News from the Chapters 1996–1997

ALPHA—Department of Geography and Geology, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois 61790-4400
Sponsor: Dr. Jill Freund Thomas
President: Kevein Gaul
Vice Pres.: Jason Grootens
Secretary: Rebecca Molitor
Social Chair: Michael Mast
1996–97 was truly an outstanding geographical year for the Alpha Chapter in community service and in academics. The Alpha Chapter, with 18 active members, promoted community service as their 1996-97 theme. The academic year began with members painting the United States map (36' x 60') on a playground of the local grade school. Chapter members enjoyed an October weekend of canoeing, horseback riding, and hiking at the Kanakee State Park in Illinois. Members also spent a day in the fall cleaning up the Illinois State University (ISU) Nature Trail and, as an added benefit, watched the local friendly beaver. During November's National Geography Awareness Week, members dedicated numerous hours to encourage participation in geography. Events for college students such as Name That Country, Geography Movie Night, What's Your Heritage?, Faculty Appreciation Day, and the 6th Annual Geography White Elephant Auction were just a few fun ways to promote geography. In March, students worked hard putting together the 8th Annual Geography Career Fair by organizing rooms, greeting alumni guests, and rearranging displays. In April, five members were chosen to be timers at the State National Geographic Geography Bee, while other members sold T-shirts to participants. Twelve members participated in Spring Initiation Ceremonies that included an elegant meal at Jumer's Chateau. The Alpha Chapter members worked at a local soup kitchen and volunteered at the local ISU Spring Festival. This summer the Chapter is sponsoring a 10-year and under girls softball team.
Several GTU Alpha Chapter members received special recognition because of their dedication to geography. Kevin Gaul, the Alpha Chapter President, received the Illinois State University Club Scholarship, the Eunice Blackburn Scholarship Award, and the Illinois Geographical Society Outstanding Senior Award. Jason Grootens and Amy Larson also received the Eunice Blackburn Scholarship. Members Karen Weber and Sheila Dinkel received the George R. Means Scholarship, while Jeff Panfil received the Margaret Means Endowment Stipend. Our advisor, Jill Thomas, was recognized as the Illinois Geographical Society Distinguished Geographer of the Year Award.

THETA—Arizona State University, Department of Geography, Tempe, AZ 85287-0104
Sponsor: Dr. Breandan O'hUallachain and Dr. Malcolm Comeaux
President: Bryan Sherman
Vice Pres.: Kristi Arsenault
Treasurer: Kristin Meyer
N.C.G.E. Outstanding Senior(s): Jordan Eickman
Theta Chapter has been very active. In the spring semester we co-hosted a brown bag lunch series, and we had seven presentations. A Chapter tradition, as a way of starting the year, is to go on a hike to a swimming hole somewhere in Arizona the first weekend in the fall semester. Again this was a success. We went on many other field trips over this past academic year. In the fall semester we visited a large natural cave, agricultural lands south of Phoenix, and a partially abandoned World War II air base. In the spring semester we hiked in the White Tank Mountains west of Phoenix, visited three historic cemeteries in the Phoenix area, and went on an overnight hike to the best preserved prehistoric cliff dwellings in Arizona. We held two initiations; one included a crawfish boil in Dr. Comeaux's back yard at the end of the spring semester.
Dr. Breandan O’Uallachain is Theta Chapter’s new advisor. The Ray Henkel Undergraduate Award went to Mr. Jeffery Mirocha.

NU—Emory and Henry College, Department of Geography, Emory, VA 24327
Sponsor: Dr. Ed Davis
President: David Wells
Vice Pres.: Freddie Bowling
Secretary: Neal Booth
Treasurer: Neal Booth

The NU Chapter recently recognized that students’ research on local cultural landscapes and environments is limited by lack of equipment. Therefore, the Chapter organized and submitted a request to the college for a high quality camera and lens. Hopefully, all geography majors may benefit from the new GTU camera in the larger project of recording landscape and environmental change in southwestern Virginia’s various mountain regions. The annual picnic set for May will definitely be photographed! Four new members were initiated this spring.

OMICRON—Shippensburg University, Department of Geography and Earth Science, Shippensburg, PA 17257
Sponsor: Dr. William Blewett
President: Eileen Williams
Vice Pres.: Korine Kolivras
Secretary: Kevin Starner
Treasurer: Amy Stanislaw

The Omicron Chapter of GTU at Shippensburg University was very active this past year. The Chapter began the fall semester with participation in the 1996 Pennsylvania Geographical Society annual conference, held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Omicron Chapter helped at the registration desk and hosted a student social hour for those students attending the meeting. The Chapter also participated in a service project developed by two Chapter members, Ed Holland and Mark Shelley. They were disturbed by the amount of garbage being dumped in Michaux State Forest so they took action and developed Project Michaux. GTU members scheduled and participated in three trips to the park to remove the numerous dump sites. Because of Ed and Mark’s concern, Michaux State Forest is a little cleaner and GTU was recognized with front page coverage by the local newspaper.

BETA PSI—Kansas State University, Geography Department, Manhattan, KS 66502
Sponsor: Charles Martin
President: John MacKenzie
Vice Pres.: Tracy Bryan
Secretary: Jennifer Radcliff
Treasurer: Dan Oldehoeft
Other: Bonnie Linzwiler, Historian; Tim Stevens, Social Chair; Jeff Rochford, Publicity Chair; Kristen Kelly, Recycling Chair

NCGE Outstanding Senior(s): Terry Harris

This was yet another excellent year for the Beta Psi Chapter of GTU. Beta Psi was proud to add 10 new initiates to the Chapter’s total membership. Major fund-raising activities for the year included a concession stand at Kansas State University football games and a Telefund campaign that raised money for individual scholarships. GTU also organized two highway cleanups for the Adopt-A-Highway program.

To kick off the fall semester, GTU members spent an afternoon hiking and observing the flora and fauna of the Konza Prairie Research Natural Area. GTU sponsored two guest lecturers for the fall semester. Dr. John Hudson, Northwestern University, presented “The Geographers’ Great Plains.” Dr. Douglas Faulkner, University of Missouri—Kansas City, gave a lecture on agricultural sediment delivery. The Fall Banquet was held at Roul’s Escondido where Dr. Charles Martin, Kansas State University, spoke about his 18-month stint in Germany.
The spring semester was a very active period for Beta Psi. GTU members staffed a display for the All University Open House that included student maps, a cartographic computer display, geographic games (Geosafari), and GIS projects. Three guest lecturers were sponsored in the spring. Dr. Gordon Matzke, Oregon State University, gave a lecture entitled, "Let the People Decide: New Approaches to African Wildlife Conservation." Dr. Philip Reeder, University of Nebraska at Omaha, gave a lecture entitled, "Speleological Geoarchaeological Investigations on the Northern Vaca Plateau, Belize, Central America." Dr. George Carney, Oklahoma State University, spoke about, "Branson, the New Mecca of Country Music."

Beta Psi held its Spring Banquet at Rileys Restaurant. Our guest speaker was Dr. Thor Holms from the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas. The annual Spring Picnic was held at Tuttle Creek Reservoir, where good food, drink, and conversation were shared by all. Beta Psi would like to thank all of our officers and members for their hard work throughout the year. We are looking forward to another exciting year in 1997–1998.

BETA CHI—Michigan State University, Geography Department, East Lansing, MI 48823
  Sponsor: Dr. Alan Arbogast
  President: Shawn McNamara
  Vice Pres.: Zachary Fryer
  Treasurer: Rayan Ray

  The Beta Chi Chapter of GTU experienced another exciting year at Michigan State University (MSU). The year began with an undergraduate mixer at the home of GTU's advisor Dr. Alan Arbogast. To kickoff Geography Awareness Week, GTU organized a potluck dinner for all the faculty, staff, graduates, and undergraduates at MSU's Department of Geography. Throughout the week, GTU volunteers operated an information table where they recruited new members, distributed useful geographical resources, and sold Department of Geography T-shirts (which served as an excellent fund-raiser). Spring activities began with GTU members joining the Geography graduate students, faculty and staff for a cold, January weekend at Dr. Robert Thomas' beautiful cabin on Spider Lake near Traverse City, Michigan. A highlight of the weekend was awesome downhill skiing at Schuss Mountain/Shanty Creek Resort. In February, GTU held its annual Career Night, where both active and potential members were treated to guest speakers from five different aspects of Geography. We appreciated the chance for Mr. Michael Beaulac, Mr. Rob Surber, Ms. Lynda Sanchez, Dr. Joseph Stoltman, and Mr. Michael Mackinen to enlighten us on how they've utilized the discipline of geography in their various professions. In March, GTU participated in a Bowl-a-thon to raise funds for the upcoming Induction Banquet. April 18, 1997, marked the annual banquet, where individual students were honored, and eight new undergraduates were welcomed into GTU. Dr. Donald Janelle, a professor at Western Ontario University, was the guest speaker for the evening, and addressed how changes in transportation have influenced the present view of Geography. Beta Chi Vice President Zachary Fryer received the John Hunter Award, Betty Caldwell received the Outstanding Senior Award, Michael Neese received the Dan Jacobson Award, and President Shawn McNamara received the Undergraduate Geographer of the Year Award.

GAMMA GAMMA—San Jose State University, Geography Department, San Jose, CA 95192-0116
  Sponsor: Marcia Holstrom
  President: Patrick L. Shabram
  Vice Pres.: Jian Zheng
  Secretary: Carla Di Napoli
  Treasurer: Carla Di Napoli

GTU Awards for Excellence in Geography: Michael Barbour

Early in the fall of 1996, Gamma Gamma Chapter at San Jose University established a primary objective for 1996–1997: the outward promotion of geogra-
Besides our continued commitment to academic and professional advancement. To get a better sense of community, Gamma Gamma Chapter held approximately half of its regular meetings at various locations in the San Jose area. The meetings held on campus usually included an invited faculty member who gave advice on everything from preparing thesis proposals to getting a job. Gamma Gamma Chapter started the year with a barbecue to welcome new geography students and to give them the opportunity to meet the faculty and current GTU members. In December, Gamma Gamma Chapter hosted a public lecture by George J. Demko of Dartmouth College. To make this lecture possible, the Chapter sought and gained co-sponsorship from a local business who agreed to pay for Dr. Demko’s transportation. Gamma Gamma Chapter also gained a contribution from the College of Social Sciences at San Jose State to pay for a reception. In January, Gamma Gamma Chapter prepared a map of free parking around the SJSU campus. These maps are currently available through the campus bookstore. Spring semester activities included a field trip led by the Department Chair to sites of last winter’s floods, volunteer work with a local elementary school during their Earth Day mapping activity, and the production of a newsletter. Gamma Gamma Chapter also encouraged attendance at national geography conferences and had representatives at the NCGE, AAG, and CGS annual meetings. Representatives also attended the 1st Annual Graduate Student Conference. Gamma Gamma Chapter’s largest contingent was at the California Geographical Society Annual Meeting where GTU members gave five paper presentations, two of which were recognized by CGS as the best among the graduate student presentations. The school year ended in May with an annual picnic, co-hosted by GTU and the Department of Geography.

President: Ms. Joanne Feldman
Secretary: Mr. Joel Boyd
N.C.G.E. Outstanding Senior(s):
Joanne Feldman
G.T.U. Awards for Excellence in Geography: Joel Boyd, Joanne Feldman, William Snider

Highlights of Activities (1996-1997):
The annual GTU initiation was held with the Department of Geography’s annual awards ceremony on May 14, 1997. There were seven new initiates to the Gamma Nu Chapter.

IOTA ALPHA—University of Southern Mississippi, Geography and Area Development Department, Hattiesburg, MS 39406
Sponsor: Jesse O. McKee
President: Brian Hudspeth
Vice Pres.: Tamar White
Secretary: Krista Kimble
Treasurer: Rachel Green

Highlights of Activities (1996-1997):
One highlight of the year was participation in the “Geography Bowl” at the Southeastern AAG meeting in Athens in November 1996. GTU also helped to sponsor the department’s annual fall “Faculty-Student Get-together” and also a Christmas party and the traditional spring picnic.

DELTA ZETA—South Dakota State University, Geography Department, Brookings, SD 57007
Sponsor: Dr. Donald J. Berg and Dr. Darrell E. Napton
President: Kelly Diekmann
Vice Pres.: Pat Danielson
Secretary: Susan Cornforth
Treasurer: Bryan Bartsch
Other: Mike Nelson (Convention Co-chair); Doug Haugan (Convention Co-chair)
N.C.G.E. Outstanding Senior(s): Chris Bertram
GTU Awards for Excellence in Geography: Chris Bertram (undergrad), Ann Marie Powalski (grad)

Highlights of Activities (1996-1997):
Delta Zeta Chapter, in conjunction with the Geography Club, pursued a high level of activities during the 1996-1997 aca-
Academic year at South Dakota State University. The Chapter participated in National Geography Awareness Week with students preparing an exhibit for the main university library and conducting an outreach program at the Brookings High School. The annual Chapter Christmas banquet, social gathering, and initiation were held December 6, 1996. Five new GTU members were welcomed.

The organization focused most of its efforts on producing the 28th annual South Dakota State Geography Convention, which is the longest running student-sponsored event in the United States. The 1997 meeting showcased 10 presenters, drawn from across the country, a student paper session, a social gathering, a geography quiz bowl and a grand banquet, awards and recognition ceremony. Besides the announcement of scholarship and service awards, the principal event featured the debut of the endowed lectureship named for Edward Patrick Hogan. Dr. Hogan was the founder of SDSU’s Geography Department and was recognized also for his 30 anniversary at SDSU. He is now the Assistant Vice president for Academic Affairs. In addition, six new members were initiated into the Delta Zeta Chapter.

Perhaps the most significant achievement for Delta Zeta was its recognition as the Best Chapter Award in the country for 1996–1997. The announcement was made at the GTU board of directors meeting in Santa Barbara, California, in November, 1996.

GTU officers and sponsors are planning the 29th Annual South Dakota State Geography Convention that will take place April 16–18, 1998. Ten geographers representing various sub-disciplines within geography have been invited to participate.

Also, GTU members contribute to community improvement by their involvement in the “Adopt A Highway Program” in which they clean up the roadsides of a two-mile segment of U.S. Highway 14 between Brookings and Volga three times a year. Members developed a home page on the Internet and an aluminum can recycling program plus staffing a booth at the annual SDSU Festival of Cultures. Social camaraderie among geography students and faculty is promoted by the fall and spring picnics, sponsored by the Chapter.

KAPPA UPSILON—Southwest Texas State University, Geography and Planning Department, San Marcos, TX 78666
Sponsor: Dr. Richard Earl
President: Julie Henry
Vice Pres.: John Dudik
Secretary: Melanie Murray
Treasurer: Cathy Anderson
N.C.G.E. Outstanding Senior(s): Jason D. Baldwin

GTU Awards for Excellence in Geography: Ted Brown

The Kappa Upsilon Chapter of Southwest Texas State University accomplished many goals for the 1996–1977 academic year. We initiated 38 new members, expanding our total membership to over 50 members. We continued our service with the Adopt-A-Highway program for Texas Department of Transportation. During the fall semester we also participated in the annual San Marcos River Clean-Up and the City Halloween Carnival. Several members helped raise geography awareness at one of the local elementary school fairs and at SWT during Geography Awareness Week. The Chapter also became involved in the Texas Watch program that helps students gain practical skills of the environment through water testing of the local river. In the spring semester, we became particularly active in our fundraising efforts and raised over $800 through T-shirt and bake sales. At many of our meetings during the semester, we invited some of the new faculty to give presentations on subjects such as employment opportunities, current research and cultural awareness. We also accomplished one of our major goals by establishing our Chapter’s homepage and newsletter. We are very excited about the homepage because this will allow us to communicate better with other GTU chapters and exchange ideas. In April, we sent four members to the annual AAG Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, where we interacted with other GTU members.
from around the nation as well as some GTU Executive Committee members. All in all, we had a great year and we look forward to expanding upon our accomplishments next year.

ZETAOMICRON—Worcester State College, Department of Physical and Earth Sciences, Worcester, MA 01602
Sponsor: Dr. Richard Hunt
President: Ms. Michel Perritt
Vice Pres.: Ms. Mary Laznovsky
Secretary: Ms. April Forsman
Treasurer: Ms. April Forsman
N.C.G.E. Outstanding Senior(s):
Leanne Rabitor
G.T.U. Awards for Excellence in Geography: Anthony Camoreyt, Glen D'Alessio

Highlights of Activities (1996-1997):
On November 1, 1996, four members of the Zeta Omicron Chapter participated in the Geography Bowl during the AAG/NESTVAL conference held at Clark University. Worcester State College is excited and proud to place second among six teams participating. In addition, Glen D'Alessio presented a student paper on diffusion energy efficient homes. He received second place among student papers. Also in November we were very happy and proud of Leanne Rabitor who won the GTU Presidents' Undergraduate Scholarship for academic excellence. We initiated 10 new members in December and hosted a banquet honoring our graduating seniors.

GTU is planning an outing in April to Purgatory Chasm, a popular local geologic attraction. We also plan to have a second initiation ceremony for new members who could not come to the fall event. Other possible activities include a field trip to the Connecticut Valley and a climb of Mt. Monadnock.

ZETAOMEGA—The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Geography, Chapel Hill, NC 28223
Sponsor: Dr. Tyrel Moore
President: Ms. Holly Barcus
Vice Pres.: Ms. Bridget O'Connell
Secretary: Mr. Mark Baudermann
Treasurer: Ms. Nellie Elguindi

Highlights of Activities (1996-1997):
The 1996-1997 academic year was a very exciting time for the Zeta Omega Chapter of GTU. The Chapter actively promoted geography throughout the year. The Chapter sponsored the visit of Dr. Robert Janiskee from the University of South Carolina who spoke on the geography of festivals. Also we co-sponsored the 1997 Jim Clay Award for Cartographic Excellence. This departmental award is divided into two categories: Cartographic Design and GIS-produced maps, with each winner receiving a $100 scholarship. The Chapter also was instrumental in the planning and execution of the 1997 Taylor Awards Banquet. During this past year we assembled one of the most comprehensive GTU web sites on the Internet. This web site provide information, history, current Chapter activities, and the complete list of links to other GTU web sites. The web site is at the following address: http://ga-mac.unc.edu/students/gtu/gtu.html. The Chapter also initiated 12 new members during the 1996-1997 academic year.

Many of the year's activities involved
community service. Seven chapter members participated in the 1996 Big Sweep Clean Up of Reedy Creek Park. Many chapter members helped frame two Habitat for Humanity homes in depressed areas of Charlotte. The Chapter also renewed its commitment to a litter-free state by cleaning up its mile of adopted highway.

This past year we also were very active in social activities. The Chapter fielded three intramural teams; men's soccer, coed volleyball, and men's basketball. Lastly, the members of GTU enjoyed many formal and informal activities, parties, and outings. Clearly, this past year was one of excitement and progress for GTU at UNC at Charlotte.

**ETA GAMMA—SUNY Geneseo, Department of Geography, Geneseo, NY 14454**

- Sponsor: Dr. Cheryl Louiseay
- President: Ms. Teresa Phelps
- 1st Vice Pres.: Ms. Mary Claire Devine
- 2nd Vice Pres.: Mr. Brian Nadolny
- Secretary: Mr. Todd Drake
- Treasurer: Mr. Ed Dempsey
- N.C.G.E. Outstanding Senior(s): Mary Claire Devine

**G.T.U. Awards for Excellence in Geography: Ed Dempsey**

**Highlights of Activities (1996–1997):**

The Eta Gamma Chapter initiated eight new members at the Spring Geography Banquet and Awards ceremony. The May 1997 graduates are enrolling in Master's degree programs in the fall or, in one instance, beginning a secondary school teaching career. Two of the chapter members presented papers at the Fort Worth AAG meetings, several were enrolled in professional internships, and one presented a research poster at the College's student/faculty research symposium. Social events have been integrated with Geography Club activities to provide a broad base of active students in the department.

**ETA LAMBDA—Villanova University, Geography Department, Villanova, PA 19085**

- Sponsor: Dr. Elaine F. Bosowsk
- President: Barbara Cawley
- Vice Pres.: Michael Wallo

**Secretary: Kathleen Dougherty**

**Treasurer: Kathleen Dougherty**

**Other: Elizabeth Watz (Past President)**

**N.C.G.E. Outstanding Senior(s): Kathleen Dougherty**

**Highlights of Activities (1996–1997):**

Geography Awareness Week included lectures and film discussions run by GTU in November of 1996. GTU members attended initiation ceremonies held at the house of Dr. Bosowsk in December of 1996 and May of 1997. Six GTU members attended the fall meeting of the Delaware Valley Geographical Association (DAGA) in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Seven members attended the spring DAGA meeting to celebrate Kay Dougherty's receiving the DAGA Scholarship in Geography Award. Kate also attended the DAGA meeting in Ft. Worth, Texas, with Dr. Bosowsk.

**THETA ETA—Department of Applied Technology, Montgomery College, Rockville, MD 20850**

- Sponsor: Tanya Allison
- President: Bill Glaser
- Vice Pres.: Lyndi Lu Amarasinha
- Sec./Treas.: Howard Gilman, Jr.

**GTU Awards for Excellence in Geography: Howard Gilman, Jr.**

**Highlights of Activities (1996–1997):**

GTU at Montgomery College (MC), Rockville, MD, continues to encourage enthusiasm among geography students. Although a two-year institution, the Applied Geography program is proud of the participation and camaraderie shared by its members. During the past 1996–97 school year, activities have included: campus festivals and a "Getting to Know You" banquet where all clubs/societies join to learn more about each other and their cultural diversity; a guest lecture for NGAW '96 by Dr. Jill Boberg, professor of Geography at the University of Maryland; conference trips to SEDAAG, AAG, ACM/ASPRS, and MAD; community service at Days End Farm Horse Rescue; fund-raising through T-shirt sales; donations to worthy causes; end of school pizza party; adopt-a-trail program (in progress); an outing at Harper's Ferry, WV that included tubing down the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers; a holiday
party; restoration of the Mason-Dixon marker (in progress); and finally, dining out at Bugaboo Creek Restaurant where it wasn’t just another meeting (congrats Gil and Donna!). Meetings are held twice a month with contact continuing through the summer. MC and the University of Maryland support each other’s geography programs. Many of MC’s students, after graduation, transfer to the U of M’s geography program where they continue in GTU as active members, often becoming officers. Theta Eta invites and welcomes other GTU Chapters to visit and explore the D.C. metro area.