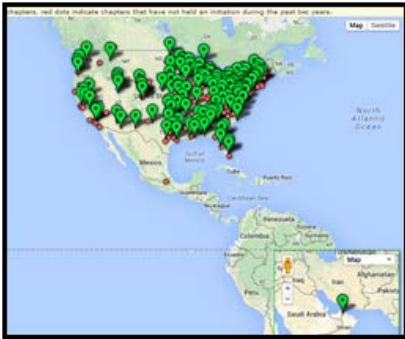




President's Column

by Burrell E. Montz



This is the first newsletter since I took over from Tom Wikle as President of GTU. What an honor is it to serve this organization

and what big shoes I have to fill, following Tom. He initiated this quarterly newsletter, and I will keep it going, though with the transition, I am a bit off schedule. I will do my best to rectify that very soon.

A lot has happened with GTU over the past few months, including new officers. Mike Longan, Valparaiso University (mike.longan@valpo.edu) is 1st Vice-President, Susy Ziegler, Northern Michigan University (suziegle@nmu.edu) is 2nd Vice-President, and Tom Wikle, Oklahoma State University (t.wikle@okstate.edu) is Past President. James Lowry, University of New Orleans, (jlowry@uno.edu) continues to serve as Executive Secretary. I am grateful to all of these folks as well as all the others who contribute so much to GTU. You can see the Executive Committee at (www.gammathetaupsilon.org/contact.html). Please feel free to contact any of them, or me, with any questions, ideas, or concerns.

I know the map above is not easy to read, but I am including it nonetheless because it shows that we have expanded – we now have a chapter at United Arab Emirates University. I have also been in contact with a university in Mexico. I am hopeful that we will see more institutions across the globe establish GTU chapters, making us a truly international honor society. Our international reach is not limited to chapters, however, as shown by our participation in *Textbooks for Ethiopia* last

year and this year's initiative on *Textbooks for Africa* (see Tom Wikle's column in this newsletter). What a wonderful impact GTU chapters can have!

This is my first newsletter, and more will follow. Please feel free to submit items that you think would be of interest to others chapters and please let me know if there is anything you would want addressed in the Newsletter. My e-mail is montzb@ecu.edu.

Chapter Numbers and Eligibility

from the Executive Secretary, James Lowry

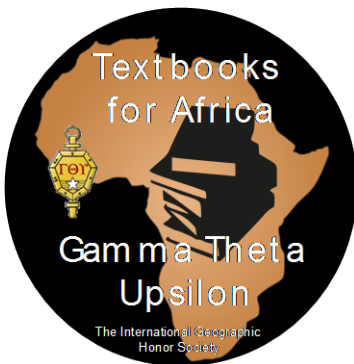
Just today I was asked about chapter numbers. I get this often so I know there is confusion and I know it's because the term is a bit misleading. Chapters don't have numbers. Chapters have names. I joined Beta Iota at East Carolina University in October of 1986. Beta Iota is the name of the chapter. When we use the term "chapter number" it refers to members, not the chapters. In the Beta Iota chapter, I have chapter number 444. That means 443 people were inducted into Beta Iota previous to my induction. The most recent inductee into Beta Iota has chapter number 689. The next member will be 690. International numbers work the same, but are the total of all chapters. My international number is 33,342. I was the 33,342nd person to be inducted into GTU from all chapters. We're now just over 60,000. We include international numbers when we return a completed initiate report to you, so you need not worry about them. With the chapter numbers you can either look at your last report and add one, or you can leave that blank and we'll enter them for you (my assistant always double-checks them anyway).

I recently had another question, which I also field somewhat regularly, about eligibility for membership. A chapter sponsor, in the process of reactivation, asked about a graduate from the previous year who had expressed a desire to be a member. I was also asked about non-majors who



had taken the 9 hours of geography and if they were eligible. Any person who meets the overall three semester, or five quarter, requirement who is in the top 35% of their class and has completed at least 9 hours of geography with a GPA of 3.3 or higher may be invited to join. One does not have to be a geography major nor does one have to be currently enrolled. Any currently enrolled student who meets the requirements, regardless of major and any former student (graduate or not) who meets the requirements can be invited to join. Grad students can join, faculty can join, anyone who meets the requirements above can join.

Textbooks for Africa by Thomas Wikle



In 2014 Gamma Theta Upsilon chapters provided leadership for a successful book drive called "*Textbooks for Ethiopia*." The GTU Executive Committee will continue this effort in 2015 through a new

initiative, *Textbooks for Africa*. This is a nationwide GTU service project aimed at helping less fortunate college and university students. As a result of the shortage of teaching resources, many students at colleges and universities in Africa are forced to share textbooks. In some classes as few as six books may be available for 30 or more students and books that are available are often in poor shape because of heavy use. *Textbooks for Africa* is open to any GTU chapter willing to initiate a book drive on its campus. Chapters that choose to affiliate with the project collect and ship books to the Atlanta warehouse of our partner, *Books for Africa*, where they will be sorted and organized.

If your chapter wishes to participate in this service project, please email Thomas Wikle (t.wikle@okstate.edu).

For more information please see the *Textbooks for Africa* website:
<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/textbooks-for-africa.html>



Historian's Column by Dawn M. Drake

Over a year ago, I wrote an article for the *Quarterly Newsletter* that examined some chapter reports from the 1975-76 Gamma Theta Upsilon Newsletter. It seems like a good time to return to these chapter reports for inspiration for our own organizations. I hope this helps stimulate some good ideas

One of the most innovative activities undertaken by a chapter in the 1974-75 school year was by Gamma Eta, at West Chester University, which started a recycling program. While not a novel activity for any GTU chapter today, in 1974, it was on the front lines of environmentalism. In that same year, the chapter co-sponsored a conference on agricultural land preservation. Given the high value of the agricultural land in southeastern Pennsylvania, surrounding the university, this was an important topic worthy of the chapter's concern. The school year ended for Gamma Eta with a campout near Washington, D.C. and a trip to the National Geographic Museum.

The Gamma Xi chapter at Elmhurst College in Illinois also engaged in a variety of environmentally conscious activities in the 1974-75 school year. This included a boat trip through the waterways of Chicago, co-sponsored by the Department of Geography and a student



environmental group at Elmhurst called S.T.O.P., and an evening film series included the showing of "Restless Earth." As the school year drew to a close, Gamma Xi was preparing to facilitate public hearings on the topics of environmental planning and wastewater management, sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Planning Commission.

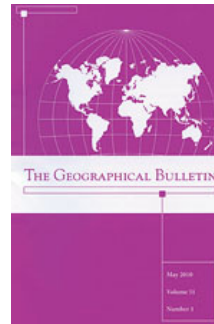
Environmental themes also prevailed in the activities of the Delta Delta chapter at Peru State College in Nebraska. One of the many activities for the year was a program by the Nebraska Conservation Department on the future of remote sensing. The chapter also continued working on a long-term investigation of operating quarries in and around Southeastern Nebraska.

I will conclude this edition of the Historian's Column with the Delta Zeta chapter at South Dakota State University. Perhaps it is because I will be taking four students to the South Dakota State University Geography Convention (SDSUGC) this March, but this chapter's long history in sponsoring a conference planned by students and for students is worthy of mention. In the 1974-75 school year, SDSUGC was in its sixth year. The convention was opened with a field trip to EROS in Sioux Falls. Faculty and professional speakers included Dr. John Fraser Hart, Dr. John Hudson, and Dr. Harrison H. Schmitt, who was the lunar module pilot on Apollo 17. Awards were given to a number of students during the convention and the University of North Dakota GTU chapter defeated Delta Zeta in the basketball tournament.

I hope this trip down memory lane has given you new ideas or brought back memories. If I have not mentioned your chapter yet, do not worry. In future editions of the *Quarterly Newsletter*, I will be exploring more chapter reports from the 1976-77 GTU newsletter. There is another way to make sure your chapter is mentioned in future Historian's columns. Do you have a story to tell

about the history of your GTU chapter? I would love to share it with the readers of the *Quarterly Newsletter*. Please email me at ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu with stories and pictures. Also stop by and see us at the GTU booth at AAG in Chicago.

Subscriptions to *The Geographical Bulletin*: by Burrell Montz



We continuously are asked about membership and the length of subscriptions to *The Geographical Bulletin*. Payment of the initiation fee provides a lifetime membership in GTU. However, the subscription to *The Geographical Bulletin* is a one-year subscription. Members

can continue to subscribe to the journal at a very reasonable rate after the first year, currently by joining the Omega Omega chapter (<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/alumni-chapter.html>). We would also ask that you check to see if your institution's library subscribes to the *Bulletin*. And if not encourage them to do so.

Please contribute manuscripts to the *Bulletin*. This is an excellent, peer reviewed venue for students, and of course faculty, to submit their work for publication. Submission details can be found at <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/geographical-bulletin.html>.

Donate to GTU

This was mentioned in a previous Newsletter, but I think it is worth mentioning again. If you register for AmazonSmile (at no cost to you) and designate GTU as your charitable organization of choice, 0.5% of the cost of each Amazon purchase you make will go to GTU's Education Fund. This link will take you right there for GTU: http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_ge_ul_lm_raas.