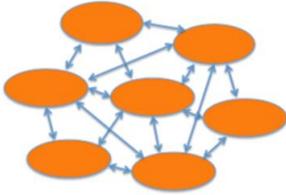




President's Column

by Burrell Montz



Big changes are happening within GTU's organizational structure. With the recently revised Bylaws and Constitution, we have created two new positions in the Executive

Committee, which we believe are important to the future of GTU: an Outreach Coordinator and a Development Coordinator. Dr. Randy Bertolas, who has served GTU in many capacities including President in 2011 and 2012, has graciously agreed to be the inaugural Outreach Coordinator, and Dr. Howard Johnson, GTU President in 2007 and 2008, is volunteering to be the first Development Coordinator. Both positions are for three year terms. At the same time, we have eliminated the position of Alumni Chapter Chair, with the hope that these new positions will encompass much of what the Alumni Chapter set out to do.

You can read the duties associated with each position in our By Laws (and I am sure everyone is heading to the website right now to do so!). I will provide a more user friendly version here. We have long recognized the need to communicate much more regularly with our membership. Because we are an organization based totally on volunteers, this has been difficult. As a result, the Outreach Coordinator is tasked with both soliciting and sharing information about chapters and members through various outlets – and certainly using media beyond this newsletter and the website. The Outreach Coordinator will work closely with the regional Student Outreach Assistants (see articles later in this newsletter) to accomplish these tasks. Randy's e-mail is RaBertol@wsc.edu; please do not hesitate to contact him with information, questions, and ideas.

We are proud of the scholarships we have available for members (see the call for applications later in

this newsletter) as well as the AAG/GTU travel awards and the Visiting Geographical Scientist Program that we sponsor. These investments in our members' professional growth are very important and we see a need to insure they continue - -and we would like to increase the numbers available. This requires a concerted fund-raising effort, which is why we have a Development Coordinator. Howard will work with a Fundraising Committee (currently being constituted) to lead our fundraising activities. If you have ideas, projects, or want to contribute, please contact Howard at Hgjohnson1@gmail.com.

I am sure we will be hearing frequently from Randy and Howard. I am hopeful many of you will assist them when called upon for these very important activities.

AAG/GTU Travel Award Winners

The Scholarship committee is happy to announce the winners of the 2016 AAG/GTU Travel Awards to support travel to the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in San Francisco. The enthusiasm expressed by all of the applicants for geography and the innovative scholarship that GTU members, undergraduate and graduate alike, are involved with impressed the committee. Nearly 50 applications were received and their overall excellence made the process of deciding on just ten winners especially difficult. The following winners of the \$200 AAG/GTU travel award submitted applications that stood out and were selected by the committee:

- Kathryn Bills
- Marta Blanco Castano
- Catherine Dufault
- Carolyn Fish
- Thomas Larsen
- Molly Lou Pintok
- Tess Rivenbark
- Rae Rosenberg
- Adrienne Tucker
- Adam Donald Wysocki



Congratulations to the winners! The AAG/GTU travel awards are made possible by generous donations to the AAG-GTU Student Travel Fund. If you would like to donate to the fund for next year, visit the [contribute page](#) on AAG website, sign in, and select AAG-GTU Travel Fund.

Inductions and Initiate Forms

from the Executive Secretary, James Lowry

March is here and that means it's about to get very busy in the GTU office here in Georgia. Most of our chapters induct new members in the spring, and more often than not in March or April. Given that, I thought I'd pass along a few suggestions to help you (to help me). First, please remember that I am, like you, a full-time faculty member and, like all GTU Executive Committee members, I volunteer my time to GTU. I try to get initiate reports processed as quickly as I can, and thus far this academic year I've been able to process most of them the day I receive them. That, however, is about to change when the deluge of spring initiate reports begins rolling in. Please submit your reports as early as you can (preferably well before your induction so we can do our best to get new member certificates and cards to you to hand out at the induction). Right now it looks like it's taking about 3-4 weeks from the time initiate reports are put in the mail to me until certificates and cards are delivered. That will soon stretch to 4-5 weeks and then 5-6 weeks, but please know I am working to get the reports processed and your certificates and cards ordered as quickly as I can.

We have run into a serious issue with some initiate reports – or a lack thereof! Often we never receive reports even though chapters have inducted new members. Last year we had 2 chapters submit applications for chapter awards that mentioned inductions that had never been reported (one chapter mentioned multiple inductions, all never reported, and the other has still never reported their inductees despite a promise to do so). Recently I generated a list of chapters that would become

inactive sometime in the spring or summer if they did not report new members. The list included 26 chapters and all were contacted by their Regional Councilors. Four protested that they had, indeed, inducted members and that the list was incorrect. While they may have inducted members, an initiate report form was never submitted (thus these “members” are not really members of GTU). It is unfortunate, but this happens far too often. We sometimes hear that the report was completed and sent by a department administrative assistant or a student officer. But, ultimately the responsibility falls on the faculty advisor.

There are several simple ways to know if your report was received at the Executive Office. When I receive a report and process it I immediately email a completed copy back to the chapter sponsor. That same day I also update the chapter map (<http://gammathetaupsilon.org/chapters.html>). Zoom in on your area and, if your chapter has a green symbol, it is active. If red, it is inactive. Click on the symbol and it will give you your institution, chapter name, and, most importantly, the date of induction reported on the most recent initiate report received. If that date doesn't match your records, it means the report you think was sent was either never sent or lost in the mail. Please take a look at the map and if you think it is wrong, it means we are missing an initiate report. The map is up-to-date.

Remember that you will receive your new member certificates and cards several weeks after your report is received and processed -- so if you don't receive them, it means we never received the report. Unfortunately, there are students and others out there who believe they are members because they were inducted, but they are not members since an initiate report was never received.

Please feel free to e-mail me at jlowry3@ggc.edu with any questions



Scholarship Applications for 2016

by Michael Longan, 1st Vice-President

Gamma Theta Upsilon members are encouraged to apply for GTU scholarships. Each carries a \$1000 award. The Maxfield, Richason, and Rechlin scholarships are awarded annually to a junior or senior with career or graduate school aspirations. The Buzzard Undergraduate Scholarship is awarded to a college senior for use towards graduate school expenses. The Buzzard Graduate Scholarship is awarded to a continuing masters or doctoral student. Students wishing to apply should review the eligibility criteria, application information, and application forms available at <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/scholarships.html>

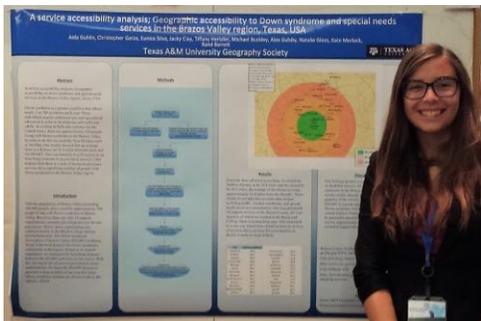
The deadline for applications is June 1, 2016. Candidates should begin working on their application well enough in advance to be sure that they can obtain the two required letters of recommendation in time to meet the deadline.

These scholarships are supported in part by generous donations from supporters of GTU who believe in our mission of recognizing geography's next generation of leaders.

Questions about applying for scholarships may be directed to 1st Vice President Michael Longan at Mike.Longan@valpo.edu. The application deadline is June 1, 2016.

What a GTU Scholarship Meant To Me

by Aida Guhlin, 2016 Maxfield Scholarship Winner



As a Hispanic student, attaining a higher education is of the utmost

importance to not only my family and me, but also to my community. As a senior, I have decided to apply to graduate school in Geography, and that comes with paying for application fees, exam costs and travel costs. Overall, my scholarship has relieved me of the extra financial burden that applying to school can put on a student. I have been accepted to all three schools I applied to and am able to choose the best school that suits my interests and provides me with an excellent education. I am so thankful to have received the GTU scholarship - if you're uncertain about whether you should apply, take a chance at the opportunity. What you do in your geography community may be more inspiring than you think, and you may have the opportunity to receive assistance to do more.



Historian's Column

by Dawn M. Drake

As winter turns into spring, I have decided to dip into my archives of chapter reports to hopefully stimulate some ideas for your chapters to pursue.

This time we are going to return to the GTU Newsletter from 1975-76 to see what chapters were doing in the years 1974-75. It is always fun to look at the names of people who were advisors and officers at that time as well as the innovative activities they pursued. GTU would also love to hear from you! Have some history or activities you want to share for the Historian's Column? Please feel free to email them to me at ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu

Our first stop on our trip down memory lane is in Mobile, Alabama with the Delta Lambda Chapter at the University of South Alabama. During the years of 1974-75, they were fortunate enough to be able to participate in several amazing field trips to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico and Guatemala. The first trip to Mexico and Guatemala included



visits to an archeological dig site managed by National Geographic Society as well as several ancient ruins. Based on the success of the first trip in the Fall, the University of South Alabama was able to secure more funding for students to make a second trip to Guatemala to study physiographic, climatic, and cultural geography. Results of the trips were shared at the Southeastern Division AAG meeting. At the time of the activity report, the group was also working with the administration at the University to create a course in technical writing and a new program in urban studies.

Another chapter that had a busy year in 1974-75 was the Iota Zeta Chapter at Briarcliff College in New York. Perhaps the most unique and exciting activity the group participated in was an exchange program with Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts. In the Fall, students and faculty from Briarcliff spent a weekend at Fitchburg, on a field trip studying the geomorphology of the region. As the report was being written, the Iota Zeta Chapter was making plans to host a reciprocal weekend where faculty and students from Fitchburg would visit Briarcliff. The group also participated in or planned trips to the US Military Academy at West Point, the AAG meeting in Milwaukee, and an engineering and ecological firm in New Jersey. The chapter invited speakers from IBM to discuss remote sensing and SUNY - Purchase to enlighten students about the ecology of salt marshes.

These were not the only industrious chapters in 1974-75. The Iota Theta Chapter at the University of Tennessee – Knoxville hosted an ethnic dinner with foods ranging from the US Southeast to Southwest Asia. They also won the league championship in basketball intramurals. The Iota Lambda Chapter at Central Missouri State University arranged a series of float trips in the Ozarks, which included a partnership with the Epsilon Chapter at Missouri State University. The Iota Tau Chapter at the University of Akron organized a map sale that included displays of

cartographic equipment. The sale took in hundreds of orders for maps and allowed graduate students to educate visitors about map making and career opportunities for geographers. The Kappa Rho Chapter at the University of Wisconsin – Superior hosted a film series at its monthly meetings, giving members an opportunity to learn while meeting with colleagues to discuss the activities of the organization.

While this is only a brief selection of activities that GTU chapters engaged in during the 1974-75 school year, I am hopeful it not only gives you a look into the past, but also stimulates some ideas for the future. GTU is an organization that aims to give excellent students the opportunities they need to grow in their education and careers in geography. Events like these are just a few of the many examples of ways that chapters can facilitate these experiences for our members.

Student Outreach Assistants

Another revision we made to the organization is to change the student representation on the Executive Committee to more regionally-based Student Outreach Assistants. Each Regional Councilor is to appoint a student in his or her region to serve for a term of two years (as long as that student remains a student and in that region). This is a wonderful leadership opportunity for students who want to be more involved in GTU and in promoting geography. We anticipate that the student assistants will help the Regional Councilor with any GTU sessions or activities at regional AAG meetings, serve as a liaison between student in the region and the Regional Councilor, and help the Outreach Coordinator in developing a GTU social media presence. If you know of an interested student, or you are an interested student, please contact your Regional Councilor. Go to <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/contact.html> for contact information.



The Evolution of Omega Omega

by Burrell Montz

Omega Omega was the Alumni Chapter of GTU, a situation that created a great deal of confusion among members. Once students join GTU, they are members for life, so using the term “Alumni” was really not appropriate, and no additional fees are required. The underlying purpose of the Alumni Chapter was to encourage members to continue to support GTU financially and to stay in touch. With the Outreach and Development Coordinators, this is no longer necessary, and these changes offered an opportunity to reduce the confusion. As a result, we have instituted a new category of membership, Omega Omega Sustaining Membership. More on that will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank Dr. Richard Earl at Texas State University for his long-term service as the Omega Omega Chapter Chair. Rich served from 1997 until 2015, and has been the backbone of that Chapter. Thanks to Rich for his dedicated service!

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, GTU 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).

GTU at AAG in SF

As in past years, GTU will have a table in the Exhibit Hall at the AAG Annual Conference. We will be there to answer any questions you might have and we would appreciate hearing suggestions about how we might increase our outreach to members. If any chapter sponsors are willing to volunteer for an hour or two to staff the booth, please contact Randy Bertolas at RaBertol1@wsc.edu.

Donate to GTU

This was mentioned in a previous Newsletter, 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.

Thanks to all who have done this so far.