



President's Column

by Thomas A. Wikle



Two years ago, I had a conversation with a new Ph.D. student from Vietnam about why he should accept an invitation to join Oklahoma State's Chi Chapter. Perceiving that the honor society concept was unfamiliar to him I launched into my "virtues of membership" lecture about what a new member receives from the national office. Although symbols of membership such as certificates and pins are important and appreciated, I've come to realize that intangible elements of belonging to GTU have the most lasting impact. Chapters provide a venue for social interaction among students, faculty and staff with common interests and a forum for organizing campus and community service activities. In some cases friendships developed through participation in social and service activities are long-lasting. A vibrant and well-organized GTU chapter is no accident. Successful chapters are found where there is strong leadership from chapter officers and faculty sponsors.

Visiting Geographical Scientist Program

The Visiting Geographical Scientist Program (VGSP) is accepting applications for the 2013-14 academic year. VGSP sponsors visits by prominent geographers to small departments or institutions that do not have the resources to bring in well-known speakers. Participating institutions select and make arrangements with the visiting geographer. Applications and program details may be found at www.aag.org/org/education/aag/edu_visitinggeographer.cfm. A list of preapproved speakers is also available. Please make sure to include a brief cover letter with your application that describes the schedule of events or activities being planned.

VGSP is funded by Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the international honors society for geographers (www.gammathetaupsilon.org). Additional funding is available for applications involving Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges, Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other Minority-Serving Institutions through a grant from the National Science Foundation as an aspect of AAG's ALIGNED Project (Addressing Locally-tailored Information Infrastructure & Geoscience Needs for Enhancing Diversity). Questions may be directed to Dr. Niem Huynh (nhuynh@aag.org) See: <http://www.aag.org/vgsp/speakers>

Long-time Chapter Sponsors:

20 Years: Edward H. Davis (Emory and Henry College)

10 Years: Randy Bertolas (Wayne State College), H. Jason Combs (Arkansas State University and University of Nebraska at Kearney), Tracy Edwards (Frostburg State University), G. Jay Lennartson (North Carolina at Greensboro), Mark Micozzi (East Central University)

Perspective from the Immediate Past President

by Randy Bertolas, Wayne State College



In 1979 I was a senior majoring in Geography at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. While leaving class one day, I was tapped on the shoulder by my advisor and handed an envelope. The letter inside was an invitation to join Gamma Theta Upsilon. This was the first time I had ever heard of a geography honor society.



A little over 30 years later, I became international President of GTU. No one tapped me this time. After being elected to the national executive committee, I eventually took my turn in the elected rotation of GTU officers and moved up from 1st Vice-President.

I head up my college department and also coordinate a National Geographic statewide Alliance, but nothing quite prepares you for sitting in the big chair as President of a national organization like GTU. It hit me at the first meeting when I walked in and all those faces looked up in anticipation. It was intimidating at first. Fortunately, my Immediate Past President (Don Zeigler of Old Dominion University) was an excellent counsel, our Executive Secretary (James Lowry of the University of New Orleans) is simply the best there is at this position in the world of honor societies, and the other members of the executive committee were extremely supportive,

And that's good, because it takes good people to oversee an honor society. As a naïve undergraduate 30 years ago, I had no idea what membership in an honor society meant. Even a decade ago when I chartered a brand new GTU chapter at my own college, I did so with no intention of becoming involved at the national level. But then I found myself wandering into the GTU Business Meeting at the Oklahoma NCGE Conference in 2007. Soon after, my curiosity was aroused as to how an honor society functioned at the highest levels.

When I attended my first executive committee meeting after being elected an officer, I began to realize the special place that GTU occupies in the geography field. With membership in this 80-year-old institution comes recognition and affirmation, but also a responsibility to give back. I simply had no idea how much GTU was already giving back to our field.

For example, our Visiting Geographical Scientist Program is uniquely positioned to provide chapters located at smaller, geographically-isolated schools the opportunity to bring in world class speakers who can 'talk the talk' with both students and administrators. And GTU's peer-reviewed publication, *The Geographical Bulletin*, provides an opportunity for young scholars to hone their research and writing skills. Ultimately, the judging of applicants to our annual GTU scholarship program proved to be, for me, the most difficult of all the officer duties. The extraordinary dedication of our best GTU students reflected in the quality of their applications makes me certain that our field is in good hands.

The officers and members of the GTU national executive committee work year round to make our organization stand out among honor societies. My duties, and the privilege of working with these folks, have been very rewarding to say the least. I sincerely look forward to my final two years in office and strongly encourage anyone wondering how they might best serve geography to seriously consider running for an officer position one day. I know this experience has changed my perspective on our field.

New Chapter: Mu Omicron (California State University, Stanislaus)

On May 23, 2012 Californian State University, Stanislaus Geographers joined Gamma Theta Upsilon. Mu Omicron became the newest chapter of GTU with the initiation ceremony of its eight founding members. The ceremony was held at Dr. Jennifer Helzer's home in the presence of fellow geographers, family, and friends. This would not have been possible without the hard work and determination of founding President Gil Perez and the support of the Geography department faculty and staff. Special thanks Dr. Jennifer Helzer, Dr. Peggy Hauselt, Dr. Augustine Avwunudiogba, and Susan Helm-Lauber for doing all the necessary paperwork for membership. It was a joyous



occasion and gave impetus for other geographers to join the society. On September 14th, 2012, four new group members were initiated into the Mu Omicron chapter, including our first graduate student!



Gamma Theta Upsilon at CSUS: Top row from left to right: Dr. Augustine Avwunudiogba (Faculty Adviser), Gil Perez (Founding President of CSU Stanislaus GTU), Donald Rajewich, Aldo Garcia, Michelle Machado, Marisa Rae Hultgren and Dr. Jennifer Helzer. Bottom row from left to right: Michael Machado, Maegan Antoinette Salinas.

Historian's Column

By Dawn Drake



One of my roles as the historian is to be the keeper of back issues of *The Geographical Bulletin*. To that end, my office has been

overtaken by boxes of journals. As I am sure you are all aware, Steven Schnell and others have worked hard to get copies of all issues of the Bulletin onto the web at <http://www.gamma>

thetaupsilon.org/geographical-bulletin-index.html, but sometimes you still want a hard copy of an article. Maybe it is an article you wrote, or maybe just something you refer to all the time. Below is a list of all the *Bulletins* of which back copies exist. If anyone would be interested in receiving copies of any of these journals, please contact me at ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu. The journals would be free unless an order is unusually large when a small shipping fee would be requested. Journals will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Some more exciting news! Did you know that GTU has archives? They are housed at the Booth Library at Eastern Illinois University. Our archivist, Dr. Robert Hillman, and his assistant, Johna Von Behrens, have been working very hard to inventory the material that is currently deposited at the library. We are hoping the materials will be cataloged and available for use in the next year. The Gamma Theta Upsilon Executive Committee will be continuing to add to the materials as well. Keep reading the GTU Quarterly News for updates on the status of the project! In the next edition of the newsletter, I hope to feature information from an individual chapter's history. To do that, I need some help. Please consider taking a few moments to share a favorite moment from your chapter's recent or distant past. I would love to receive an email and maybe even some photos! Please send chapter histories to me.

Bulletins available: Volumes 1-8, 10-16, 20-28(1), 29(1), 40(2), 42(1), 43(1 and 2), 45(1), 46(2)

News from Chapters: Kappa Upsilon (Texas State University)

Texas State GTU members provide tutoring for geography and geology classes. This program provides a useful service for students and good publicity for the Department of Geography and GTU. Also, serving as a tutor provides undergrad GTU members with teaching experience that can



enhance their chances of being awarded a graduate teaching assistant for their graduate studies.



Texas State GTU members have adopted maintenance responsibility for a section of the San Marcos River Greenbelt in San Marcos, TX.

Visiting Geographical Scientist Program (VGSP) Seeks Speaker Nominations

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) is looking for nominations to the Visiting Geographical Scientist Program (VGSP) list of speakers. The Visiting Geographical Scientist Program is funded through GTU (the geography honor society) and managed by the Association of American Geographers. VGSP speakers, who must be GTU members, have the opportunity to bring new knowledge and interesting perspectives to geography departments across the country. Speakers usually visit at least two schools on a trip in order to meet with geography students and faculty, give presentations, share research, and talk with administrators about the importance of geography in higher education. Small colleges/universities in underserved regions are especially encouraged to apply for our grants to bring in VGSP speakers. A list of VGSP speakers can be found at <http://www.aag.org/vgsp/speakers>. If you are interested in being added to our approved list of VGSP speakers please contact Dr. Thomas Wikle at t.wikle@okstate.edu

Forthcoming Articles in the *Geographical Bulletin* (May 2013, Volume 54, Number 2)

Nonpoint Source Pollution Risk Mapping for Alabama's Big Creek Lake

Marco Allain and Jason Jones

Gated Communities: Institutionalizing Social Stratification

L. Joe Morgan

Using Music to Learn Geomorphology: An Undergraduate Experience

Casey D. Allen, Tyler J. Thompson and Matthew T. Hansen

Sky-View Factor Estimation: A Case Study of Athens, Georgia

Neil Debbage

Book Review

Anne M. Meltzer

Forthcoming Handbook for Chapter Sponsors

By Mike Longan, 2nd Vice President

Please consider sharing advice/strategies for successful GTU chapters through a forthcoming handbook for chapter sponsors and student leaders. For example, are there programs or activities taking place within your local chapter that others might find helpful? Are there things that you know now that you wish you had known when you first started as a sponsor or leader? What tips do you have for encouraging participation? Are there activities that promote geography you'd like to share with others? Please send your ideas or input to Dr. Mike Longan at Mike.Longan@valpo.edu

Please visit our webpage:

<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/>