



## President's Column

by Thomas A. Wikle



You might be surprised at this admission, but I never earned the grades to join GTU as an undergraduate student. My academic record in graduate school was better so I might have been invited to join if there had been an active GTU chapter where I received my graduate degrees. Sometimes I feel as though I missed an opportunity to have experienced GTU as most of you have.

Although there are many longtime GTU members like me who remain active as chapter sponsors and/or Executive Committee members, GTU operates as a student organization. Unlike the AAG, we don't have annual meetings, meaning that nearly all GTU activities and events take place at the local level.

In reviewing annual reports submitted by chapters I've come to realize that the size of a geography program isn't a useful predictor for the success of a chapter. My not-so-scientific research suggests that a vibrant GTU chapter has three attributes. First, a healthy chapter is encouraged and supported by a group of faculty. A second and critically important ingredient is a group of students willing to plan, organize and provide leadership for activities and events throughout the academic year. The success and visibility of GTU events is important in maintaining engagement on the part of members and serves as a catalyst for membership recruiting. Finally, assistance and encouragement from the chapter's faculty sponsor provides continuity and stability. Faculty sponsors are the "glue" that holds a chapter together from year-to-year.

This is my final column as president. I've enjoyed the opportunity to correspond with students,

chapter sponsors, and alumni members of GTU. Most of you were fortunate to have begun your affiliation with GTU as a student. I sincerely hope you'll always be proud of this accomplishment.



## Conference Announcement: National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR), April 16-18, 2015

The *Council on Undergraduate Research* and Eastern Washington University invite undergraduates to attend NCUR 2015. Students are invited to submit abstracts for posters, oral presentations, and creative and performing arts presentations. NCUR is a multi-disciplinary conference for bright, motivated, and talented students, who come from all types of institutions including research universities, community colleges, comprehensive universities, and private liberal arts colleges. The conference is an opportunity for students to present research to peers, receive feedback from faculty from other institutions, network with graduate school representatives, and hear from inspiring plenary speakers. Abstract are due by December 2, 2014. For more information, visit:

[http://www.cur.org/ncur\\_2015](http://www.cur.org/ncur_2015)

Questions? [ncur2015@ewu.edu](mailto:ncur2015@ewu.edu)



## Conference Announcement: Western Social Science Association (WSSA), April 8-11, 2015

Students are invited to participate in the student poster, paper and dissertation competitions at the WSSA Conference in Portland, Oregon. The WSSA is 56 years old and includes members from 30 disciplines. For more information visit: <http://www.wssaweb.com/>



**Forthcoming articles in the  
*Geographical Bulletin* (November 2014,  
Volume 55, No. 2)**

*Spatial Crime Displacement on Chicago's South Side*

David Melsness and Ryan Weichert

*Championing the City Motto: An Analysis of  
Edmonton's Un/Official Slogan*

Nathan Bunio and Elvin Wily

*Improved Monitoring of Forest Disturbance and  
Succession Using an Optimized Satellite Image  
Index*

Matthew Klotzbach and Jonathan Thayn

Interview with Kimi Eisele

Book Review of Velvet Nelson's *An Introduction  
to the Geography of Tourism*

William C. Terry



Dawn Drake

**Historian's Column**

by Dawn M. Drake

As I tried to think of an appropriate topic for this edition of *Quarterly News*, I turned for inspiration, as I often do, to the copies of the *Geographical Bulletin* on my office shelves. In a moment of either divine intervention or luck, I decided to look back ten years to the November 2004 edition. What I saw in that table of contents was both melancholy and heart-warming prose, if it is possible to have both at the same time. The issue said good-bye to two very important people to GTU, but, at the same time, reminded us of what they stood for and how they inspired us to be better people.

In February 2004 GTU very suddenly lost the editor of the *Geographical Bulletin*, Dr. C. Nicholas Raphael. As can be seen in the lovely memoriam that his colleagues at Eastern Michigan University wrote, Dr. Raphael was well-respected and much beloved by his students, colleagues, and



Nicholas Raphael

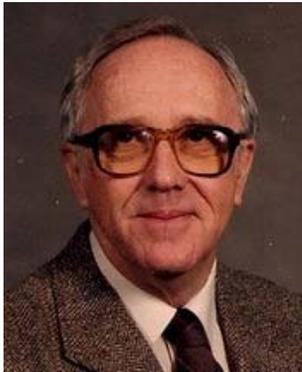
friends. Not only did all of us on the Executive Committee lose a friend, but GTU lost the captain of its literary ship. Dr. Raphael had been at the helm of the *Geographical Bulletin* for over 15 years. It was a role that was not easily filled. As the *Bulletin* went to

press in 2004, acting editor, Dr. Lawrence Handley, announced that the position was to be filled by Dr. Steven Schnell of Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Schnell has now led the *Geographical Bulletin* for ten years. To that end I wish Dr. Schnell a happy GTU anniversary!

The November 2004 issue of the *Geographical Bulletin* also featured a memoriam to Dr. O. Orland Maxfield. Dr. Maxfield, for whom the Maxfield scholarship is named, was a crucial member of GTU for many years. In the editor's comments at the beginning of Volume 46, no. 2, Dr. Maxfield is described as the, "driving force... within the Society for over three decades." I always will remember Dr. Maxfield fondly. In October 2002 I was presented with the Maxfield scholarship from GTU at the National Council for Geographic Education's (NCGE) annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After the awards dinner, Dr. Virgil Holder, who was the Executive Secretary of GTU at the time, introduced me to Dr. Maxfield. I remember him smiling at me and



telling me that I was one of the few Maxfield scholarship recipients he had ever met.



Orland Maxfield

Probably all of us that ever met Dr. Maxfield have stories like that. It is fitting that, beyond Dr. Holder's memoriam of Dr. Maxfield, GTU chose to remember the man by reprinting an adaptation of the paper that Dr. Maxfield presented at the NCGE meeting in Philadelphia in 2002. It

was entitled "Of Mentors and Mentoring" and was taken from Dr. Maxfield's own comments at the NCGE Distinguished Mentor Award session that honored him for his years of devoted work with students and colleagues in the discipline of geography. Also printed in memory of Dr. Maxfield were adaptations of Dr. Lawrence Handley and Dr. Leon Hallman's remarks at the same NCGE Distinguished Mentor Award session. All in all, the papers served as a fitting tribute to a man who positively impacted so many lives.

So while much of the November 2004 issue of the *Geographical Bulletin* was spent eulogizing and memorializing great men of Gamma Theta Upsilon's past, it was not all meant to be sad. Rather, the issue served as a reminder of what it means to be a part of this organization and the impacts that a few people can have on others. That, I truly believe, is the value of the legacy contained in the pages of this issue of the *Geographical Bulletin*.

As I always do, I will end this column with a call for all of you to participate in the Historian's Column. If you have a distinguished GTU member or mentor that you would like to remember, please contact me at [ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu). I would be glad to

help with those tributes. I hope you have a great end of the semester and a happy holiday season!

### New Regional Councilors

GTU is pleased to welcome two new regional councilors who will take office on January 1, 2015. Dr. Jessie Clark will be replacing Dr. Teresa Bulman as Regional Councilor for the Pacific and Dr. Brad Watkins will replace Ms. Juana Ibanez presently serving as Regional Councilor for the Southwest. Ms. Ibanez will replace Dr. Jeff Lash as Recording Secretary.



Jessie Clark is an assistant professor in the Geography Department at the University of Nevada Reno. After receiving her PhD in Geography from the University of Arizona in 2012, Jessie returned to her alma matter, the

University of Oregon, and worked for two years as the undergraduate program coordinator, instructor, and advisor. While there, she served as the faculty sponsor for the Theta Kappa Chapter. Research-wise, Jessie looks at questions at the intersections of political geography, gender, and development. Specifically, Jessie works with collaborators in the Kurdish Southeast Turkey region to understand the role that women play in political conflict and nation-building processes. She teaches courses on political and cultural geography. Jessie's call to geography also regularly leads her to the mountains of the high desert and Pacific Northwest for hiking and backpacking. And, she is an avid runner and blue-grass stomper.

Brad Watkins is an associate professor of Geography in the Department of History and Geography at the University of Central Oklahoma. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Geography at the University of Oklahoma (2000), a Master of Arts



in Geography at University of Oklahoma (2002), and a Ph.D. in Geography from Oklahoma State University (2007). He serves as the director of the American Indian Studies Minor and is the faculty advisor for the Geography Student Organization.



Dr. Watkins currently is pursuing two areas of research. The first is in biogeography, particularly the encroachment of invasive species (eastern red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*) across mixed grass prairies. The second

area is in historical GIS, particularly historical Choctaw settlement and resource use in Indian Territory. Human-environmental interaction and applied geography are central to his research and teaching.

### Omega Omega Donors to the Education Fund

By Richard Earl

GTU would like to thank the following GTU Omega Omega (Alumni Chapter) members for their generous donations to the Education Fund that supports GTU scholarships. Andrew M. Byron, Corvallis, OR; Alvin Mature, Beaver, PA (gift at the *Presidential Level*); Alan More, McLean VA (gift at the *Founders Level*); and Ariel I. Talen-Keller, Chugiak, AK. Thank you!

### AAG/GTU Student Travel Award

by Michael Longan

Once again this year, the Association of American Geographers (AAG) and Gamma Theta Upsilon are collaborating to offer a travel award for students attending the AAG meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Students who submit an application will be eligible for a \$200 award. Preference will be given to students who are presenting either a paper or

poster and to first time attendees. The on-line application can be accessed at:

<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/travel-award-application.html>.



### GTU Election Results – Fall 2014

by Randy Bertolas



The ballots have been counted and the results are in. GTU extends a hearty “thank you” to all who stood for election this fall to the Executive Committee. Beginning in January 2015 a mix of veteran and new officers will move into important leadership positions.

Burrell Montz, Professor and Chair of the Geography Department at East Carolina University, will start her duties as the 35th President of *Gamma Theta Upsilon*. She will assume responsibility for directing activities and setting the pace of our organization. Mike Longan, Professor in the Department of Geography and Meteorology at Valparaiso University in Indiana, becomes GTU First Vice-President after serving the past two years as Second Vice-President and previous service as the GTU West Lakes Regional Councilor. Richard Earl from Texas State University and a GTU member since 1979 will continue as the Omega Omega Chapter Alumni Chair. Two new members will be joining the



Executive Committee on January 1. Susy Ziegler, current GTU West Lakes Regional Councilor, was elected GTU Second Vice-President. Dr. Ziegler is Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Earth, Environmental, and Geographical Sciences at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. William Wetherholt, a doctoral candidate at Kansas State University, was elected to the position of Junior Student Representative on the Executive Committee. The current Junior Student Representative, Graciela Sandoval of Texas State University, moves into the position of Senior Student Representative.

Congratulations to all our volunteer officers! Their service and contributions make Gamma Theta Upsilon one of the finest honor societies in the country.

### New Student Representative



GTU's new Junior Student Representative is Bill Wetherholt, a PhD Candidate at Kansas State University researching place attachment in the depopulating Central Great Plains. He was initiated into the Alpha

Nu chapter of GTU in 1999. He served as the President for the Alpha Nu chapter in 2000 as well as the Psi chapter in 2007. Most recently, he was the 2014 President of the Beta Psi chapter (awarded with the 2014 National Honors Chapter Award) and was the recipient of the 2014 Robert Buzzard Graduate Scholarship. He is a Cleveland native where he received his B.A. in Geography in 2001 and a tundra survivor by braving the elements to earn a M.A. in Geography from the University of North Dakota in 2008. Bill's research interests include abandoned geographies, rural geography, population geography, humanistic geography,

repeat photography, critical cartography, and the privacy and ethical issues inherent in geospatial technology. His favorite activities include hiking, nature photography, travel, fishing, and smoking a beautiful hunk of meat for hours and hours.

### Update from the Kappa Upsilon Chapter, Texas State University

The Kappa Upsilon chapter of GTU at Texas State University on October 24-26, 2014 conducted a weekend "environmental management" workshop at the ranch of country singer Robert Earl Keen. Twelve members of the Kappa Upsilon chapter and several other geographers from Texas State participated in this activity. Chapter treasurer Austin Thomas planned and organized the event as he is the ranch manager for Mr. Keen. He was



assisted by chapter president Amanda Sankey. Together they wrote a successful four page

proposal to secure funding to provide for transportation to the Ranch, located near Bandera, TX, in the Texas Hill Country approximately 60 miles southwest of San Marcos (home of Texas State). Major activities conducted at the workshop included biological inventories, soil analysis, and ground truthing for an environmental site assessment, (ESA) phase one. Graduate student David Ginnich organized and led a session on GIS mapping of the ranch for the workshop report. Students who participated in this workshop and are currently enrolled in the capstone Resource and Environmental Studies course received extra credit for their participation.

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