



President's Column

by Burrell E. Montz



As we get rolling into another academic year, now is the time to map out Chapter activities. GTU chapters have undertaken various activities

both on their campuses and off. Some are aimed at specifically promoting Geography and others are service projects. Some are undertaken in conjunction with other groups on campus, often with a department's Geography Club. Some chapters center many of their efforts around Geography Awareness Week. There are so many possibilities. If inspiration is needed, please look at the Chapter Reports posted on our website that show what others have done and see the item on Chapter Reports by 2nd Vice-President Susy Ziegler later in this newsletter.

It is never too early to begin planning for the induction of new GTU members. The original long and short versions of the initiation ceremony are posted on the website, as is a revised version (<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/initiation-ceremony.html>). The revision was provided by the Theta Kappa Chapter at the University of Oregon. Some prefer to use the original form of the ceremony, but others believe that it is a bit outdated. As a result, we want to be sure we provide you with a version that suits your needs while still preserving the history, importance, and formality of the ceremony. You will also find on that site a power point document that provides the cover for a program that you might want to adapt for the initiation ceremony. This was provided by Past President Tom Wikle who uses it at Oklahoma State. If you have other ways in which you honor your new inductees and celebrate your students'

successes, and want to share them, please let me know. My e-mail is montzb@ecu.edu.

From our Executive Secretary

By James Lowry

There have been two major events in my life thus far this year. Most of you know of one and a few know of the other. I've been asked for updates on both from a couple of you so I thought I'd take this opportunity to provide them.

The first major event was on the evening of February 6 when I suffered what my cardiologist called a "major" heart attack (saying I was minutes from death). I listened very carefully to what he, and others, told me and immediately changed my diet. I also completed a twelve-week cardiac rehab program (and continue to exercise regularly). The result is I've lost almost 50 pounds (I'm within 10 pounds of what I weighed as a senior in high school in 1979) and feel better than I have in a very long time.

The other major event was my departure from the University of New Orleans and move to Georgia Gwinnett College in Lawrenceville, GA. I moved in late July, but because of new faculty orientation, which is two weeks here, and the beginning of classes, it took a while to get everything set up, but the office is now open for business.

Because I am no longer a department chair and I am at a teaching institution, I am going to try doing all of the initiate report processing myself instead of hiring another student worker. I know the process, but it will take me a little longer to get things accomplished than what we've been able to do in recent years. If your institution has GTU listed as a vendor, so you can use institutional funds, you should check with your financial affairs folks about the move to GGC from UNO to make sure checks are sent to me here and not to New Orleans (where they may disappear for a while).



My new address is:

James Lowry
Associate Professor of Geography
Executive Secretary, Gamma Theta Upsilon
International Geographical Honor Society
1000 University Center Lane
Georgia Gwinnett College
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

My GGC email address is jlowry3@ggc.edu, but you can also always use GTUinfo@gmail.com.

And my GGC phone number is 470-217-1305.

2015 Scholarship Recipients

by Michael Longan, 1st Vice-President

Gamma Theta Upsilon awards five scholarships of \$1000 annually to four undergraduates and one continuing graduate student. These students, through their academic excellence, their service to GTU and their departments, have demonstrated that they are part of the next generation of leaders in geography.

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 2015 Gamma Theta Upsilon scholarships:

Buzzard Undergraduate Scholarship: Caitlin Ruby, University of Southern Mississippi

Maxfield Scholarship: Aida Guhlin, Texas A&M

Rechlin Scholarship: Carina Vowels, Northern Michigan University

Richason Scholarship: Austin Rau, Minnesota State University Mankato

Buzzard Graduate Scholarship: Graciella Sandoval, Texas State University San Marcos

Students who would like to be considered for a scholarship in 2016 can find information including specific criteria for eligibility and application at

<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/scholarships.html>. Applications are due on June 1st annually, but can be submitted anytime.

We received applications from many students who are clearly leaders in geographers but we were unable to recognize them with a scholarship because of limited resources. If you would like to see more students recognized, please consider contributing to the educational fund which enables GTU to offer these and, we are hopeful, additional scholarships in the future.

Special Recognition for GTU Chapters

By Susy Ziegler, 2nd Vice-President

Twelve GTU chapters are recognized for the 2014–15 Honors Award based on the content submitted in their annual reports. Congratulations to these Honors chapters on a very productive year:

- Alpha Alpha, University of North Texas
- Alpha Phi, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Beta Psi, Kansas State University
- Beta Xi, University of Missouri
- Eta Eta, University of Wyoming
- Lambda Rho, Youngstown State University
- Lambda Zeta, Wayne State College
- Mu Chi, University of South Florida – St. Petersburg
- Mu Delta, University of Richmond
- Mu Kappa, Hofstra University
- Theta, Arizona State University
- Mu Psi, United Arab Emirates University

This year two chapters are receiving the most prestigious Chapter award, the Presidential Honors Award:

- Eta Chi, Northern Michigan University
- Kappa Upsilon, Texas State University

These Chapters have met all the requirements of Honors Chapters and then some!

Chapters who wish to apply for 2015–16 Honors or Presidential recognition may choose to plan their



activities and events to meet the minimum criteria listed at <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/chapter-awards.html>. Submitting an on-time annual report that follows the template is required for consideration of these special awards.

I extend a special thank you to the other members of the Awards Committee, Tim Hawkins and Graciela Sandoval, for their assistance and recommendations in this very important activity.

GTU Chapter Activity Reports

By Susy Ziegler, 2nd Vice-President

This year more than fifty Gamma Theta Upsilon chapters submitted reports highlighting a wide variety of activities that they undertook. I encourage you to read through the condensed versions of the annual reports and be inspired by how well GTU chapters are promoting geography. The summaries are organized in alphabetical order by chapter name and are available at <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/chapter-reports-archive.html>.

It is heartening to learn how active GTU is...not only in the United States but also in the United Arab Emirates where a new chapter was chartered last fall. One strategy for chapters that are trying to become more active is to team up with another student organization on campus to co-sponsor a documentary film screening, guest lecture, field trip, career day, or geography-themed game night. Borrow some ideas from another chapter and have a great year sharing your interest in geography. Celebrating Geography Awareness Week on November 15–21 is great excuse for GTU to host community events related to the theme Explore! The Power of Maps. Find more details at <http://education.nationalgeographic.com/programs/geographyawarenessweek/>. While you are at it, keep a running list of your accomplishments so that you will be ready to submit your annual report well in advance of the June 15th deadline.



Historian's Column

by Dawn M. Drake

From time to time, in my role as historian of Gamma Theta Upsilon, I get requests from people seeking information about specific GTU members or chapters. With the first Historian's Column of the new school year, I am going to ask all of you to try to fulfill one of these requests. I recently received an inquiry from a woman by the name of Ann Cave who is working on a project to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Museum of Science and History in Fort Worth, Texas. Among the founders of the museum was Marguerite Utley, 1st Vice President of GTU from 1936-1937 and GTU Executive Secretary from 1938-1941. Ms. Cave is seeking photographs or other information about Ms. Utley to add to her history for the anniversary celebration.

Ms. Cave provided me with some background on Ms. Utley and the Museum of Science and History. Marguerite was born in 1893 and died in 1971 at the age of 77. She earned a Master of Arts degree from Texas Christian University and, at the time of the founding of the museum, was a charter member of the Fort Worth Council of Administrative Women in Education. Ms. Utley served the community of Fort Worth for many years as a dedicated administrator in the public schools, demonstrating her commitment to children and lifelong learning.

The Fort Worth Council of Administrative Women in Education was founded in September 1934, following the model of other groups the women had met while attending Columbia University. The charter members were: Mrs. Mary Chute; Miss Mamie Eppler; Miss Ima Love Kuykendall; Mrs. Flossie Kysar; Miss Jessica Lloyd; Miss Gladys Miller; Miss Lulu Parker; Miss Hattie O. Prewett; Miss Alma Ray; Miss Ella J. Smith; Mrs. Fanjane Stovall Watson; Miss Marguerite Utley; and Mrs.



Jewell Cox Tillotson. By 1937, the group had begun an ambitious project to establish a children’s museum in Fort Worth.

The Fort Worth Council of Administrative Women in Education was a determined group, involving other civic leaders and groups in the project and having it placed in the long range plans of the City by the Mayor and City Council. In 1947, a Board of Trustees was elected to oversee the project. An early prototype of the museum was housed in a room at DeZavala School and then later moved to a house. A permanent building was completed and dedicated in January 1954. Though that original building has since been demolished, many of the original exhibits and the children’s fun rooms still exist at what is today known as the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

While maybe a little off of the topic of geography, I hope you enjoyed learning a little about the Museum of Science and History in Fort Worth, Texas, as well as the Fort Worth Council of Administrative Women in Education. If anyone has a picture of Ms. Utley or more biographical information that will help Ms. Cave in her preparation for the museum’s anniversary, please email me at d Drake4@missouriwestern.edu or call my office at 816-271-4161. It would be great if GTU could help with this project, as well as learning about our own history

A Reminder about Student Privacy

By Burrell E. Montz

At times the Executive Office receives requests from student officers for records of membership for their chapters. Students should not have access to these records for a variety of reasons, as we do not want to breach any privacy laws nor to have them leave campus. The faculty sponsor of each Chapter is charged with maintaining those records locally, and they are also maintained at the GTU Office. Faculty Sponsors can certainly contact James Lowry or me about such information.

Travel Scholarships for San Francisco

The Association of American Geographers has put out the call for abstracts for the Annual Conference in San Francisco. We expect that we will again be able to offer some travel scholarships for GTU members to give presentations at the conference. Be on the look-out for more information about that.

GTU Merchandise



It is never too early to order GTU cords, stoles, and pins for your induction ceremonies. In fact, an early orders 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). Other items including frames and desk accessories can be obtained from Church Hill Classics (<http://www.diplomaframe.com/gatu>).

AmazonSmile and Donating to GTU



This has been included in previous newsletters, but it is worth mentioning again.

If you register for AmazonSmile (at no cost to you) and designate GTU as your charitable organization of choice, 0.5% of the cost of each Amazon purchase you make will go to GTU’s Education Fund. Every little bit helps as we look to increase scholarships. This link will take you right there for GTU: http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_ge_ul_lm_raas