



President's Column
by Thomas A. Wikle



As geographers we still encounter persons who associate our discipline with memorizing the names of countries and capital cities. Meeting someone with a poor understanding of geography provides an opportunity to explain what geographers do

and how geography is relevant to society. One attribute that seems universal among geographers is a curiosity about landscape patterns and how natural and cultural systems interact. A friend of mine once described geographers as being “articulate generalists.” In a world that increasingly values diverse perspectives and problem solving approaches, geography is an inherently interdisciplinary subject. Geography graduates are recognized as having unique analysis and problem solving skills. Our discipline introduces students to field work, quantitative and qualitative methods, and tools for working with spatial information such as GIS, remote sensing and cartography. Emerging technologies that have increased the available of and access to spatial information create an even greater demand for individuals capable of recognizing patterns and understanding complex systems. Geography and geographers have much to offer!

Update on the AAG/GTU Travel Scholarship

More than 60 applications were received for the AAG/GTU Travel Scholarship. This new program is being offered through a partnership involving the Association of American Geographers and Gamma Theta Upsilon that makes \$200 travel awards available to GTU student members. Undergraduate or graduate students are eligible for the award with preference to students attending their first meeting and who are presenting a paper

or poster. Applicants for this year’s program will be notified by the end of February.

Historian’s Column
by Dawn Drake

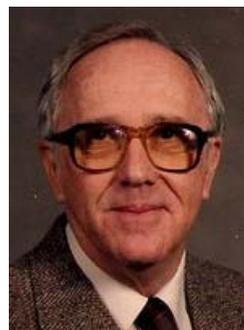


Dawn Drake

I’ve been writing the historian’s column for about a year now and it has been a rewarding experience. I love looking through all the old materials and trying to find interesting stories for each quarter’s column. I’m sure many of you have your own

stories to contribute but just haven’t found time to email me. I still would love to hear from you. Do you have a favorite story about your chapter, a person, or a national meeting? Chapter sponsors, do you want to share a unique story from the chapter you sponsor or a chapter you were a member of as a student? How about past and present initiation pictures? We welcome your contributions, especially those with photographs or personal stories. Please email me at ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu or stop by the GTU booth in Tampa to talk to me.

To initiate this process I’ll share a personal memory of GTU. I was the recipient of the O.



O. Orland Maxfield

Orland Maxfield Scholarship as an undergraduate at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in... well, let’s just say a few years ago. The award was presented at the National Council for Geographic Education’s awards banquet at the meeting in Philadelphia,

where I was in attendance with some members of my school’s GTU Chapter. At the time, I was one of the student representatives on the Executive Committee. During the banquet, I was introduced to Dr. Maxfield by Dr. Virgil Holder, who was then the Executive Secretary of GTU. It was such



a great honor to have the opportunity to meet Dr. Maxfield. He passed away a few years later and, if Orland's recollections are correct, I am the only Maxfield scholarship winner he ever personally met.

GTU provides its members with wonderful opportunities and experiences. I would love to capture some of that history, not just for the newsletter, but also for the archives. We're still working on getting GTU's historical documents available in the collection at Eastern Illinois University. Look for updates on the status of that project in future historian's columns.

New Student Representative



GTU's new Junior Student Representative is Graciela Sandoval, a doctoral student at Texas State University (gs1132@txstate.edu). Graciela currently attends Texas State University where she is pursuing a PhD in Geography Education. She

was initiated into the Kappa Upsilon chapter of GTU in 2012 and served as chapter public relations chair. Graciela is currently servicing as the chapter's president. Her dissertation will examine Latina health disparities in three border towns in the Southwestern United States. Graciela is a Los Angeles native and received BA degrees in Spanish and Latin American Studies at UCLA.



Richard Earl

GTU Launches Drive to Increase Scholarships
by Richard Earl, Omega Omega Chair

At its business meeting in Denver last August, the GTU Executive Committee launched a program to increase the

number of GTU scholarships. For over twenty years there have been five national GTU scholarships. In 2001 awards were increased to \$1,000 from \$500. The Committee believes that in light of the increasing number of GTU chapters, it would be appropriate to increase the number of scholarships funded through the Education Fund. The Committee created three levels of suggested donations to the fund: *The Presidential Level--\$25*; *The Founders Level--\$50*, and the *Heritage Level--\$100*. If you would like to contribute to the GTU Education Fund please send a check payable to the "GTU Education Fund" to the GTU Executive Secretary or through the annual renewal form for the GTU Alumni Chapter included within *Omega Omega News*.

GTU Education Fund
C/o Dr. James D. Lowry, Jr.
Department of Geography
350 Milneburg Hall
University of New Orleans
2000 Lakeshore Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70148

New East Lakes Regional Councilor



Harry J. "Jimmy" Wilson has been appointed to replace Lisa DeChano-Cook as East Lakes Regional Councilor. Dr. Wilson is Visiting Assistant Professor of Geography within the Department of History, Politics and Justice at Ohio Northern University (ONU). Jimmy's educational

background includes a BA (Anthropology/ Archaeology, Florida State University), an MA (Historical Archaeology, University of West Florida), and a PhD (Historical Geography/GIS, Louisiana State University). Shortly after his arrival in 2007, Jimmy took steps to charter a GTU



chapter at ONU. In addition to serving as GTU chapter sponsor, Jimmy's pursues research interests in anthropology, archaeology, history, marketing, criminal justice, biology and civil engineering.

Regional Councilor Appointments

Susy Ziegler (West Lakes) and Tim Hawkins (Middle States) have been reappointed to three-year terms as regional councilors. Dr. Ziegler serves as Head of the Department of Earth, Environmental, and Geographical Sciences at Northern Michigan University (NMU) where she is an Associate Professor. At NMU she teaches biogeography, introduction to geographic research, and environmental science. Dr. Hawkins is an associate professor in the Department of Geography and Earth Science and advisor to the Omicron Chapter at Shippensburg University. His teaching and research interests include hydroclimatology, urban climatology, and meteorological education.

South Dakota State Geography Convention

by James Doerner, Regional Councilor



James Doerner

The Delta Zeta Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon at South Dakota State University is hosting the 45th Annual South Dakota State Geography Convention, March 20-21, 2014 on the South Dakota State campus. Featured speakers will include AAG President Julie Winkler (Michigan State University), Hilary Hungerford (South Dakota State University), Gray Tappan (USGS/EROS Data Center), Lara Prihodko (Geospatial Science Center of Excellence, South Dakota State University), Margaret Pearce (University of Kansas), John Fraser Hart (University of Minnesota), John Hudson (Northwestern University), Marc Simard (NASA Jet Propulsion Lab, Pasadena, CA), Forrest Wilkerson (Minnesota

State University-Mankato), and Derek Alderman (University of Tennessee-Knoxville).

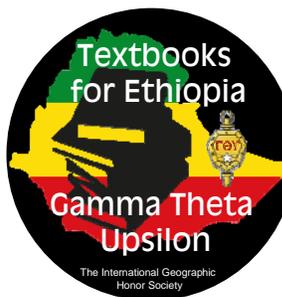


This year's convention will also have student speakers and poster presenters and the J.R. Smith Memorial Geography Bowl, an informal social event. The Convention will end with an Awards Banquet with Dr. Winkler giving the keynote address. Student abstracts for posters and papers will be accepted until March 1, 2014. Please submit abstracts to joshua.bucher@sdstate.edu (President, Delta Zeta Chapter, Gamma Theta Upsilon South Dakota State University).

Textbooks for Ethiopia

by Thomas Wikle

In January 2014 GTU announced a nationwide service project aimed at helping less fortunate college and university students in Africa. As a result of the shortage of teaching resources, many students at Ethiopian colleges and universities are forced to share textbooks. In some classes as few



as six books available for 30 students. In addition, books that are available are in poor shape because of heavy use. *Textbooks for Ethiopia* can involve any GTU chapter willing to initiate a book drive on its campus. Chapters that

choose to affiliate with the project collect and ship books to Oklahoma State University where they will be sorted and organized. GTU is collaborating with represents of Colorado State University (CSU) to ship textbooks overseas to Ethiopia.



Five GTU chapters have already become partners in *Textbooks for Ethiopia*:

- Delta Theta, Chicago State (Geographical Society)
- Delta Mu, University of Mary Washington
- Zeta Lambda, University of New Orleans
- Chi, Oklahoma State University
- Lambda Upsilon, Grand Rapids CC
- Mu Sigma, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Please contact Thomas Wikle if your chapter would like to become a partner in this service project (t.wikle@okstate.edu).

Please see the *Textbooks for Ethiopia* website for more information:
<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/textbooks-for-ethiopia.html>

Update on GTU Merchandise
 by James Lowry, GTU Executive Secretary



We've successfully moved our merchandise to our online Herff-Jones storefront:

The GTU Store at Herff-Jones (pins, stoles, cords):



https://www.hjgreek.com/index.cfm?event=Products.showCategories&Organization_ID=635

Don't forget you can also order GTU frames and desk accessories from our Church Hill Classics storefront:



<http://www.diplomaframe.com/gatu/store.aspx>

We also have some stoles and lapel pins at the GTU office at UNO so if you'd like to purchase them directly from us please feel free to send in an order (lapel pins are \$10 and stoles (we have blue and gold) are \$20). Once these are gone we'll be completely out and all orders will have to go through the Herff-Jones site. Also, coming soon, and viewable at the GTU booth in Tampa, are plaques to honor members and/or chapters. These will be available from Herff-Jones. If you have ideas for other merchandise GTU should distribute please feel free to contact me at jlowry@uno.edu.

Please see merchandise Herff-Jones offers for other organizations:
<https://www.hjgreek.com/index.cfm?event=Products.showOrganizationsByType&organizationType=Professional,Honor>

