



President's Column

by Burrell Montz



The academic year is rapidly coming to a close and we are all preparing for our summer activities. Let's not give up on the academic year yet. Please consider submitting a paper for publication in *The Geographical Bulletin*. The peer-reviewed *Bulletin* publishes articles in any area of geographical interest from both students and faculty. The articles coming out in the May issue are included later in this newsletter. For more information, please go to <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/geographical-bulletin.html>.

You should also take note of some important GTU deadlines: Chapter reports and Scholarship applications. Information about each of these follows.

It is never too early to start thinking about next Fall and GTU. There are many opportunities to help with GTU -- in your chapter, in your university, and now in your region. In order to have more student input and involvement, the By-laws and Constitution were amended to replace the two national student representatives with a student representative from each region. Each Regional Councilor will be appointing 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 students 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.

I wish all a happy, healthy, and productive summer. I look forward to being in touch with you in the Fall, and, as always if you have any questions, please contact me (montzb@ecu.edu).

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 scholarship eligibility criteria, application information, and application forms which may be found 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 ask for the two required letters of recommendation.

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.

Annual Chapter Reports Due June 15

By Susy Ziegler

I hope that your GTU chapter has had a productive year. If you collected forms and funds for new members, please submit them to Dr. James Lowry at the GTU office through this website:



<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/initiate-address-form.asp>. No one is a member of Gamma Theta Upsilon International Geographical Honor Society until Dr. Lowry receives the initiate report AND the payment of \$40 per person.

Annual chapter reports are due on June 15, 2016. Please submit your chapter's report before moving on to summer activities. Each chapter sponsor is responsible for submitting a report following the template available at <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/chapter-report-form.html>

To get ideas for length and style of narrative, please read the 2014–15 summaries at <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/chapter-reports-archive.html>

The chapter reports also serve as nominations for GTU chapters applying to be recognized as an Honors Chapter or as earning the Presidential Honors Award. For a chapter to be considered for a 2016 chapter award, it is essential to submit paperwork and initiate the annual minimum number of new members by June 15, 2016 (i.e., the initiate report and check for \$40 per new member must be received by Dr. James Lowry). The Faculty Sponsor must be a verified member of GTU for a chapter to be eligible to receive an Honors Chapter Award or Presidential Honors Award. A Faculty Sponsor who is not a member of GTU should submit his or her name with an initiate report and pay the \$40 membership dues before submitting the annual report that serves as the application for chapter awards. Award criteria are available from <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/chapter-awards.html>.



Historian's Column by Dawn M. Drake

I spend a lot of time in these columns talking about GTU's history, but as I

prepare to make my first trip to view the GTU archives in the Booth Library at Eastern Illinois University, I think it is important to talk about why history matters. We all know the standard line that those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it, but there is more to it than that. The establishment and maintenance of the GTU archives is more than a vain exercise in making our place in history. It is about preserving the institutional knowledge and the legacy of the organization and sharing it with all those who are interested.

Contained in the archives are the papers of prominent members, like Orland Maxfield, as well as numerous past presidents. Images of events and activities, as well as listings of chapter activities throughout time are among the materials there. Also contained in the Booth Library is a full set of *Geographical Bulletins*. All of these items tell a story that is unique to our group. The people who have been involved include numerous AAG Presidents as well as geographers from every walk of life. It is a rich resource that is just waiting for someone to use for research or an article.

So why does it matter? That answer will likely vary from person to person. But GTU is always striving to better serve its members and provide the benefits that they desire from an honor society. As we enter a new phase in our history, we want to make the archives a resource that benefits all of us. During my trip, I hope to gather images and documents to add to the website. I also will be depositing new materials and discussing ways to make the archives accessible to those who cannot come to the Eastern Illinois University campus. I plan to report back in future columns about the status of this project.

The question I close this article with is how can I help the local chapters? Is there something the office of the historian can do for you? In the past I have completed research in the archives for groups seeking information about individual GTU members. I am happy to provide my knowledge



and services in other ways to help GTU. These are everyone's archives and they are for our use to gain more knowledge and information. If there is some way I can help you or your local chapter or there is something you would like to see done with or included in our archives, please let me know. Feel free to contact me at ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu if there is something I can help with, a suggestion about what you would like from the GTU archives, or a question. I hope everyone has a great summer. Look for more information about the archives in the fall.

What a GTU Scholarship Meant To Me

Three scholarship winners from last year share their responses to the question "What did receiving a GTU Scholarship mean to you?" as well as encouragement and tips for completing a successful scholarship application.



"I highly encourage all GTU members to apply for this scholarship. Aside from the obvious benefit of possible financial assistance, the scholarship application serves other valuable functions. The application process provides a unique opportunity for personal reflection of one's journey as a GTU member. Answering the short essay questions helped me identify personal and group accomplishments but more importantly they prompted me to carefully consider what geography means to me. Receiving the Rechlin Scholarship was truly an honor. Good luck!"

Carina Vowels

"It was an honor for me to receive the Richason scholarship from GTU. I regarded it as recognition for all of the work I invested into my education and going above and beyond what was asked of me as a student. I used the scholarship to help pay some

of my tuition and reduce the financial stress of attending college. My advice for people interested in applying for GTU scholarships is to have someone else like a professor or friend read your essay and give feedback. I would recommend writing a few drafts of the essay before sending it in. Ask for recommendations from faculty members who can write you great recommendations and write to your strengths as a student, researcher, and person. Finally, just send in the application materials. Do not think about the odds of receiving a scholarship. Put genuine effort and care into the application and send it in, you never know what can happen. "

Austin Rau



"Entering the conference room at the Universidad Autónoma de México in Mexico City, Mexico, I was anxiously awaiting to find out what

geographers, cartographers, historians, and geophysicists were presenting those next couple of days. I felt like a small fish in a big pond, not unlike my first experience at the annual conference of the Association of American Geographers in 2013. With support from the GTU Buzzard Graduate Scholarship, I was able to attend the 3rd Joint Technical Meeting of the Commissions of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). In no small way, I was entering into a new realm in academia where innovation in the discipline of geography was framed within Latin American higher education institutions and government agencies.

Attending the PAIGH technical meeting, I was able to learn about and network in a realm of geography primarily linked to Latin America and put my Spanish language skills to good use. These experiences have allowed me to continue to grow professionally through the introduction to PAIGH

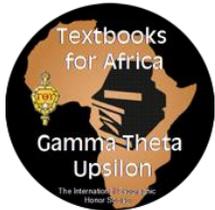


and its established networks in Latin America as well as research collaborations. To find out more about PAIGH, visit <http://www.ipgh.org>.

Graciela Sandoval

Textbooks for Africa

By Susy Ziegler, 2nd Vice-President



Since 2014, Gamma Theta Upsilon chapters have collected books to send to Africa for courses taught in English. The GTU Executive Committee will continue this effort in 2016

through an initiative called "Textbooks for Africa" that will benefit students within a larger number of countries. Please consider collecting books at the end of the semester to box up and ship for this project.

In addition to geography, the subject areas in most need are social sciences, humanities, technology, business, natural sciences, engineering, biological sciences, and agriculture (but other textbooks are also welcome!).

We invite you to share a photo of your chapter members collecting and boxing books to help African students. Add ideas for how you promoted Textbooks for Africa to the GTU Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GammaThetaUpsilonInternational>.

More information, poster to advertise the effort, and book inserts are available at <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/textbooks-for-africa.html>.

The Geographical Bulletin Forthcoming Articles

by Steven Schnell, Editor

The *Geographical Bulletin*, Vol. 57, No. 1, May 2016, includes:

Testing the Feasibility of Dendrogeomorphic Studies in the Southeastern U.S. on Mt. Le

Conte, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee, U.S.A. by Maegen L. Rochner and Henri D. Grissino-Mayer

Downy Woodpecker Habitat Suitability in Gourdneck State Game Area, Michigan by Emma Fojtik and Lisa M. DeChano-Cook

Who Lives Where: A Comprehensive Population Taxonomy of Cities, Suburbs, Exurbs, and Rural Areas in the United States by Brian Edward Johnson and Jason Shifferd

Sustainable Campus Landscapes in the United States and China: A Comparative Analysis by Zhaofang Zhang, Jing Zhou, Deanna Schmidt, and Kathleen Garland.

Stoles Available at GTU Office

There are several dozen stoles (some blue, some gold) that are still available from the GTU office.



These are ones we had not sold by the time we joined with Herff-Jones to handle our merchandise sales. They are \$20 each. Please contact James Lowry, Executive Secretary, at jlowry3@ggc.edu to order them. All other orders will

go through Herff-Jones (https://www.hjgreek.com/index.cfm?event=Products.showCategories&Organization_ID=635)

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.