

## TOWARD AN ALUMNI CHAPTER OF GAMMA THETA UPSILON

*Frederick A. Hirsch*

Gamma Theta Upsilon is embarking on another venture to increase its service to the geographic community by establishing an alumni membership which will allow initiates to maintain an active identification with Gamma Theta Upsilon after they leave an active college chapter.

Hopefully it will encourage our thousands of past initiates who are still interested in Geography to resume participation in Gamma Theta Upsilon activities.

The alumni chapter is envisioned as a means of supporting an initiate's lifetime interest in Geography. It will allow the national organization to provide more services to the members, such as an expanded Gamma Theta Upsilon program at geographical meetings, an expanded *Geographical Bulletin* as the editor receives more contributions from members, and possibly formation of active alumni chapters in areas of concentration of geographical employment like Chicago, St. Louis and Washington. They would be able to be active in Gamma Theta Upsilon voting and business without needing a current campus chapter affiliation. A fuller connection with Gamma Theta Upsilon may also stimulate the installation of additional campus chapters.

The alumni membership dues will make the member a subscriber to *The Geographical Bulletin* of Gamma Theta Upsilon for his term of membership. The small portion retained by the international office, \$1.00 a year, will help to provide benefits and services to alumni, and to active campus members.

The alumni members who are not participating in an organized chapter at a college may become members of a national alumni chapter. The author of this article has been designated as acting chairman of the alumni chapter

Dr. Hirsch is Associate Professor of Geography at Oregon College of Education. He is sponsor of the GTU chapter there.

until the membership grows to a sufficient size to warrant selecting its own leadership.

The stimulation of a more active alumni participation was the subject of a number of Gamma Theta Upsilon national business meetings until the mechanism of an alumni chapter was approved by the national officers and business meeting at Kansas City in April, 1972.

A difficulty in getting the alumni chapter off the ground is one common to most scholastic honoraries. The honorary easily slips out of the consciousness of the new member after he has graduated from his college chapter. Only when a member is affiliated with a college with current Gamma Theta Upsilon activities is he likely to retain ties with the honorary.

Our current active membership, and new initiates into regular membership will be provided a notice about the alumni chapter and how it will benefit the member after he leaves his campus chapter. Copies will be sent to active chapters along with the return of the initiation list.

We face a greater difficulty in disseminating word to our past membership. We would appreciate our chapters providing the alumni chapter with the names and current addresses of their Gamma Theta Upsilon alumni. We will be sending requests to these chapters after the national meeting in Milwaukee. Since some chapters have been active for decades and mailings to past members would burden their treasuries, the national organization will perform the mailing. These individuals will then receive a notice about the alumni chapter and *The Geographical Bulletin* of Gamma Theta Upsilon. The annual dues will be \$5.00, while a more economical membership will be either 2 years at \$9.50 or 3 years

at \$14.00. Membership checks may be sent to Gamma Theta Upsilon, Alumni Chapter, Geography Department, Oregon College of Education, Monmouth, Oregon 97361. Current subscribers will have alumni membership from time of receipt of the notice until the expiration of an extended subscription.

We will also encourage membership solicitations at regional and national G.T.U. activities.

The readers of *The Geographical Bulletin* can indicate an interest in membership in the alumni chapter by clipping the inserted coupon, completing the information, and mailing to:

Fred Hirsch

Gamma Theta Upsilon Alumni Chapter  
Geography Department  
Oregon College of Education  
Monmouth, Oregon 97361