

# Gamma Theta Upsilon and *The Geographical Bulletin*

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) was established in 1928 as a professional geography honor society. The organization was founded by faculty members and students at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois to recognize and promote scholarship in geography. Since its inception, over 300 chapters have been added, mostly in the United States. Currently, the society has over 70,000 members worldwide.

The purpose of the society remains embodied in the symbolism found in the key insignia printed on the back cover of the *Geographical Bulletin*. The body of the key is seven-sided and represents the seven continents of the Earth. The Greek letters ΓΘΥ represent the three great environmental domains of our planet: Ge (Earth), Thalassia (sea), and Hypaithrois (atmosphere). The waves in the center of the key signify the major oceans of the world and the star is symbolic of Polaris, which guided travelers over the lands and oceans of the northern hemisphere for centuries.

With the rise of globalization, the need to have an understanding of the complex array of forces that shape our world is more critical than ever before. Gamma Theta Upsilon is committed to fostering geographic knowledge and education among the public. Currently, the society awards five scholarships to undergraduates, graduating seniors, and to a graduate student in the field of geography that hold membership in the society. In cooperation with the Association of American Geographers, the society also funds the “Visiting Scientist Program,” which sponsors prominent geographers to work with university and college Geography Departments.

Gamma Theta Upsilon also publishes *The Geographical Bulletin*, a peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles and reviews of interest to geographers and laypersons alike. While *The Geographical Bulletin* began publication as an outlet for student research in 1970, it welcomes submissions from established geographers, researchers, and other scholars, and publication occurs biannually (usually in May and November). Many students who have gone on to graduate school in geography and related fields have seen their first professional publication appear in *The Bulletin*. To encourage student publication, Gamma Theta Upsilon awards a “Best Student Paper Award” and a two hundred dollar prize annually. Published articles are available free of charge in PDF form on the GTU website, as well as being indexed through EBSCO’s databases and selectively abstracted in Current Geographical Publications of the American Geographical Society, Geo-Abstracts, and Sociological Abstracts.

**[www.gammathetaupsilon.org](http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org)**

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

*The Geographical Bulletin* is published semi-annually (May and November) by the Geography honor society, Gamma Theta Upsilon. In keeping with its goals of promoting geography awareness, GTU offers *The Geographical Bulletin* as an open-access, online journal that does not charge authors for either submission or subsequent publication.

*The Geographical Bulletin* began publication in 1970. A complete 25-year cumulative bibliographic index, by author, is printed in Volume 38, Number 1 (May 1996), and available on the website. While supplies remain, back issues from 1970 through the present are available for \$5.00 per issue.

For questions about *The Geographical Bulletin*, including potential article submission, please visit the website (<http://gammathetaupsilon.org/geographical-bulletin.html>) or contact:

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## A Note from the Editor

Welcome to *The Geographical Bulletin's* second fully online issue. As noted in my comments last issue, the benefits of being fully online and open access remain numerous: increased accessibility, flexibility in terms of what can be incorporated into an article, reduction of overall costs, inclusion of color imagery and larger graphic sizes, etc. And we still keep true to GTU's mission, and the broad reach of geography's tenets. If this and the previous issue are any indication, I believe we're on the right track. For example, looking over this issue's articles, a diversity in subfield topics persist: climate, fluvial, biogeography, HEI (human-environment interface). Although special issues surrounding specific topics/themes are welcome (email me with your proposals!), it always brings a smile to my face knowing the *Bulletin* retains this variety.

The same goes for our breadth of authors. Contributors include undergraduate and graduate students, of course, but also well-established, tenured professors and professionals – some of whom joined GTU in *their* undergraduate years. As our readership increases because of being fully online, and we continue to build our profile as a good quality, rigorously peer-reviewed publication outlet, these types of connections between members and the *Bulletin* become even more valuable. Just yesterday, I received an email from a colleague who wanted to let me know how they used the *Bulletin* in a teaching activity. I know several folks who do the same and, as Editor, I am grateful they think highly enough of the *Bulletin* to introduce it alongside other, perhaps more widely known and higher-impact journals. Hopefully this trend continues.

On a related note, as a reader, I always found that knowing a little about an article's author was helpful. It gave me a brief glimpse into their background and training, and helped me frame the article in a way I might not have unless I knew the author. For those using the *Bulletin* as a teaching tool, knowing if the author(s) are a student, professor, or a professional from outside of academia can be a neat way to demonstrate the importance of solid research at every level. To that end, I hope you noticed that, beginning with the previous issue – our first fully online and open access issue – each article includes a short bio at the end. For a beginning researcher this can serve as your introduction to the research world, letting everyone know who you are, and what you (might want to) do. For burgeoning researchers, it can help solidify your background and specialties. For established researchers, and I say this kind of tongue-in-cheek, it can function as a reminder of, perhaps, 1) your humble beginnings, and 2) that you still conduct research. In any case, I hope you enjoy learning a bit about each author without having to ask Siri or Google.

Coinciding with *The Geographical Bulletin's* Diamond Anniversary next year (2019 = issue 60!), we will be including a new section in *The Bulletin* entitled, "Geographical Essays and Reviews". These will be short, ~1,000-2,000 word pieces. They are NOT regular research article *per se*, but rather timely pieces and book reviews. They may or may not include graphics. They may or may not include references. In each instance, however, the Editor bears sole responsibility for reviewing/editing their content and recommending subsequent publication or rejection. When you submit these kinds of pieces, please follow the instructions to authors guidelines on the GTU website (<http://gammathetaupsilon.org/geographical-bulletin.html>).

Keep in mind that these are NOT op-ed style pieces, which are usually much shorter and more opinion-focused (and perhaps more appropriate for a *Newsletter*). Instead, items selected for the "Geographical Essays and Reviews" section will focus on important and/or timely topics/information. Approved by the Editorial Board, this section could include such items as:

- Book reviews
- Fieldwork reports
- Reviews of emerging trends in the discipline
- Retrospective/reminiscences (e.g., “looking back” on old geographers, revisiting old theories/paradigms, old programs, and then reporting how they’ve fared since)
- “Pocket Projects” – those shorter-but-just-as-important research ideas that many of us have scattered here and there, but have yet to formalize
- Chapter histories
- Famous geographer profiles/honorific obituaries
- Career-related topics such as advice to early career professionals/academics, beginning your first academic job, etc.

It is my hope that this will become a popular outlet, and I look forward to receiving your submissions. I especially hope that our international chapters and members will consider submitting a manuscript or essay. GTU is the International Geography Honor Society after all, and it would be great to see more participation from our international colleagues.

Last, but certainly not least, as volume 59 comes to a close, I want to relay a special thank you to those people who have served as article reviewers over the past year. Without your help, publishing high-quality articles in *The Geographical Bulletin* would not be possible. Indeed, your expertise, insights, and suggestions continue to enhance each submission. And if you’re looking for an opportunity to be a peer reviewer – or know someone who might be an excellent reviewer, especially for burgeoning researchers – please let me know. We all benefit from having strong peer-reviews.

Casey D. Allen  
 Editor  
*The Geographical Bulletin*

