

## 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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# Gamma Theta Upsilon

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

This volume marks *The Geographical Bulletin's* Diamond Anniversary. That's 60 volumes since 1970. Quite a feat that few current peer-reviewed journals can claim. And yet the *Bulletin* stands tall. For more than 40 years it has showcased both undergraduate and graduate student research, as well as research from more established scholars.

If you've published in *The Geographical Bulletin*, you're in some fine company. Did you know, for example, that many notable geographers have published in *The Geographical Bulletin*? Some recognizable folks include former AAG Presidents Mel Marcus (vol. 32 issue 1) and Derek Alderman (vol. 46 issue 1), as well as Alec B. Murphy (vol. 41 issue 1), David R. Butler (vol. 22, vol. 27, vol. 29 issue 2, vol. 31 issues 1 & 2, and vol. 32 issue 2), Reginald (Reg) Gолledge (vol. 43 issue 1), Anthony (Tony) Brazel (vol 36, issue 2), Yi-Fu Tuan (37 issue 1), and Andrew Goudie (vol. 33 issue 1). All outstanding scholars in their fields who have helped shape the discipline (if you don't know who these scholars are, you should...)

And, being the flagship publication of an international honor society, *The Geographical Bulletin* also hosts a wealth of research conducted by non-US scholars from places such as Japan Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the UAE, and the UK, among others. What this means is, while *The Geographical Bulletin* might be often overlooked as a peer-reviewed publication, many notable geographers from around the world have published in it (and continue to do so). Yet we still remain true to our core mission of helping young scholars publish a peer-reviewed paper.

This issue continues those trends, with articles from scholars based in Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and the US. We also debut our new section, *Geographical Essays & Reviews* which, this time around, includes a thought-provoking essay, solid book review, and an interesting assessment of GTU through the decades. As we move forward with future issues of *The Geographical Bulletin*, I hope to see more book reviews, as well as thoughtful essays about field-based experiences, program histories, famous geographers, and pedagogy/teaching & learning, among other topics.

Whether you are a graduate or undergraduate student, I admonish you to submit your research to *The Geographical Bulletin* for potential publication. Not only will you be in good company, but we represent a relatively safe, yet still rigorous forum for you to learn about the peer-review process, perhaps add a publication to your résumé or CV, and maybe even earn some money along the way by winning the \$200 cash prize for *Best Student Paper*, awarded by GTU each year. And, of course, if you're a more established scholar, we welcome your submissions as well.

I hope you enjoy this first issue of *The Geographical Bulletin's* Diamond Anniversary volume. On behalf of all authors, as well as editors, I also want to thank everyone who takes time to help with conducting peer reviews. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

Casey D. Allen  
Editor  
The Geographical Bulletin



# THE GEOGRAPHICAL BULLETIN

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RESEARCH ARTICLES

