



President's Column

by Michael Longan
President

In this newsletter First Vice President Suzy Ziegler provides details on the return of the AAG-

GTU Student Travel awards. I'd like to thank AAG President Derek Alderman and Executive Director Douglas Richardson for their help in re-establishing the award.

The first AAG meeting I attended was San Francisco in 1994. I remember being starstruck upon spotting Yi-Fu Tuan walking through the lobby of the conference hotel. I was too nervous to say hello. His book "Topophilia: A Study of Environmental Perception, Attitudes, and Values" inspired my undergraduate thesis and helped me as a young scholar realize that I had only scratched the surface of possibilities in geography. The next year, I presented my first paper at the meeting in Chicago. I was terrified, but everything turned out well. One of the great benefits of attending AAG meetings has been the opportunity to take field trips and explore a new city on my own or with colleagues. As a cultural geographer I don't have much occasion to study beach geomorphology, but a field trip in Tampa gave me an opportunity to be a physical geographer for a day. This highlights a valuable benefit of the Annual AAG meeting for young scholars. They help one to better understand the breadth and diversity of our discipline in a way that is not otherwise possible.

We certainly wish that we could support every student who applies for a travel award. Whether or not you are selected for one, we hope you'll stop by the GTU booth in the exhibit hall and say hello. We'll also soon be making an announcement with details of our annual membership meeting. We hope to see you there if you'll be in New Orleans.



AAG/GTU Student Travel Awards

by Susy Ziegler, 1st Vice-President

GTU and the American Association of Geographers (AAG) collaborate on initiatives

to promote geography and support geography students. We are delighted to announce that GTU and the AAG have renewed an agreement to offer the **AAG-GTU Student Travel Award** to help offset the cost of students attending the Annual Meeting of the AAG in New Orleans in April 2018.

Travel awards in the amount of \$200 each are available for undergraduate and graduate students who are attending the 2018 Annual Meeting of the AAG. GTU will provide as many travel awards as funds and qualified applications permit. Preference will be given to students who are attending an AAG meeting for the first time and who will serve as an author or co-author on a paper or poster being presented at the conference. Recipients of an AAG-GTU Travel Award will be required to pick up their check at the GTU booth in the exhibit hall during the AAG Annual Meeting.

The application deadline is Feb. 5, 2018 and the form is available for online submission at <http://gammathetaupsilon.org/travel-award-application.html>. Please direct any questions about the process to suziegle@nmu.edu.

The AAG provides financial support for the awards via its AAG-Gamma Theta Upsilon Students Awards Fund. Donations for the fund are collected by the AAG via their website. We appreciate the support of the AAG for geography's next generation of leaders!



2016 GTU Scholarship Recipients Share Their Gratitude

compiled by Susy S. Ziegler, 1st Vice-President

GTU members who received scholarships in 2016 shared what their awards meant to them and how the financial support helped them personally and professionally. Each of the GTU Scholarship recipients has an amazing story to tell that expresses their appreciation for the donors who kindly supported their development as geographers. In our past two newsletters we've shared stories from Maxfield scholarship recipient Jory Fleming and from Michelle Ritchie, recipient of the Buzzard Graduate Scholarship. Here we share stories from the remaining winners.

Tonya Atherton

"The Gamma Theta Upsilon Rechlin Scholarship made a big impact on my transition to graduate school. Not only did it help with moving expenses, but I was able to buy a few professional outfits and purchase essential geography books. Thanks to GTU, I was able to start graduate school with confidence and propel myself into some fantastic research. Being a grad student puts a lot of pressure on students to apply for grants, and I am proud to not only have received this funding at the very start of my graduate program, but to be able to say it was from Gamma Theta Upsilon. Thank you very much for this opportunity."



Emily Moothart

I was honored to receive the 2016 GTU Buzzard Undergraduate Scholarship. This scholarship has aided in my transition to graduate school and has relieved the inevitable stress of money.

Having moved into a new academic network with many non-geographers, I am immediately more connected to those who share my background in geography. My geographic network has provided me with opportunities that will aid me in my

professional development beyond the academic realm. Geography has served as the backbone of my understanding of the world, and to be able to have the Buzzard Scholarship to further validate my role in the geographic community means a lot to me. If you are considering applying for the scholarships, I say do it. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain!



Dino Kadich

I was lucky enough to receive the Richason Scholarship, which I used to help fund the fieldwork for my undergraduate thesis. Over the summer of 2016, I spent two

months in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, doing ethnographic work with young people in the city's hip-hop culture. Doing that work has changed my life—not only do I learn something new every day, but I have also had a chance to present my work at the 2017 meeting of the American Association of Geographers, and recently received a fellowship to fund my graduate studies. I am so grateful to GTU for supporting my education

Being a Chapter Advisor: An interview with Dr. Karen Johnson-Webb

By Jimmy Wilson, 2nd Vice President



Dr. Johnson-Webb

A few weeks back, I had the pleasure of visiting with my friend and current East Lakes regional councilor Dr. Karen Johnson-Webb, associate professor of geography at Bowling Green State University, about her ongoing experience as adviser for the Upsilon chapter of Gamma Theta

Upsilon. Below is the narrative of our conversation. Thank you, Karen, for making time



to visit with me and for passing along your experiences.

Jimmy: How did you become the GTU chapter adviser at Bowling Green University?

Karen: That's an interesting story. Our Upsilon chapter dates to the early years of our society. But like so many chapters, we went through a waning period and slipped into inactive status where we remained for many years. In 2006, our regional GTU adviser contacted me and encouraged us to make the effort to reacquire active status. She assured us that it would be worth our while, and that she and the rest of the executive committee would support us, which they did. I was not a GTU member, but qualified as one and also as chapter adviser. It really was an easy process. So that's how it happened.

Jimmy: Has the experience been rewarding?

Karen: Definitely. I have always been passionate about geography and about teaching. As a new faculty member, this provided an excellent opportunity to engage our students outside the classroom. I got the opportunity to learn more about them, and they certainly learned more about me.

Jimmy: What do you feel are important qualities for chapter advisers?

Karen: Willingness and ability to engage with students outside of classroom. Most of us do this anyway, but being a GTU chapter adviser takes a bit more time and dedication.

Jimmy: How active would you say your chapter membership is?

Karen: Like most chapters, our level of activity waxes and wanes. Usually this depends on the one or two really energetic students that see this as an opportunity and are excited to lead. Those students come and go obviously. As adviser I constantly look for ways to encourage students to get active, but ultimately it takes students to get involved.

Jimmy: What chapter activities or events are you especially proud of?

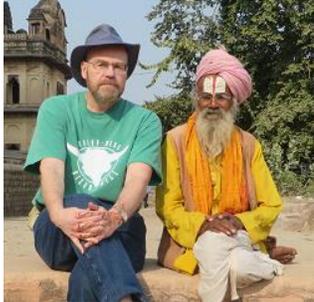
Karen: That's easy. Out of all the events and activities that our chapter has sponsored, the one that was the most rewarding was a poster session we sponsored in conjunction with our geography department during Geography Awareness Week in 2015. Our poster session was so fun! Our GTU students went all-out. They did all the upfront legwork like advertising and setup and teardown. It wasn't a competition, although I guess it could have been. Instead, I asked students to develop informative posters and presented them in our department hallway. The halls were lined with students and their posters! Everyone enjoyed that and our GTU students really got into it. But that's just one example. There's so much that can be done.

Jimmy: For those flirting with the idea of becoming a chapter adviser, what advice can you offer?

Karen: It's definitely worth considering, especially for young faculty. Most of us are passionate about geography anyway and are looking for ways to engage our students. Becoming a chapter adviser provides a unique opportunity to accomplish this. Of course, reaching our students is always challenging. Years ago, I developed a short, 4-slide PowerPoint presentation that I show my classes early in the term. This provides the background for GTU, and not just to our geography students. Like most of us, I teach general education courses, so many students are pursuing other degrees. My little presentation helps put GTU on their radar early in their academic career. And while I am showing the slideshow and talking about GTU, I pass around a signup sheet for those wanting more information. I reach out to them individually if they sign my sheet. It's really made a difference. I also encourage students to participate in regional and national AAG. Students have participated in GTU discussion sessions at our East Lakes meetings and we have attended sessions at AAG. It takes a



commitment to engage students outside the classroom. That's the biggest part of it.



What have our chapters been up to lately?

By Randy Bertolas
Outreach Coordinator

We are always proud of the outreach efforts by our GTU members. Collectively, our chapters were very active during the Fall 2017 semester with events that ranged from hosting speakers to performing community service. Numerous activities were held in conjunction with Geography Awareness Week and/or GIS Day. Some of these endeavors have become annual events. We would love to hear what your chapter is doing!

For example, under auspices of the Visiting Geographical Scientist Program, the Chi chapter at Oklahoma State University and the Theta Psi chapter at the University of Central Oklahoma co-hosted Dr. Jessie Clark from the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Clark presented to a packed hall at OSU's campus on the topic of "Feminism in Turkey's Kurdish Region." She also serves on the GTU Executive Committee as Pacific Coast Regional Councilor. The VGSP program has long been administered by Gamma Theta Upsilon and serves to facilitate appearances by notable geographers at far-flung colleges and universities. Learn more about the VGSP program by consulting the Gamma Theta Upsilon website. We welcome applications for the current academic year.

In the way of service, the Eta Chi chapter at Northern Michigan University volunteered to help Marquette County and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality collect electronic waste. They also partnered with the Upper Peninsula Children's Museum on "Spooky Science Night" to

teach over 200 kids about soil. *Go Yoopers!* And, at Wayne State College in Nebraska, the Lambda Zeta chapter decorated and sponsored an entry in the Festival of Trees, an annual event that raises funds to provide less fortunate children with gifts during the holidays.

In the way of having fun, Oklahoma State University's Chi chapter and the OSU Undergraduate Geography Club co-hosted a Geography Trivia Night. And the Lambda Zeta chapter at Wayne State College sponsored their seventh annual Geography Bowl team competition.

In the way of welcoming new members, interesting methods were employed at different campuses. Each year, approximately 1 in 10 GTU chapters holds a Fall semester initiation ceremony. The Epsilon Psi chapter at Colgate welcomed new initiates with a dinner and a lively discussion on unequal carbon footprints led by Professor Huber from Syracuse University. And we always invite chapters to post their initiation photos at our Facebook page.

In the way of informing the campus and community, the Iota Xi chapter at Central Arkansas University was part of a public exhibition and demonstration of ArcGIS Online, and they also partnered with an alumni panel of GIS practitioners who discussed GIS in the workplace. And, at Hofstra University, the Mu Kappa chapter hosted invited speaker Dr. Robin Leichenko from Rutgers University who discussed "Climate Change and Globalization in Coastal Regions: Opportunities and Challenges for Building Resilience."

Visit us on Facebook to submit your own chapter activities and to see what GTU chapters are doing to build connections, provide leadership opportunities, and promote the profile of geography on campus. Check us out at: <https://www.facebook.com/GammaThetaUpsilonInternational/>



Chapter News: The University of Nebraska's Geography Awareness Week

By Andrew Husa, Student Outreach Assistant, Great Plains/Rocky Mountains



The University of Nebraska-Lincoln spent Geography Awareness Week thanking the faculty of both the department and the College of Arts and Sciences for all that they do to keep our program running smooth and efficiently. The students involved with the Geography Student Organization and Gamma Theta Upsilon were more than happy to present a long list of people with small gift baskets to share our thanks with all those who make our program possible.

Share Your Chapter News!

If you have news from your local chapter that you'd like to share, an account of a great chapter activity, or other items of interest to GTU's membership, we invite you to submit your item for consideration in the next edition of the GTU Newsletter. Send your news to Mike.Longan@valpo.edu.



Historian's Column

by Dawn M. Drake
Historian

In this edition of the Historian's Column, I am going to turn over the reins to a former GTU President and a person with experience in archiving materials and developing finding aids. This past December, Don Zeigler was kind enough to travel to Charleston, Illinois to visit the GTU archives in the Booth Library at Eastern Illinois University to examine the condition of the archives, provide guidance on the

organization of the materials, if possible, and help with the development of more detailed finding aids. I asked him to write an article about his experiences. Below you will find the narrative of his adventures. I wish to extend a thank you to Don not only for writing the article, but for making the trip to Charleston and working in the archives. If you would like more information about the GTU archives, feel free to contact me at ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu

THE GTU ARCHIVES

Don Zeigler, Professor Emeritus, Old Dominion University, Hampton Roads, Virginia

The Gamma Theta Upsilon Collection is ready for use. The collection is housed in the University Archives of Booth Library at Eastern Illinois University (EIU) in Charleston. Researchers will find the collection to be strongest for the 1930s and from the mid-1960s onward. It includes the documentary history of the national organization, plus some items that originate with local chapters. The contents of the five bankers boxes are organized into folders. The contents of each folder are specified in a finding aid, which is available to all on the Library Website:

Eastern Illinois University / Booth Library / University Archives

<http://www.library.eiu.edu/archives/>

Simply type *Gamma* in the search box and go from there.

The journey of GTU's historical records to Eastern Illinois University began in the 1990s when Orland Maxfield served as the Executive Secretary of GTU. EIU was interested in the collection because the history of GTU is also a part of the university's history: Robert G. Buzzard, who founded GTU in 1928 at Illinois State University, became the President of EIU and served in that capacity for 23 years until his retirement in 1956. In fact, President Buzzard and Head Librarian Mary Jane



Booth together broke ground for the new, free-standing library in 1948.

The information in the GTU Archives, as is true of most record collections, is foldered. Folders are labeled with as much descriptive information as possible. However, the information is not indexed, which means that researchers should put on their detective hats as they take time to wade through lots of information that might be irrelevant until they find what they are looking for. The payoffs, however, are the serendipitous discoveries to be made in all the “irrelevant” information. For instance, GTU now bills itself as “The International Geographical Honor Society.” Until you start traipsing through the historical records, however, you can’t imagine what battles ensued over that descriptive phrase and how it changed over the years. From a letter to President Alice Rechlin in 1977: “. . . in a short four-word title, for the two longest words to both affix in ‘-al’, savors of unfortunate assonance. ‘International Geographical’ could only gain by refinement to International Geographic’.”

The centenary of GTU is coming up in only ten years. It is fortunate, therefore, that the GTU archives are now organized and looking for researchers. If you are going to use them, here are a few things to remember:

- It is best to call ahead to arrange your visit with the university archivist.
- The contents of each box in the GTU collection is described on the Booth Library website.
- Document collections like this are not perfectly organized, so think broadly about how to find what you want.
- Be prepared for serendipitous discoveries, but don’t let them distract you.
- Archives research is time-consuming, and answers don’t come without some work.
- Bring paper and pencil (never pens) to take notes; computers are allowed.

- Use your cell phone to make records of documents you want for later reference.
- The collection includes some photographic items, but they are limited.
- The University Archives also houses an almost-complete set of *The Geographical Bulletin*.

If you are looking for topics that could provide fruitful avenue for research, here are some suggestions:

- How and why did chapter activities change since the 1930s?
- Why did some of the earliest GTU chapters (the single-letter ones) succeed and other didn’t?
- What happened to the charter members of Alpha Chapter?
- What was the Loan Fund and how did it establish the identity of GTU?
- Why did GTU join the American Council of Honor Societies and how did it change afterwards?
- How did GTU come to establish chapters on community college campuses?
- In the mid-50s, GTU had 69 chapters. Five had female sponsors? Who were they?
- What happened to the men and women who served as national presidents of GTU?
- What role did R.G. Buzzard play in the legitimization of academic field trips in geography instruction?

Archives research may also teach you things about yourself. My ventures into the GTU Collection helped me understand how my history and the honor society’s history are intertwined. In fact, I came to see myself as a part of the GTU family tree. To wit: GTU was founded in 1928 at Illinois State by R. G. Buzzard. Among the charter members of Alpha Chapter was Keith B. Allen, who led the department at Shippensburg State College (now university) into the 1960s. He founded Omicron Chapter at Shippensburg, into



which I was inducted in 1970. When I became a professor at Old Dominion University, I began a chapter there, the Zeta Chi Chapter. Does that make Keith Allen my father, R. G. Buzzard my grandfather, and Zeta Chi inductees my children? Or, at least my honorary children!

Student Outreach Assistants Needed

Have you considered becoming a [GTU Student Outreach Assistant](#)? Each regional division of GTU is represented by a Student Outreach Assistant and there are currently openings in four regions. To be eligible students must be members of GTU within the region they represent. They are appointed by their regional councilor for a term of 2 years and retain the position as long as they still reside in the region of appointment and remain a student. The responsibilities are to assist regional councilors with events at regional AAG meetings, help our Outreach Coordinator (Dr. Randy Bertolas) maintain GTU's social media, and serve as a liaison between students and the GTU Executive Committee. If you are interested in becoming a Student Outreach Assistant, contact your regional councilor <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/contact.html>

GTU Merchandise

It is never too early to order GTU cords, stoles, and pins for your induction ceremonies. In fact, an early order means you will beat the rush and will insure that the items get to you on time (without having to pay for overnight shipping!). Check out what is available at the Herff Jones site (https://www.hjgreek.com/index.cfm?event=Products.showCategories&Organization_ID=635). Other items including frames and desk accessories can be obtained from Church Hill Classics (<http://www.diplomaframe.com/gatu>).



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Want to know what's going on with GTU internationally? Interested in telling the world about your great GTU Chapter event? Looking for ideas for your next chapter event? All that and more can be found on GTU's official Facebook Page.