



President's Column

by Michael Longan
President

It has been a privilege to serve GTU as president for the past two years. As my term comes to its end, I am more convinced than ever

of the importance of GTU's mission to "recognize geography's next generation of leaders." We need geographically informed leaders who not only serve our discipline but also serve our world. Over the past few years we started a practice of asking our scholarship and travel award winners what our recognition of them meant to them. A few of those testimonials are included in this newsletter. I am continually impressed with the quality of leadership that our GTU members display. I am especially inspired by the way that GTU members make use of their knowledge of geography to serve their campuses, communities, and the world.

As president I have been supported by an excellent group of volunteer leaders in geography who make up the GTU Executive Committee! I thank Past President Burrell Montz for her invaluable support and guidance. Randy Bertolas and the team of Outreach Assistants he leads have been instrumental in helping to improve the flow of information between chapters and the organization. Development coordinator Howard Johnson has helped us chart a course for ensuring GTU's long term health. Case Allen has performed admirably in his role as the new editor of the Geographical Bulletin, guiding it through the publication of its 60th volume! I have enjoyed working with our committed regional councilors. Executive Secretary James Lowry and Comptroller Michal LeVasseur are our most dedicated volunteers. As I step down, Susy Ziegler will be beginning her term as president, Jimmy Wilson will take over as 1st Vice President, and Karen Johnson-Webb will be beginning her term as 2nd Vice President. As the result of a retreat held in November, this new presidential leadership team is ready to go once

their terms start in January. I look forward to continuing to serve GTU as Past President and I am excited to see GTU continue to expand its capacity to "recognize geography's next generation of leaders."

Geographical Bulletin Releases Diamond Anniversary Volume

by Casey Allen,
Editor, Geographical
Bulletin



As we close out 2018 with a solid set of articles in GTU's peer-reviewed journal, I want to first thank all our reviewers over this past year. Peer reviewers

add a lot to the research process, and usually result in better final products. Volume 59's peer reviewers were no different. We value your expertise and sincerely appreciate the time and effort on behalf of *The Geographical Bulletin*. I hope you get a chance to browse the most recent issue, available online for free with all the other articles beginning with volume 1 from 1970, here:

<http://gammathetaupsilon.org/geographical-bulletin-index.html>.

As my brief remarks in November's issue note, 2019 represents a special year for *The Geographical Bulletin*: our Diamond Anniversary volume! That's right. 60 volumes. Sixty.

You might be thinking, "Wait a minute...1970 to 2019 is 49 years...how can we be celebrating 60?" Well, until 1986, the *Bulletin* often published two volumes per year. Beginning with volume 28 (May & November 1986), the decision was made to make the journal a *two issue, one volume* publication. Still, a peer-reviewed journal that's been continually published for nearly 50 years is a trait few can claim. Quite the accomplishment – and one that makes me proud to be associated with *The Geographical Bulletin* and GTU.



To celebrate our Diamond Anniversary volume, and beginning with the May 2019 issue, the *Bulletin* will begin including a new section in each Issue 1 entitled, “Geographical Essays and Reviews” (though if it becomes a popular outlet, we may expand it to Issue 2 as well). This section will accompany traditional research articles, and include shorter pieces (~1,000 to ~1,500 words) focused on items/topics such 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)
- Chapter histories
- Famous geographer profiles/honorific obituaries
- Emerging research ideas that have yet to be formalized
- Career-related topics such as advice to early career professionals/academics, beginning your first academic job, etc.

We envision publishing a few of these shorter pieces each year (to start). These are *NOT* op-ed type pieces that may be more appropriate for a newsletter, but items that focus on timely and relevant information. For example, perhaps you're a grad student who wrote a particularly striking essay for their *Geographic Thought* class. Submit it for consideration in the new section. Or maybe you've been influenced by a specific geographer and want to honor their work. Tell us about the experience. Had an interesting field experience lately? Write it up and forward it to us. Discovered an exciting way to convey complex concepts to undergraduates? Put fingers to keyboard and describe your process. Whether serious, sarcastic, or tongue-in-cheek, we will consider your essay or review. And also book reviews.

As always, I encourage you to submit your research (or “Geographical Essay and Reviews”) to *The*

Geographical Bulletin. Just follow the submission guidelines here: <http://gammathetaupsilon.org/geographical-bulletin.html>. If you have any questions along the way, please let me know. I'm happy to help! And, keep in mind that, while *The Geographical Bulletin* is a fully online peer-reviewed journal, we still conduct a rigorous double-blind peer review on research articles and never charge authors for a submission or subsequent publication.

Applications for 2019 GTU Travel



Awards

by Susy Ziegler, 1st Vice-President

GTU and the American Association of Geographers (AAG) collaborate on initiatives to promote geography and support geography students. We are delighted to announce that GTU and the AAG are continuing to offer the **AAG–GTU Student Travel Award** to help offset the cost of students attending the Annual Meeting of the AAG in Washington D.C. in April 2019.

Travel awards in the amount of \$200 each are available for undergraduate and graduate students who are attending the 2019 Annual Meeting of the AAG. GTU will provide as many travel awards as funds and qualified applications permit. Preference will be given to students who are attending an AAG meeting for the first time and who will serve as an author or co-author on a paper or poster being presented at the conference. Recipients of an AAG–GTU Travel Award will be required to pick up their check at the GTU booth in the exhibit hall during the AAG Annual Meeting.

The application deadline is Feb. 4, 2019 and the form is available for online submission at <http://gammathetaupsilon.org/travel-award-application.html>. Please direct any questions about the process to suziegle@nmu.edu.



The AAG provides financial support for the awards via its AAG-Gamma Theta Upsilon Student Travel Awards Fund. Donations for the fund are collected by the AAG via their website. We appreciate the support of the AAG for geography's next generation of leaders!

Messages of Thanks from 2018 AAG-GTU Student Travel Award Winners

by Susy Ziegler, 1st Vice-President

Last spring ten GTU students received \$200 to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers in New Orleans. GTU is grateful to the AAG and to donors to the AAG-GTU Student Travel Awards Fund for helping early-stage geographers attend and make the most of the conference as they prepare to launch their careers in geography. After the 2018 meeting in New Orleans the AAG-GTU Student Travel Award recipients shared heartfelt messages of thanks. Below are a few of them. We'll include additional messages in a subsequent newsletter. Here are a few of them (some edited for length):

Logan McSherry

It was an honor to present my research among so many students and esteemed geographers. I was also privileged to be able to attend a variety of informative paper sessions, poster sessions, and specialty group meetings. The annual meeting also allowed me to meet distinguished professors I had previously only read about, network with professionals in the field, connect with fellow students from other universities, and reconnect with students and professors from my undergraduate institution, many of whom I had not seen since I graduated... The AAG-GTU Student Travel Award helped make all these great moments, experiences, and memories over the past week possible. I assure you \$200 really does go a long way, and the opportunity to represent my school and these organizations at the annual meeting was not lost on me. So, thank you to GTU and AAG for your steadfast support of the discipline of

geography, and especially your continued support of students such as myself who got such much out of their time at the conference.

Katelyn Michelson

Thank you very much for this student travel award to attend AAG--I am honored to represent both AAG and GTU at the event with my presentation.

Meredith Moore



I would like to express my utmost appreciation for the travel award that assisted with my attendance at the AAG Annual Meeting. This award helped ease the burden of travel expenses to New Orleans; any amount certainly does help. Attending the AAG annual Meeting was an excellent experience, which brought to light new ideas and perspectives that will aid in my interests and research. I conversed with professionals in the industry and academics and returned back to Auburn University fresh with new ideas and inspiration.

Sidney Noble

I am quite excited to attend my first conference and present my own research. These funds will help cover my lodging and are much appreciated.



Alexander Ramiller



I want to thank the AAG and GTU for providing this generous funding to myself and other students in order to attend the AAG conference. One of my favorite things about the field of geography is its openness and inclusivity, and this grant exemplifies those qualities by making the foremost conference for geography more accessible to students. I was



thrilled to attend my very first AAG conference this year with help from the AAG-GTU travel grant, and it gave me the amazing opportunities to meet others in the field and to present my own research. I aspire to continue in academic geography, and my experience in New Orleans makes me very excited to attend AAG conferences in the future!

Anything going on at your chapter?

By GTU Outreach Coordinator Randy Bertolas
raberto1@wsc.edu



The sometimes-lonely job of being a GTU chapter advisor can be made easier by remembering that you're part of a long and proud tradition. We're already making plans for the 100th anniversary of the

organization in 2028. Our chapters represent a continuity of geography education and scholarship that has lasted—and thrived—over the test of time.

We love it when chapters send us pictures and/or descriptions of events connected to their members. Photos of initiation events are highly prized, as are stories about any community service or civic engagement activities in which GTU is involved.

Our chapter here in the rolling hills of northeast Nebraska regularly partners with other clubs and organizations on our small campus to conduct outreach every semester. We assist with ventures such as book & bake sales, voter registration drives, and fundraising to buy gifts and clothing for children in need during the holiday season. We help with campus tree planting and community garden raking. It is remarkable how many students I talk to who want to give back, but they don't know how, and *no one has ever asked them*.

The signature event by our chapter each fall is the annual Geography Quiz Bowl on campus. The

GeoBowl is always a raucous experience featuring themed contestants and audience door prizes. We time the affair to celebrate Geography Awareness Week and use this occasion to promote the discipline during pre-registration advising when students are considering what courses to take next semester.

And, of course, each semester draws to a conclusion with an initiation ceremony for new GTU members. We always join forces with other social sciences honor societies on campus to ensure a good turnout. All the organizations pitch in a little money for a cake and lemonade reception afterward. Parents, family, and friends are always warmly invited, and we try to have an administrator on hand to welcome the guests.

GTU chapters are always looking for good ideas. Feel free to send me your photos and event descriptions, we'd love to hear what you've got going on. Better yet, post your activities to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GammaThetaUpsilonInternational/. A page administrator screens and uploads all content to cut down on advertising and inappropriate posts.

If your chapter only does an initiation ceremony in spring, then early January is the time to begin screening for eligible new members. Nothing pleases the office staff at GTU International Headquarters in Atlanta more than timely receipt of Initiate Report and Address Forms. And nothing thrills a new member of GTU more than to receive their handsome certificate suitable for framing on the day of your chapter initiation ceremony (or, at least prior to graduation).

Every member of the GTU Executive Committee is ready to volunteer their time and effort to help you with advice and decision-making strategies on how to streamline operations and conduct chapter business. Don't hesitate to call on our expertise. Your students will long remember and deeply



appreciate being recognized among their peers as members of the international honor society in geography!

Interview with Andrew Husa, GTU Student Outreach Assistant

By Jimmy Wilson, 2nd Vice President

I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Andrew Husa, our GTU student outreach assistant for the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain region. Andrew is a master's student in Human and Historical Geography at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For those of you who don't know, student outreach assistants are tasked with assisting regional councilors with regional AAG meetings, assisting our GTU outreach coordinator in the development of a social media presence, and serving as a liaison between students and the regional councilors for their region. Our GTU outreach coordinator Randy Bertolas suggested interviewing Mr. Husa as he is very active and passionate about his role as GTU student outreach assistant. Below is the narrative of our conversation. Thank you, Andrew, for making time to visit with me and for passing along your experiences.

<https://gammathetaupsilon.org/student-outreach-assistants.html>

Jimmy: When and where did you become a member of GTU?

Andrew: I was initiated into Gamma Theta Upsilon as an undergrad at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2015. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln was one of only twelve 2015 Honors



Chapters, something I am very happy to be a part of. My certificate is still on display at my grandparents as one of my proudest achievements.

Jimmy: How did you become a student outreach assistant?

Andrew: I don't remember the specifics of the email, but I know that Dr. Randy Bertolas was looking for recommendations and my name was among those he received. We talked, and things went well, and the rest is history.

Jimmy: What do you feel are important qualities for a student outreach assistant?

Andrew: In order to be a student outreach assistant, communication is key. You must be active with your email and having experience with social media also helps a lot. It also helps to be able to relate to and engage with your fellow geography students, so having a well-rounded personality and set of experiences is great.

Jimmy: Has the experience been rewarding?

Andrew: Working as a student outreach assistant has been rewarding in both learning what's going on in other geography programs/departments and promoting our program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and all of the exciting things our students and faculty are up to. I love having the opportunity to represent both my university and home state of Nebraska by working with students all over the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain region, as well as my fellow student outreach assistants from other regions. Being a student outreach assistant has given me an excellent platform to share my work and my stories from Nebraska on a much larger stage.

Jimmy: What activities or events are you especially proud of?

Andrew: As a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I'm most proud of getting some of our faculty and students involved with Gamma Theta Upsilon together to participate in our university's Big Event, which is an annual day of students doing community service around Lincoln. As a GTU student outreach assistant, I think the thing I will always remember is how we get to view the Gamma Theta Upsilon initiation pictures from several universities and vote on the one we enjoy



the most. It is so much fun to see how other universities are celebrating geography.

Jimmy: For those flirting with the idea of becoming a student outreach assistant, what advice can you offer?

Andrew: The best advice I can offer is to do it. I plan on stepping down from my position in May 2019 as I focus on writing my dissertation, and I encourage anyone/everyone to consider becoming the next student outreach assistant for the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain region. Everyone in GTU is so helpful and supportive and it's a great way to represent yourself and your school while helping others and promoting geography.

Profiles in GTU Leadership

Edited by Randy Bertolas, GTU Outreach Coordinator

The following essays are submissions from regional GTU Student Outreach Assistants in response to a request for profiles of great leaders in Gamma Theta Upsilon—students, chapter sponsors, regional councilors, etc. These reflections on the importance of leadership in geography are offered as evidence of the influence of our GTU members.

From Zach Hilgendorf, graduate student at Arizona State University

The officers of GTU's Theta Chapter are at the forefront of reactivating the dormant chapter at Arizona State University. These individuals have been diligently working all semester to generate interest, establish events to draw members, and laying the groundwork to further the cause of reactivating the Theta Chapter. All the officers will be graduating within the next three semesters, but are highly motivated and bring a level of vigor and excitement that will surely renew interest and camaraderie within our chapter. They have organized activities focused on service to the environment, are planning an upcoming event to teach about geomorphic features near campus, and will be facilitating cultural immersion by visiting

area cemeteries with an emeritus professor from ASU. We hope to recruit a faculty chapter advisor and conduct an initiation ceremony during the 2019 spring semester.

From Adam Dohrenwend, graduate student at the University of Kansas:

Dr. Jennifer Rogalsky is chair of geography at SUNY Geneseo where I earned my undergraduate degree. Simply put, Jen is the real deal when it comes to teaching geography. Her courses are serious and provide information across the geographic spectrum from physical to human. I distinctly remember taking her course in Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa and being required to construct holistic arguments in our assignments that coupled humans with the biotic and abiotic factors surrounding them. It was a struggle at first, coming up with a way to make an essay about education in Botswana relate to the physical geography of the region. But, as I thought about it, things started coming together. The wealth extracted from the earth by diamond mining was largely financing Botswana's educational strides! It became clear that to understand social conditions on the ground, a holistic geographic understanding is extremely necessary—something that I frequently recall in my current research at KU.

From Mark Rhodes, graduate student at Kent State University

Dr. Karen Culcasi, associate professor of geography at West Virginia University, has made a profound impact throughout the East Lakes region during the past two years. As a GTU visiting geographical scientist, Dr. Culcasi visited both Grand Rapids Community College and Aquinas College in Michigan where she presented on the topic of Syrian and Palestinian women refugees in Jordan. She has also spoken at Oberlin College and at my own Kent State University. In each case, Dr. Culcasi used critical and feminist geographies to better convey identity. According to Kent State doctoral student Hanieh Molana, "It brought a different lens to our department." Kathryn



Hannum, another PhD student, commented that “It made me want to look closer at migrant community-building under stress.” Dr. Culcasi has been a member of GTU since her undergraduate years at the University of Vermont. She also served as faculty advisor of the Theta Xi chapter at West Virginia University from 2009-2015. Her continued work as a visiting geographical scientist for GTU serves as an inspiration on how to bring empathy, activism, and impact into our own work.



Historian's Column

by Dawn M. Drake
Historian

Sometimes as GTU historian I get contacted by outside organizations seeking background information about some of our members for some type

of honor. A few years ago that happened when I was contacted by the Museum of Science and History in Fort Worth, Texas, wanting to honor one of their founding members, Marguerite Utley, who was GTU 1st VP in the 1930s. In early October this year, it happened again. I received an email from a producer on the PBS show, Finding Your Roots. The staff was researching a woman by the name of Arlean Slaughter for an episode and had stumbled across a small newspaper clipping about GTU. Mrs. Slaughter was a charter member of the Iota Chi chapter at Harris Teachers College, today known as Harris-Stowe State University, one of the HBUCs here in Missouri. Finding Your Roots wanted to see if we had any more information about Mrs. Slaughter or her time in GTU.

Very little of the historic material from GTU resides with me. Most of it is located in our archives in the Booth Library at Eastern Illinois University, so I referred the producer there to see if they could help. I also contacted Dr. James Lowry, Executive Secretary, as he has the historic initiation records. Finally, I looked through the little bit of material I had in my own office, mostly in the form

of chapter reports printed in the Geographical Bulletin.

On many fronts, I struck out. Iota Chi was formed in October 1965 and then became an inactive chapter, having their last induction in October 1969.

All of this was before the Geographical Bulletin began, so I did not have any material of use. Dr. Lowry simply had some information to confirm what was in the news article. Since the Booth Library records have few photographs or information from individual chapters, I am not sure they were able to help either. But, we tried and I had a great time doing it. It is fun to learn about our members and their history. PBS has promised to send me a copy of the episode when it airs and we will be depositing that in the archives for the future.

I encourage all the chapters to explore your history and roots and when you do, share it with us. We would love to include more chapter history in this column, but more importantly, in the archives. It seems that the most common request of me is information about individuals, which is an area where chapters are best equipped to contribute. If you have compiled histories for your chapters, we

GEOGRAPHY HONOR GROUP FORMED AT HARRIS COLLEGE

Iota Chi chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon, a national honor fraternity in geography, has been established at Harris Teachers College. The fraternity, for men and women, requires that members maintain at least a B average in geography.

Prof. Emily H. Baker is sponsor. Charter members are Mrs. Eddy Bailey, Mrs. Joyce Becherer, Richard Gronemeyer, Russell Keck, Mrs. JoAnn Leikam, Mrs. Catherine McClain, Benjamin Mitchell, Melvin Morton, Mrs. Hazel Pye, Miss Vicki Riggins, Miss Ellyn Richardson, Mrs. Aralean Slaughter, Mrs. Louella Tucker, Miss Alice Smith, Frank Washington and Kenneth Wilke.



would love to include copies in the archives to add to our knowledge and leave a legacy for the future.

New Certificate Frame Available

by James Lowry
Executive Secretary



You may have read “Members receive a handsome certificate, suitable for framing” somewhere on the GTU website or on the GTU brochure. While we have offered frames for sale on our website, few have been sold.

The frames were very high quality, but they also carried a very high price, so we sold only about one or two per year. Earlier this year the Executive Committee decided to make a switch. Framing Success, a subsidiary of Herff-Jones (the supplier of all our other merchandise), is our new frame partner. The quality of these frames is equal to what we previously offered, but the prices are much more affordable. We will have samples, and brochures/order forms at the AAG in DC in April, but if you want to learn more now please visit <https://www.framingsuccess.com/category/detail/sid/19667/categoryID/50599753>

I'd also like to point out the Environmental Commitment of Framing Success
<https://www.framingsuccess.com/go/environment>.

Share Your Chapter News!

If you have news from your local chapter that you'd like to share, an account of a great chapter activity, or other items of interest to GTU's membership, we invite you to submit your item for consideration in the next edition of the GTU Newsletter. Send your news to suziegle@nmu.edu.

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