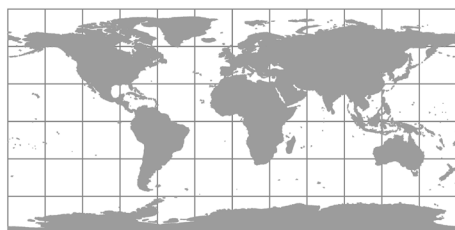


Gamma Theta Upsilon by the Numbers at the end of its First Century: Where are our Growth Poles?

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Editor's Note: This essay-report fits nicely with the spirit of our Diamond Anniversary volume. I appreciate Dr. Lowry compiling "the numbers".

As we entered the last decade of our first century (Gamma Theta Upsilon was founded in 1928), earlier this year I began to think more and more about our numbers. As the GTU Executive Secretary, I see our numbers on a daily basis and, since I've always liked to play around with numbers, I started fiddling with our membership data. Lately I have been keeping our President, Dr. Suzy Ziegler, updated on our total membership as we inch closer and closer to 70,000 members (as of the day of writing this we have 69,695 members), but I have also been keeping a close eye on chapter membership numbers. Below I present information on some of our most successful chapters – "success" being defined by inducting a large number of members, or inducting a high average number of members over a sustained period. There are other, just as good, definitions of success not included here (such as small chapters at small institutions that are active in their campus life) and I would love to hear about them for (possible) future reports.

The largest chapters-by-decade is one good way to look at success (Table 1). While we have only two chapters founded pre-1930, Alpha Chapter at Illinois State University (15 May 1928) is among our most successful. Alpha is our single largest chapter with 1,624 members. While you might say "but they are the oldest, so that's why they are the largest" you would miss that they are one of only two chapters with more than a thousand members and that with an average of 18.38 new members per year, they rank sixth highest (Table 2).

Thirteen chapters were chartered in the 1930s. The "star" of the 30s is the Omicron Chapter of Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania (15 May 1937, and the home of our current Middle States Regional Representative, Dr. Tim Hawkins). They have 910 total members, which makes them our third

largest chapter, averaging 11.23 members per year. No other chapter from the 1930s has an average of more than 10 new members per year.

Sixteen chapters date back to the 1940s. Two were chartered in 1940, and then after a WWII pause, we chartered eight in 1948 and 6 in 1949. From this group, Alpha Gamma of Western Michigan University (15 April 1949) is the largest with 737 members and, with 10.5 members per year, are the only 1940s chapter over 10.

The 1950s was a time of rapid growth for GTU with 42 new chapters. Five of these chapters merit attention: Beta Delta at Towson University (January 11, 1954) with 874 members, followed by Alpha Xi at Valparaiso University (03 May 1950, and the home of our current Past President Dr. Mike Longan) with 719, Beta Psi at Kansas State University (16 April 1959) and Beta Gamma at East Carolina University (25 March 1955) each with 712, and Beta Omega at California State University, Chico (15 May 1959) with 593. Only these five 1950s chapters have averaged over 10 new members per year with Towson leading the way at 13.45. Kansas State has averaged 11.87, East Carolina 11.11, Valparaiso 10.57, and Chico State 10.05.

The 1960s saw even more growth, with 69 new chapters established. Nine of these chapters have averaged more than 10 new members per year, and one of them has averaged above 20 per year. Kappa Upsilon at Texas State University, San Marcos (13 March 1969) has averaged a whopping 24.16 new members per year – the second highest average of all chapters. Despite being only a half-century old, Kappa Upsilon is our second largest chapter with 1,208 total members. The second largest 1960s chapter is Gamma Phi at Frostburg State University (14 May 1964) with 846 members, and 15.67 per year. Kappa Lambda at St. Cloud State University (08 October 1968) is the third largest with 796 members, but since it is over four years younger than Gamma Phi, their average of 15.92 per year is second highest in the decade (and ninth overall). The other

chapters with more than 10 initiates per year include: Kappa Alpha at Brigham Young University (15 May 1967) with 14.78, Kappa Delta at Central Connecticut State University (20 January 1968) with 13.06, Gamma Delta at California University of Pennsylvania (12 May 1961 – which makes this chapter one day older than me) with 12.84, Iota Omega at Ball State University (28 January 1968) with 11.10, Gamma Lambda at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (01 June 1963) with 10.67, and Gamma Omega at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (02 November 1964) with 10.35.

Growth then slowed in the 1970s with 44 new chapters being established. Delta Zeta at South Dakota State University (02 March 1970) is both the oldest and largest of the 1970s era chapters. They have averaged 14.16 members per year, for a total membership of 694. During this decade, Epsilon Kappa at Macalester College (05 May 1975) is the only other chapter to average more than 10 new members per year (10.77).

The 1980s saw even slower growth with the establishment of only 34 new chapters. Zeta Theta at Northwest Missouri State University (03 March 1980) is the largest with 535 members, and has inducted an average of 13.72 new members per year. Six other chapters have inducted at least 10 new members per year. Eta Kappa at Salem State University (21 March 1988) leads the 1980s with 16.73 per year (and ninth overall in members per year). Zeta Phi at Minnesota State University, Mankato (24 May 1984) has averaged 12.59, Eta Gamma at SUNY-Geneseo (15 September 1986) has averaged 12.44, Zeta Rho at Binghamton University (02 May 1982) has averaged 11.78, Eta Delta at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (13 March 1987) has averaged 10.97, and Eta Alpha at the University of Vermont (21 May 1985) has averaged 10.12.

Another 31 chapters were established in the 1990s. Eta Chi at Northern Michigan University (02 April 1991, and the home of our current President, Dr. Suzy Ziegler) is the largest with 512 members and has inducted

an average of 18.29 members per year. Theta Tau at the University of Montana (11 May 1999, and 8 years younger than Eta Chi) has inducted an average of 18.42 per year, while Theta Kappa at the University of Oregon (27 March 1995) is the only other chapter inducting more than 10 a year (10.54).

The 2000s saw the establishment of 30 new chapters. Lambda Mu at the United States Military Academy (28 May 2004) is the largest at 305 members, but Mu Alpha at DePaul University (21 May 2009) has inducted the most per year at 27.67 (versus 21.79 at Lambda Mu). This places Mu Alpha at the top of the list of inductees per year. During the first decade of the 21st century, three other chapters have inducted at least 10 new members per year: Lambda Kappa at Rowan University (01 May 2003) has averaged 12.67, Lambda Kappa at Plymouth State University (08 May 2003, and the home of current New England-St. Lawrence Valley Regional Councilor Dr. Patrick May) has averaged 12.60, and Lambda Zeta at Wayne State College (19 April 2002, and home of current Outreach Coordinator Dr. Randy Bertolas) has averaged 12.41 per year.

We've chartered 29 new chapters this decade. Four of them have inducted at least 10 members per year. Mu Kappa at Hofstra University (02 May 2012) has averaged an impressive 22.67 new member inductions per year. Mu Lambda at the University of Colorado Denver (04 May 2012, founded by *The Geographical Bulletin* editor, Dr. Casey Allen) has averaged 14.50 new members per year, and Mu Pi at the University of West Florida (14 February 2014) has averaged 13.40 new members per year. During the past decade, we also have a very special case. On 05 April 2018, the Nu Theta Chapter was chartered at the University of Southern California. Thus far, they have held two inductions with a total of 101 new members. That would equate to 101 new members per year. That is, of course, an incredible number and I, for one, hope they can sustain it for a very long time. Since they are only one year old, I'm not including them as the top

chapter in per year members to be fair to the longer established chapters, but 101 new members in a year is certainly quite an accomplishment.

Your challenge is to get your chapter on one of the lists below, or to move up the lists if you're already on them. The success of GTU, the success of your chapter, the success of your department and, more importantly, the success of your students, is highly correlated with engaged students.

GTU's 25 largest chapters (as of 20 April 2019)

1	Alpha	Illinois State University	1,654
2	Kappa Upsilon	Texas State University-San Marcos	1,208
3	Omicron	Shippensburg University	910
4	Beta Delta	Towson University	874
5	Gamma Phi	Frostburg State University	846
6	Theta	Arizona State University	840
7	Zeta	Slippery Rock University	807
8	Kappa Lambda	St. Cloud State University	796
9	Kappa Alpha	Brigham Young University	754
10	Alpha Gamma	Western Michigan University	735
11	Gamma Delta	California University of Pennsylvania	732
12	Alpha Xi	Valparaiso University	719
13	Beta Psi	Kansas State University	712
14	Beta Iota	East Carolina University	711
15	Rho	Eastern Illinois University	707
16	Delta Zeta	South Dakota State University	694
17	Psi	University of North Dakota	691
18	Kappa Delta	Central Connecticut State University	666
19	Delta	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	630
20	Epsilon	Missouri State University	622
21	Chi	Oklahoma State University	618
22	Alpha Alpha	University of North Texas	610
23	Beta Omega	California State University-Chico	593
24	Gamma Lambda	Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville	587
25	Iota Omega	Ball State University	566

GTU's most prolific chapters (at least 10 inductees per year)

1	Mu Alpha	DePaul University	27.67
2	Kappa Upsilon	Texas State University-San Marcos	24.16
3	Mu Kappa	Hofstra University	22.67
4	Lambda Mu	United States Military Academy	21.79
5	Theta Tau	University of Montana	18.42
6	Alpha	Illinois State University	18.38
7	Eta Chi	Northern Michigan University	18.29
8	Eta Kappa	Salem State University	16.73
9	Kappa Lambda	St. Cloud State University	15.92
10	Gamma Phi	Frostburg State University	15.67
11	Kappa Alpha	Brigham Young University	14.78
12	Mu Lambda	University of Colorado Denver	14.50
13	Delta Zeta	South Dakota State University	14.16
14	Zeta Theta	Northwest Missouri State University	13.72
15	Beta Delta	Towson University	13.45
16	Mu Pi	University of West Florida	13.40
17	Kappa Delta	Central Connecticut State University	13.06
18	Gamma Delta	California University of Pennsylvania	12.84
19	Lambda Kappa	Rowan University	12.67
20	Lambda Lambda	Plymouth State University	12.60
21	Zeta Phi	Minnesota State University, Mankato	12.59
22	Eta Gamma	SUNY-Geneseo	12.44
23	Lambda Zeta	Wayne State College	12.41
24	Beta Psi	Kansas State University	11.87
25	Zeta Rho	Binghamton University	11.78
26	Omicron	Shippensburg University	11.23
27	Beta Iota	East Carolina University	11.11
28	Iota Omega	Ball State University	11.10
29	Eta Delta	University of Maryland-Baltimore County	10.97
30	Epsilon Kappa	Macalester College	10.77
31	Gamma Lambda	Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville	10.67
32	Alpha Xi	Valparaiso University	10.57
33	Theta Kappa	University of Oregon	10.54
34	Alpha Gamma	Western Michigan University	10.50
35	Gamma Omega	Indiana University of Pennsylvania	10.35
36	Eta Alpha	University of Vermont	10.12
37	Beta Omega	California State University-Chico	10.05

