the cost to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers. Unfortunately, we could not come to an agreement with the AAG to offer the travel awards this year. One way to help insure that we can offer these scholarships in the future is to donate to the fund. Go to this website to donate: [http://www.aag.org/cs/about\\_aag/grants\\_and\\_awards/annual\\_conference\\_grants/aaggtu\\_student\\_travel\\_awards](http://www.aag.org/cs/about_aag/grants_and_awards/annual_conference_grants/aaggtu_student_travel_awards).



## Historian's Column

by Dawn M. Drake

As the year and the semester draw to a close, I thought I might use this Historian's Column to reflect on the greater importance of an appreciation of history and specifically Gamma Theta Upsilon's history. I was trained as a historian in my undergraduate degree and as a stand-alone geographer, I work alongside historians every day, so it is not hard for me to appreciate history's importance, but for others it may be more difficult.

Now don't get me wrong. I realize that in our digitally enhanced world, we can all Google "GTU History" and have the basics at a moment's notice. But there is something to be said for being able to touch history, to have enough of a command of it to be able to recall relevant facts in a conversation. I, of course, realize that unless you go to the type of parties as I do, that may not be a desirable skill. Still, an appreciation of our history and traditions remains important.

I will resist the urge to go into a trite refrain of "those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it" here, but there are other reasons to embrace and learn the storied past of GTU. If you are a Buzzard scholarship winner, it would be helpful to know who Dr. Buzzard was and why the scholarship is named after him. That knowledge will also help you understand why GTU's archives are at Eastern Illinois University. Something else interesting about GTU history? Did you know that GTU once made small loans to help students go to graduate school or complete graduate research? For many years, the loan fund was one of GTU's main philanthropic ventures to encourage the study of geography. When the fund ended in 1980, the money was invested in the Visiting Geographical Scientist Program.

There are many other things to be learned from GTU's past. Did you know there is a GTU song? There is! Knowing about an organization's history is more than knowing about the past, though. It is about being part of the fabric of the organization and hopefully its future. An organization about which you know its history is an organization in which you are invested. GTU wants invested members. We want you to engage with the organization's past. So, get out there and Google "GTU History." Or, better yet, embrace the history with a visit to the archives at the Booth Library at Eastern Illinois University. And share your own chapter's history. I would love to write a Historian's Column that shares a chapter's history



in that chapter's own voice, instead of through the annual reports. If you would like to be a part of that, email me at [ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu).

Let's get excited about our history as members of GTU! Once we start exploring it, I am sure we will find some research topics in need of a voice and an AAG session waiting to happen. Let's all get involved together to embrace the importance of our organization's history. And let's all sing together!

"GEOGRAPHICAL HERITAGE" music and lyrics by Ruth Sowers

Who knows a-bout the la-nd? Who knows a-bout the sea-?

Who knows a-bout the skies and all that's un-der them - - ?

The earth is such a my-ste-ri-ous place ev-ry-ones wants to know why.

Why are the moun-tains so high? Why are the val-leys so-low?

Why do the ri-vers run as they do? Who can te-ll us why?

We have been cho-sen to tell all hu-man-i-ty the won-ders of the earth.

We have pledged our lives to thi-s cause and now we are he-re to

ce-le-brate a part of our her-i-tage.

Over (right here) at Il-lin-ois State Nor-mal "U-ni-ver-si-ty was found-ed the

Al-pha chap-ter of Gam-ma The-ta Up-si-lon in nineteen twen-ty eight. (fi-f-ty years a-go).

And now we have co-me to share all the joys and the pains, all the

won-der-ful me-mo-ries of ys-ter-day. © 1978 by Ruth Sowers

## GTU Merchandise

Once again, a reminder that it is never too early to order GTU cords, stoles, and pins for your induction ceremonies. In fact, an early order

means you will beat the rush and will insure that the items get to you on time (without having to pay for overnight shipping!). Check out what is available at the Herff Jones site ([https://www.hjgreek.com/index.cfm?event=Products.showCategories&Organization\\_ID=635](https://www.hjgreek.com/index.cfm?event=Products.showCategories&Organization_ID=635)). Other items including frames and desk accessories can be obtained from Church Hill Classics (<http://www.diplomaframe.com/gatu>).



## Like Us on Facebook



Thanks to our Outreach Coordinator, Dr. Randy Bertolas, we have an active Facebook page: Gamma Theta Upsilon - International Geographical Honor Society. Please check it out and post your chapter's activities.

## Donate to GTU



This has been mentioned in previous Newsletters, but I think it is worth mentioning again (and again and again!). If you register for AmazonSmile (at no cost to you) and designate Gamma Theta Upsilon as your charitable organization of choice, 0.5% of the cost of each Amazon purchase you make will go to GTU's Education Fund. Small donations add up! Use this link to sign up: [http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi\\_ge\\_ul\\_lm\\_raas](http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_ge_ul_lm_raas). Thanks to all who have done this so far.