



President's Column

by Burrell E. Montz



GTU and the AAG collaborate on several initiatives designed to promote geography and geography students.

The Annual Meeting is the premiere AAG event of the year, and GTU tries to have a strong presence there. GTU always has a table in the exhibit hall and we encourage everyone to stop by. I am sure I will mention that again in the February newsletter. At least one region, East Lakes, is planning a GTU panel discussion at the meeting (see the article by Jimmy Wilson later in this newsletter). In addition, the AAG and GTU offer travel awards to students who will be attending the meeting in San Francisco to help offset costs. The deadline for applying for one of these awards is February 8, 2016. Please go to <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/travel-award-application.html> for the on-line application.

The Visiting Geographical Scientist Program (VGSP) is another collaboration between GTU and AAG. The Program sponsors visits by prominent geographers to colleges and universities across the country. An important part of the VGSP is for larger departments to develop partnerships with small departments that do not have the resources to bring in well-known speakers. For instance, last spring when I had the opportunity to participate in this program, I visited the Department of Political Science and Geography at the University of Texas at San Antonio and the Department of Geography at Texas State University. Participating institutions select and make arrangements with the visiting geographer. The VGSP covers travel costs and provides a small honorarium; host institutions provide meals and housing. Specific information and the list of speakers can be found at <http://www.aag.org/vgsp>.

Our New Regional Councilors

Regional Councilors serve important roles in GTU, being the GTU liaison within the region, serving as a source of advice and information to active chapters, working with institutions seeking to establish GTU chapters, and encouraging and assisting inactive chapters to reactivate. (See the list of Councilors at the end of this Newsletter). Councilors serve three year terms. The terms of three Councilors come to an end at the end of December: Peter Kyem (Central Connecticut State University) who has represented the NESTVAL Region; Tracy Edwards (Frostburg State University) from the Southeastern and Middle Atlantic Regions; and James Doerner (University of Northern Colorado) representing the Great Plains-Rocky Mountain Region. I would like to thank them for their willingness to serve in this important capacity and for all they have done for GTU.

We have wonderful individuals coming on to replace them – well replacing two of them. James Doerner has agreed to serve another term and his continued participation is very much appreciated. Thanks, James! Thanks, too, and welcome to Patrick May (Plymouth State University) as NESTVAL Councilor and Nancy Hoalst Pullen (Kennesaw State University) as Southeastern/Middle Atlantic Region Councilor. Chapters in those regions can expect to hear from them after the first of the year.

Recruiting and Initiating New Members

By Susy Ziegler, 2nd Vice-President

I hope that your GTU chapter is picking up momentum as fall draws to a close. If you collected forms and funds for new members, please remember to submit them to Dr. James Lowry at the national GTU office through this website: <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/initiate-address-form.asp>. No one is a member of GTU until Dr. Lowry receives the initiate report AND



the payment of \$40 per person. For a chapter to be considered for a 2016 chapter award, it is essential to submit paperwork and funds for the minimum number of new members by June 15, 2016. Award criteria are available from

<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/chapter-awards.html>.

If you have not invited new members to join yet, you might want to check out some recruiting tools posted on the GTU website. Go to this website <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/documents/Gamma-Theta-Upsilon-Brochure.pdf> for a brochure. A poster promoting GTU can be downloaded from <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/documents/gtu-poster.pdf>, and a customizable version in PowerPoint can be downloaded from <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/index.html>. Look in the GTU Announcements box on the left side of the page, and select the bottommost link titled "PowerPoint to display or edit".

Versions of initiation ceremonies are available at <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/initiation-ceremony.html>. Some great ideas for activities that you might want to borrow or adapt for your chapter are listed in past activity reports: <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/chapter-reports-archive.html>.

I look forward to reading your annual reports next June to hear all about the exciting activities your chapters have undertaken.

Here's to an active year!

FYI: If your University submits checks to GTU

Because the Executive Office of GTU moved to Georgia Gwinnett College from the University of New Orleans (UNO), chapters that have their financial or student affairs offices submit checks to GTU (i.e., have GTU in their systems as a vendor) need to contact the appropriate campus official to

update the address of the GTU office. If this is not done, the checks will be sent to the old address at UNO and we'll then have to wait, and hope, for them to be forwarded.

As a reminder, the 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

Our Newest Chapter

GTU continues to grow. The Nu Alpha Chapter was chartered at Georgia Gwinnett College in Lawrenceville, Georgia early this month. Our own Dr. James Lowry is Faculty Sponsor.

Regional News

East Lakes from Jimmy Wilson: This past October, the Department of Geography at Kent State University hosted the annual meeting of the East Lakes Division. The event attracted a higher-than-average number of geographers and students from Ohio and Michigan, and several from outside the region. At the meeting, Dr. Lucius Hallett, GTU chapter adviser at Western Michigan University, along with Dr. Lisa M. DeChano-Cook, chaired a GTU panel discussion entitled "Engaging, Recruiting and Keeping Active, Exceptional Undergraduates in the Geography Honors Society." According to Professor Hallett, "after a successful discussion group at ELDAAG, faculty advisers of several East Lakes Geography Departments are drafting plans for GTU panel discussion at the upcoming AAG in San Francisco. All chapter advisers are urged to participate."



Finding My Path in Geography through

GTU by Graciela Sandoval, National Student Representative, GTU Executive Committee

Every fall semester at orientation for new graduate students, I tell other graduate students in Geography about the benefits of joining student organizations, especially the Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) honor society. As you look to induct new members, it is important to emphasize what becoming a GTU member can offer, including:

- campus community building through workshops, fieldtrips, and job announcements;
- AAG specialty groups, affinity groups, resources, and annual meetings;
- collaborations with faculty and other geographers in academia; and
- collaborations with geographers in the “real world.”

You can build strong relationships between your local GTU chapter and university programs, interdisciplinary conferences on campus, diverse student organizations, and administrators. For example, your GTU chapter can volunteer at GIS Day, college days, fairs and colloquiums to promote the discipline of geography to a more diverse student body and in K-12 education. At the same time, you can invite faculty and other graduate students in your department to present their research at GTU meetings to expose your members to the current research in geography. Additionally, you can recruit local businesses to make job announcements through your email list serve and offer promotional items or free coffee at meetings and fairs. These types of local enrichment experiences through university partnerships allow GTU student members to build leadership skills and forge lasting relationships in academia that may continue after graduation.

GTU also connects members to the Association of American Geographers (AAG), of which about 40 percent are student members. As presented earlier in this newsletter, GTU and the AAG offer travel

awards for students attending the AAG annual meeting, especially for first time attendees.

GTU helps students find their path in geography through connections in academia and corporate America. Through summer internships, fellowships, research opportunities and job announcements, students can create collaborations with past GTU and geography alums that can help students find a career after graduation. GTU has helped me in so many ways, some of which I have listed here. All in all, serving as an officer for three years in my local GTU chapter and now for two years on the national Executive Committee has exposed me to so many more resources and people that I would not have known about or met before. My GTU advisor has also been a very thoughtful and patient mentor who has taken a sincere interest in my professional development as a geographer. I hope other students out there in geography can also find mentors who can help in finding their own path in geography. Students who would like to create a meetup at the next AAG annual meeting in San Francisco, have any questions about how to create a new GTU chapter, or would like to see what Texas State University’s GTU chapter has programmed in the last year, just email me at GS1132@txstate.edu.



The Department of Geography and GTU at Texas State University invited Mona Domosh, 2014-2015 AAG President, to speak in a colloquium in February 2015



Historian's Column

by Dawn M. Drake

As autumn draws into November, our minds turn to Thanksgiving and Christmas and all the end of semester obligations that come in between. It is

usually around this time of the year that I start looking for inspiration in the issues of the Geographical Bulletin on my shelves. I opened the May 1986 issue to find the chapter reports for the school year 1984-85. This intrigued me. What were our chapters up to 30 years ago? As I read the reports, I was pleased to see how well the chapters were promoting the discipline of geography through their activities. As Geography Awareness Week nears, it seemed appropriate to highlight some of those activities and maybe give you all ideas for your chapters in the future.

One of the most popular ways to promote the discipline through GTU activities during the 1984-85 school year were periodic forums. The Psi Chapter at University of North Dakota sponsored Forums for Contemporary Issues in Geography. These bi-monthly sessions focused on topics that were not only interesting to geographers, but to the whole university community. Speakers were a mixture of geographers and non-geographers. Other chapters conducted similar forums. At California State University-Fresno the Kappa Theta Chapter's monthly forum topics included land disputes in Namibia and a topic that is still timely and relevant – watershed management in the Sierra Nevada. The Gamma Xi Chapter at Elmhurst College also sponsored a monthly regional geography slide show including presentations comparing East and West Germany, and ones that focused on the geography of Mexico, China, and Jamaica. The Iota Tau Chapter at University of Akron sponsored a similar series on a variety of countries and regions.

Other chapters sponsored interesting panel discussions and individual speakers. The Iota Pi Chapter at Northeastern Illinois University invited speakers to discuss the Clean Water Act's impact on the Great Lakes, as well as a panel session entitled, "The Populace and Production of Trash." The Gamma Omega Alpha Chapter at Indiana University of Pennsylvania invited Dr. Ron Abler, then Director of the Geography and Regional Science Program, at the National Science Foundation to talk about "Procedures for Qualifying for NSF Grants." The Gamma Omega Alpha Chapter also hosted its second annual IUP Conference on Geography with the theme "Geography and Business."

Perhaps one of the most unique activities I read about in the 1984-85 chapter reports came from the Iota Upsilon Chapter at the University of Kansas. As a part of their GTU picnic, the group hosted a Road Rally, which enlisted students in a tour of the Kansas countryside, seeking the answers to a series of geographic questions. Trophies were handed out to all participants.

This is just a smattering of the activities conducted by our GTU Chapters in the 1984-85 school year to promote the discipline of geography. Many other chapters invited guest speakers, conducted field trips, and engaged in community service projects. These are ideas that are still near and dear to the hearts of GTU chapters today. As mentioned in the President's Column, if any GTU chapter would like financial help to bring a geography scholar to its campus, please look into the Visiting Geographical Scientist Program sponsored by GTU and AAG.

Forthcoming Articles in the Geographical Bulletin (November 2015, Vol. 56, Number 2)

Growing Local Food Movements: Farmer's Markets as Nodes for Products and Community
By Martin Aucoin and Matthew Fry



Quantifying Forest Structure within Two Managed Units in Rock Cut State Park

By Dustin P. Bergman and David Goldblum

An Examination of the Effect of Building Compactness and Green Roofs on Indoor Temperature through the use of Physical Models

By Gon Park and Timothy W. Hawkins

A Comparison of North American Regional Climate Change Assessment Program Output and Oklahoma Mesonet Observations: Precipitation and Temperature

By Emma L. Kuster, Charlotte E. Lunday and Renee A. McPherson

GTU Merchandise



The GTU Executive Office has gold and blue stoles that remain from before our collaboration with Herff Jones. There are about 70 total. They are \$20 each

and can be obtained from 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

The stoles are available on a first come, first served basis, so if you have a color preference, you will want to order quickly. In any case, please allow sufficient time for shipping, as the Executive Office is a small operation and cannot always respond immediately to orders.

GTU cords, stoles, and pins are available from Herff Jones. Early orders avoid costs associated with rush shipping, which is an option for those who wait until the end of the academic year. (https://www.hjgreek.com/index.cfm?event=Products.showCategories&Organization_ID=635).

2016 Regional Councilors

In case you need assistance, have questions, or want to connect within your region, feel free to contact your 2016 Regional Councilor.

New England/St Lawrence Valley: Patrick May (Plymouth State University)

Middle States: Tim Hawkins (Shippensburg University)

Southeast/Middle Atlantic: Nancy Hoalst Pullen (Kennesaw State University)

East Lakes: Jimmy Wilson (Ohio Northern University)

West Lakes: Leslie Duram (Southern Illinois University at Carbondale)

Southwest: Brad Watkins (University of Central Oklahoma)

Great-Plains/Rocky Mountain: James Doerner (University of Northern Colorado)

Pacific Coast: Jessie Clark (University of Nevada Reno)

Information about these individuals as well as all others on the Executive Committee can be found at <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/executive-committee.html>.