



President's Column

by Thomas A. Wikle



This month's column is dedicated to a group of people who work in every academic department of geography. We know them for the "heavy lifting" they do in maintaining the health of our departments and insuring the welfare of every student. I'm speaking of

course about undergraduate advisors. I've never been an undergraduate advisor so my perceptions are based on observation rather than experience.

We've been extraordinarily lucky in my department in terms of the caliber of persons who have served in this role. Undergraduate advisors appear in many forms. Within larger departments they may be staff members while in many other programs faculty members serve in this role. Regardless of the context, advisors are a key element to student retention, progression and success. They work on the "front lines" in supporting both our curricula and our students.

Annual Chapter Reports and Awards

by Mike Longan, 2nd Vice President

This has been a great year for GTU and I hope that it's been a good year for your chapter! It is time to submit chapter reports. The basic report should only take a few minutes to complete and involves providing a few details and highlights of your year. An edited version will be posted on the GTU website. In addition, your chapter's activities may be featured in this newsletter.

You'll find a chapter report form on the GTU website that can be submitted online at:

www.gammathetaupsilon.org/chapter-report-form.html

Alternatively you may download a Microsoft Word version of the form to fill out and email or mail to me. The form is available at the same location.

Last year's chapter reports can be viewed at:

www.gammathetaupsilon.org/chapter-reports-archive.html



As part of submitting your report, your chapter also has the opportunity to apply for the *Honors Chapter Award* or the *Presidential Chapter Award*. If you would like your chapter to be considered for these awards, the second section of the chapter report form allows you to tell us about how your chapter met award criteria. If your chapter did not meet the criteria this year, I hope that you'll use the awards criteria to set next year's agenda. Please submit your report and *Chapter Awards Application* by June 15th.

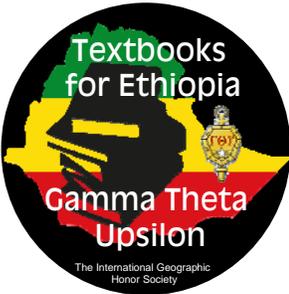
Forthcoming GTU Leadership Handbook

by Mike Longan, 2nd Vice President

GTU we would like to include advice from you about strategies that lead to successful chapters. Are there activities in your 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? Do you have tips for encouraging participation in GTU activities? Send your input to GTU 2nd Vice Pres. Mike Longan at Mike.Longan@valpo.edu.



Textbooks for Ethiopia



More than a dozen chapters have become partners in a nationwide GTU service project announced in January. *Textbooks for Ethiopia* is helping supply books to colleges and universities in Africa.

Please see the *Textbooks for Ethiopia* website for more information:

<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/textbooks-for-ethiopia.html>

Update on the AAG/GTU Travel Scholarship

Ten GTU student members were awarded travel scholarships to attend the Association of American Geographers meeting in Tampa Florida this past March. Students who received \$200 travel awards were selected from among 60 who applied.

Student	Institution	Paper/Poster Title
Martin Aucoin	University of North Texas	Farmers' Markets and Foodsheds: Perceptions of Place and Community in the Dallas Local Foods Movement
Kristen Balschunat	SUNY Geneseo	The Impact of Land Use on Stream Geomorphology
Keren Bolter	Florida Atlantic University	Actual Versus Perceived Risk to Sea Level Rise: A Case Study in Broward County, FL
Merita Bushi	Macalester College	Rethinking Heterolocalism: The Case of Place-Making among Albanian-Americans

Ayelet Harel	SUNY Geneseo	"The International Jew: The World's Problem": Anti-Semitism in Detroit
Samuel Hebel	University of Wisconsin Oshkosh	Reconstructing Barotseland in the digital age: Public discourse and thee independence conversation in Zambia
Thomas Larsen	University of Missouri-Columbia	Meanderings of Power: Topologies of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways
Robert Sabie	New Mexico State University	Remote Sensing for Monitoring Surface Coal Mine Remediation in Drylands
Robert Shepard	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Nebraska Gender Geodemographics: Residential Patterns of Young Adults, 1930 – 2010
Megan Wika	Gustavus Adolphus College	Family, Patriotism, and Land Stewardship: Employing the Rural Ideal to Champion Corn Ethanol in Minnesota

Historian's Column

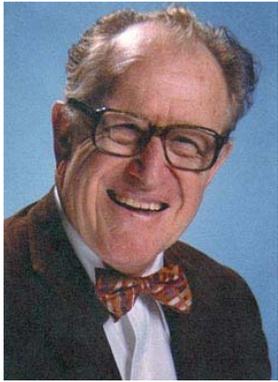
by Dawn Drake

In looking for a topic to write about this quarter, I opened up one of the back issues of the *Geographical Bulletin* in my office, intending to reflect on the historic figures who have written for GTU's journal. As I glanced through the table of contents, something caught my eye – an article written by Dr. David Lantis, who was the international president of GTU at the time of the *Geographical Bulletin's* inception in 1970. The



article was titled “The Relevancy of Gamma Theta Upsilon.” As the spring semester draw to a close for many of us and chapters are holding initiations of new Gamma Theta Upsilon members, this seemed likely a very timely topic.

At the time of the publication of volume 1, no. 1 of the *Geographical Bulletin* in 1970, Dr. Lantis was leading an organization that was over 40 years old. There were approximately 17,300 members at 128



chapters in the U.S. Dr. Lantis’ article was intended to discuss not only the importance of GTU to the discipline of geography, but also to probe the vexing problem that geography as a discipline still struggles with at times today – how do we attract the most promising youth that come

through our general studies classes into geography programs? After posing a few hypotheses on the subject, including the lack of good teachers in a profession that values publishing over developing teaching skills, and a lack of senior professors teaching the introductory classes that attract new geography majors, Dr. Lantis finally asks the key question – how can Gamma Theta Upsilon help?

Dr. Lantis sees GTU’s role in the recruitment of geography majors as serving as a mechanism for students to establish their own personal identities in the field of geography. He observed, through his travels, that departments that are able to retain students from lower division to upper division classes are those that have engaging faculty teaching at lower divisions. Similarly, the most vibrant GTU chapters were those with the most enthusiastic faculty sponsorship that encourages promising young students in geography to stick with the discipline and become members of GTU. Dr. Lantis encourages departments that grant degrees at various levels (bachelor’s, masters, and/or doctorate) to promote student participation

in GTU at different levels. The use of a geography club is one of his suggestions to introduce non-majors to the opportunities that the study of geography can provide. Distinguished members of the geography club can then be honored with GTU membership, if they meet the criteria.

There is one interesting historical footnote to the article. At the time of Dr. Lantis’ article, Omega Omega did not exist. There was no mechanism for Gamma Theta Upsilon members to stay connected to the organization after graduating unless they were associated with a university. Today students can become members of the Omega Omega chapter of GTU after they are initiated into their local chapter. This helps GTU members maintain a connection to GTU through the *Geographical Bulletin*, but also by helping new members establish their place in the field of geography by donating to the Educational Fund. For more information on Omega Omega, please refer to the GTU website.

Nearly 45 years later, helping students develop individual identities within the field of geography is still an important purpose of GTU. Scholarships offered by GTU, funded by membership dues and donations to the Educational Fund, help students continue their education in the field of geography. Publishing opportunities offered by the *Geographical Bulletin* and the new AAG/GTU Student Travel Award offer students in geography professional development opportunities that those in many in other disciplines will never have a chance to experience. Dr. Lantis actively advocated for a larger role for GTU at national and regional meetings as a means of helping students find their place in geography. The student travel awards are just one of many ways GTU can continue to do that in the future.

Dr. Lantis’ main point in this historical article is that the relevancy of Gamma Theta Upsilon is to serve as a bridge between a student’s first geography class and establishing a permanent



place in the discipline; to encourage students to take more courses in geography and maintain their interest in the discipline, even if they do not pursue a continuing career in academic geography. These remain admirable goals for GTU to aim for as it continues impact geography now and in the future.

If you would like to share photos or stories about how your GTU chapter makes geography relevant for students and helps them find their individual place in the discipline, feel free to email me at ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu



Forthcoming Articles in *Geographical Bulletin*

Vol. 55 No. 1, May 2014

Local Regulatory Protection for Ecosystem Services: A Case Study from the Karst Region of Southeast Minnesota, USA

Mary A. Williams and Susy Svatek Ziegler

Assessing Land Use Changes Due to Natural Gas Drilling Operations in the Marcellus Shale in Bradford County, PA

Claire A. Jantz, Hannah K. Kubach, Jacob R. Ward, Shawn Wiley and Dana Heston

Mapping Burn Severity Using the Composite Burn Index in an Oak Savannah in Central Massachusetts

Joseph Danko III, John Rogan, Dominik Kulakowski and Maureen McConnell

Short-term Associations between Accumulated Rainfall and Atmospheric Moisture during Landfall of Three Atlantic Hurricanes

Peng Jia, Andrew Joyner and Yilun Sun

Update from the Kappa Xi Chapter

by Robert Sabie, Jr., President of Kappa Xi

On March 8th, 2014 the Kappa Xi Chapter of GTU at New Mexico State University hosted a "Geography Fun Day" in cooperation with the Las Cruces Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. The purpose of the event was to introduce younger students to some of the fun aspects of geography. The event consisted of three activities appropriate for ages 8-16. The first activity was a cartographic exercise in which participants were given a blank map of New Mexico and a list of common geographic features within the state. The participants were asked to include the features on



the map using their own symbology scheme. The second activity was a treasure hunt designed by GTU members. A one mile on campus

course was established with hidden "loot" placed in selected locations. Participants were given a themed map of the campus that included written directions and clues to recover the hidden "loot."



The third activity was using ESRI story maps to explore different world regions and provide participants an introduction to computer based geographic information. The story maps included quizzes that required participants to click on a map region to answer the quiz

questions. After the three activities, participants were introduced to Google Earth and spent time exploring and discussing various geographic features of interest that could be viewed from the imagery. Everyone enjoyed the event, especially the kids whom walked away with several bags of loot (candy). The Big Brothers Big Sisters coordinator was impressed and is excited to



continue building a relationship between our two organizations.

Student Ambassadors

by Graciela Sandoval and Richard Earl

The Department of Geography at Texas State University has long realized that GTU members are the ideal student representatives of its programs



and has GTU members serve as the department's representatives at its public lectures, service events, and recruiting activities. Kappa Upsilon members serve as ushers for the department's prestigious

Gilbert Grosvenor Lectures and its equally prestigious James and Marilyn Lovell Lectures on Environmental Geography. Speakers at those lectures have included the President of Malawi, a U.S. Senator, a former U.S. Secretary of State, former astronauts, and other well-known figures such as oceanographer Sylvia Earle. At those lectures, GTU is acknowledged in the opening remarks and the printed program.



GTU members, along with faculty, staff the department's exhibit at the university's four times-a-year open house recruiting events, called "Bobcat Days." Those events, primarily directed at high school students and their families, allow for our GTU members to provide prospective students a student's perspective on our programs and provide a positive example of the type and quality of our students. In recognition of the value of our chapter's contributions to the department's success, the department has generously supported its programs financially and through staff assistance

in GTU service projects such as "Textbooks for Ethiopia." Nine new student members were inducted in the Texas State GTU Kappa Upsilon Chapter Initiation Ceremony in April.

Editor's Note: Ms. Sandoval serves as President of the Kappa Upsilon Chapter at Texas State University and Student Representative on the GTU Executive Committee. Dr. Earl is Chair of GTU's Omega Omega Chapter.

Visiting Geographical Scientist Program

by Susy Ziegler

On October 14, 2013, Northern Michigan University's Eta Chi Chapter of GTU hosted Dr. Antoinette WinklerPrins through the Visiting Geographical Scientist Program. What a wonderful opportunity for NMU's students, faculty, and community members to hear about soils of the Amazon and the conservation implications of the so-called dark earths! Our GTU members enjoyed a relaxing meal with Dr. WinklerPrins before her presentation, and they presented her with a jar containing a local soil profile.

The VGSP grant is funded by GTU and is administered very well through the Association of American Geographers. We encourage GTU colleagues at other institutions to apply for VGSP funding to help promote geography. The VGSP covers travel costs and provides a small honorarium, while the host institution provides meals and accommodations. Applications are being accepted now for the coming academic year. Plan ahead to bring a speaker to campus for Geography Awareness Week in November or another time that works well for your campus!

Please visit the following links for more information:

<http://gammathetaupsilon.org/visiting-geographical-scientist-program.html>

<http://www.aag.org/vgsp>