



President's Column

by Burrell E. Montz



Another academic year has begun! We start the year with all kinds of energy, looking forward to a successful semester filled

with school work and outside activities. This is when I encourage chapters to map out their activities for the year, or at least the term. The national Presidential election offers a range of opportunities for geographic inquiry – from considering voting district boundaries and how they have changed over time (leading to controversy in some places like my own state of North Carolina) to spatial differences in voting patterns, and many more. What great fodder for a panel discussion or some other program. Other articles in this newsletter offer numerous suggestions for chapter activities. Please be sure to read them. We also offer some ideas for Chapter projects that support students in other places in the world. Think about taking on such an activity to help those who are less fortunate.

It is never too early to start thinking about other GTU opportunities: the next induction ceremony (see the next article by Randy Bertolas), applications for the AAG-GTU travel award for the Boston AAG meeting, how you might position your chapter to receive an Honors Chapter or Presidential Honors award (see the articles by Susy Ziegler), and scholarships (see the article by Michael Longan announcing this year's scholarship winners). Please check the website for information on all of these. As always, if you have any questions, if you want to share some exciting news, or if you have some ideas for GTU activities or projects, please let me know. My e-mail is montzb@ecu.edu.

Greetings from the GTU Outreach Coordinator

By Randy Bertolas, Ph.D.

Wayne (Nebraska) State College

GTU International Outreach Coordinator

At all GTU Chapters, the start of the new academic year can be an exciting time. Many chapters hold an opening meeting where geography faculty and students gather to network, to pitch ideas, and to make plans for the upcoming year's activities. Interestingly, I find that attendance frequently increases at these meetings when the chapter advisor orders pizza. This first gathering of the semester also allows new or shy members the opportunity to meet their professors outside the classroom setting. It is always rewarding to see the "newbies" raise their hands to propose an idea and/or volunteer for a club project.

GTU membership is used by some chapters as a recruiting tool. Student members are encouraged to consider geography as a major or as a second major. Who doesn't want to see more dedicated geography majors bustling about their campus?

I'm often asked by chapter advisors as to when they should start screening students for GTU membership eligibility. Frankly, it's never too early to begin making plans for this year's initiation ceremonies. Whether you hold your initiation in spring or fall (or both), timely screening and prompt issuance of invitations are the keys to chapter health and ceremonial success. Indeed, many chapters "tap" eligible students with an invitation letter or email during the first few weeks of the semester, encouraging them to attend the opening meeting and begin participating in GTU activities months before their actual initiation.

Your GTU Executive Committee members are ready to help in any way possible to ease you into the duties of new chapter advisor or to provide support for our veterans. To aid in the process of conducting GTU chapter business, our website at



<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/> is filled with useful information and example materials. For instance, the website details benefits and opportunities of GTU membership, gives you invitation letter templates, provides an online form to submit initiate information, contains a ceremonial ritual that you may tailor to your needs, and serves as a record of chartered chapters, annual reports and past scholarship recipients.

GTU also has Regional Councilors to help in either reactivating a lapsed chapter or in building up chapter strength. RCs are listed with their contact information at the GTU website.

And don't forget to post pictures and details about chapter activities on the GTU Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GammaThetaUpsilonInternational/>

So hit the ground running, screen and invite new members, and begin planning and promoting your GTU chapter activities early. Have a productive year!

Congratulations to the 2016 Scholarship Recipients

by Michael Longan, 1st Vice-President

Gamma Theta Upsilon awards five scholarships of \$1000 annually to four undergraduates and one continuing graduate student. These students, through their academic excellence, their service to GTU and their departments, have demonstrated that they are part of the next generation of leaders in geography.

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to be able to congratulate the winners of the 2016 Gamma Theta Upsilon Scholarships:

Buzzard Undergraduate Scholarship: Emily Moothart, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire

Maxfield Scholarship: Jory Fleming, University of South Carolina

Rechlin Scholarship: Tonya Atherton, Southern Illinois University

Richason Scholarship: Dino Kadich, University of Arizona

Buzzard Graduate Scholarship: Michelle Ritchie, Binghamton University

Outreach Coordinator Randy Bertolas announced the winners of the 2016 Gamma Theta Upsilon Scholarships at the July 20th NCGE awards ceremony in Tampa Florida.

Students interested in applying for scholarships in 2017 should look for updated information on the GTU website after the first of the year at <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/scholarships.html>

The committee found it difficult to choose just five scholarship recipients as nearly every application we received was from a student deserving of recognition. Gamma Theta Upsilon is working to expand our ability to offer more and better scholarships so that we can more adequately recognize future leaders in geography. If you would like to contribute to this effort, you may do so by making a donation to the educational fund by contacting Development Coordinator Dr. Howard Johnson at hjohnson1@gmail.com.

GTU Chapter Activity Reports

By Susy Ziegler, 2nd Vice-President

More than *sixty* Gamma Theta Upsilon chapters submitted annual reports this year. I encourage you to get ideas from other chapters as you launch the new school year and plan your chapter's activities. GTU members are helping promote geography in creative ways. This year's reports (and an archive of past annual reports) are available at <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/chapter-reports-archive.html>.

This year several chapters reactivated after some years with no initiates. Other groups succeeded in increasing the number of new members and



stepping up activity levels by partnering with other student organizations to plan and host events. Having a critical mass of participants and also a leadership transition plan to keep momentum going from one academic year to the next can help chapters thrive.

Remember that celebrating Geography Awareness Week on November 13–19 is a great excuse for GTU chapters to host community events that promote geography and relate to this year’s theme: *Explore the Power of Parks*. To prepare for Geography Awareness Week check out <http://education.nationalgeographic.com/programs/geographyawarenessweek/>.

Start logging your chapter’s accomplishments so that you will be ready to submit your next annual report before the June 15th deadline.

GTU Chapter Awards

by Susy Ziegler, 2nd Vice President

Congratulations to the eleven GTU chapters that were recently recognized with a 2015-16 Honors Chapter Award. Based on the content of annual reports submitted by the June 15 deadline, Awards Committee members can recommend to the President certain chapters that deserve recognition for their activity level. The 2015-16 recipients of the Honors Chapter Award include:

Alpha Phi	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Beta Psi	Kansas State University
Delta Tau	University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Kappa Lambda	St. Cloud State University
Kappa Upsilon	Texas State University-San Marcos
Lambda Upsilon	Grand Rapids Community College
Lambda Zeta	Wayne State College
Mu Chi	Univ. of South Florida St. Petersburg
Mu Kappa	Hofstra University
Mu Psi	United Arab Emirates University
Zeta Gamma	Jacksonville State University

Special thanks to Awards Committee members Leslie Duram (West Lakes Regional Councilor) and Adam Dohrenwend (Student Outreach Assistant) for helping review the nominations for chapter awards.

Changes for 2016-17 Chapter Awards

by Susy Ziegler, 2nd Vice President

GTU chapters are planning activities and events for the year, and now is a good time to review the criteria for chapter awards <http://gammathetaupsilon.org/chapter-awards.html>. Recognizing the changing trends in websites and social media, one of the criteria for chapter awards has changed. The revised criterion #3 is in effect for the 2016-17 cycle, as follows.

To build community and share ideas across the international organization, candidates for the Honors Chapter Award and Presidential Honors Award are required to submit a minimum of two posts per year on the Gamma Theta Upsilon International Facebook page. Summaries and photos of chapter news and activities are particularly welcome (but first obtain permission of the GTU members described in the post and shown in the photo).

The steps are straightforward and do not require that the GTU chapter have a Facebook account. Visit the GTU Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GammaThetaUpsilonInternational/>. Post an update and a photo, if relevant, in the box at the top of the timeline where it says, “Write something on this page.” After hitting Enter, the content will appear in the Visitor Posts. Site administrators will review the submission and upload the content into the main timeline if approved. Each post submitted should include the chapter name and university. The chapter’s annual report should list the dates when material was posted on the GTU International Facebook page.

The GTU Executive Committee hopes that chapters sharing their activities throughout the year



will help spread awareness of Gamma Theta Upsilon International Geographical Honor Society and the importance of geography. Have fun promoting geography!

Contribute to the Travel Award Fund

Gamma Theta Upsilon and the AAG hope to be able to once again offer travel awards to help students defray the cost to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers. Travel awards are made possible by donations from members of the AAG and GTU. Each donation is matched by AAG. If you would like to contribute to the AAG/GTU Travel Award fund you may do so online at the AAG’s website at http://www.aag.org/cs/about_aag/grants_and_awards/annual_conference_grants/aaggtu_student_travel_awards.



Historian’s Column
by Dawn M. Drake

As mentioned in the last edition of the Historian’s Column, I was preparing for my first visit to the GTU archives at the Booth Library at Eastern Illinois

University. Now that I have been there, I am excited to tell GTU members what you can find and why you should go there and visit when you are in the Charleston, Illinois vicinity.

On my visit to the Booth Library, I met with archivist Dr. Bill Schultz who explained to me the status of the collection and of archives in general at Eastern Illinois University. As many of you are aware, the budget situation for higher education in Illinois has been tenuous over the last few years. At Eastern Illinois that means that Dr. Schultz can only spend one day a week working on the archives. Projects are prioritized based on the interests of patrons. Because I was there to view the GTU archives, it justified him spending more time updating and improving cataloging as well as

upgrading the storage containers and folders for the archival material. That same metric applies to all GTU members. Every time another person inquires about the GTU archives, it gives Dr. Schultz more justification to work on our collection to create more detailed and user-friendly finding guides.

In addition to working on finding aids, Dr. Schultz is also going to help GTU make the archives more user friendly by providing some of the materials electronically through “The Keep,” a digital archiving system employed by the Booth Library. This will allow GTU to keep its digital records in that format and not consume limited physical space in the library. It also will allow users to access some of the GTU archival material without coming to the Booth Library. I’ll have more information on the digital archives as we work out the details.

So the question you are probably asking is, what do the archives look like and what is in the boxes? There are 5 boxes, like the one pictured here.



Most of the materials in the boxes are officer reports and minutes of meetings. But there are also financial ledgers, records of the Loan Fund that at one time allowed GTU to make loans to graduate students in geography programs. Additionally there are a few photos,

as well as an almost complete set of the Geographical Bulletin. Eastern Illinois University will be making the journals available not only in the archives, but also through the Special Collections section of the regular catalog.

Ideas for Chapter Projects

By Burrell E. Montz

Often chapters have undertaken projects that benefit students in other countries. A number of



chapters have helped with the *Books for Africa* project, an initiative GTU has promoted for several years which involves collecting textbooks to be sent to various locations in Africa. You can get more information about this at:

www.gammathetaupsilon.org/textbooks-for-africa.html.

Another organization is Udayan Care (<http://www.udayancare.org/>). Focused on India, Udayan Care has a number of programs, aimed at helping orphaned and abandoned children, promoting higher education for girls, and improving the employability of underserved communities. Udayan Care offers internship and volunteer opportunities, but GTU chapters can also undertake fund-raising activities to provide monetary donations to the organization.

These are just two of the many worthy causes and organizations that GTU chapters can help. What a great way to develop GTU camaraderie and help others at the same time!

Geographical Bulletin Survey

There has been some discussion in the Executive Committee about whether or not the *Geographical Bulletin* should be a fully on-line journal. We want your opinions. Please take the very short survey at https://ecu.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1Ad9dp99TlrgYl

GTU Merchandise

It is never too early to order GTU cords, stoles, and pins for your induction ceremonies. In fact, an early order means you will beat the rush and will insure that the items get to you on time (without having to pay for overnight shipping!). Check out what is available at the Herff Jones site



(https://www.hjgreek.com/index.cfm?event=Products.showCategories&Organization_ID=635). Other items including frames and desk accessories can be obtained from Church Hill Classics (<http://www.diplomaframe.com/gatu>).

AAG Regional Meetings and GTU Sessions

AAG Regional Meetings are wonderful venues for students – smaller conferences that provide numerous opportunities for, among other things, gaining presentation experience and for networking. At some meetings, there are GTU sponsored sessions. Here is a list of the regional conference dates and locations as well as GTU related sessions about which we are aware.

East Lakes: Joint conference with West Lakes – Marquette, MI, October 13-15. GTU Session for students, faculty members and faculty sponsors. Learn about the criteria to join GTU, successes GTU chapters in the region have had in recruiting members and sponsoring events, and challenges that GTU chapters face. Bring ideas to share.

Great Plains/Rocky Mountain: Colorado Springs, CO, October 21-22

Middle Atlantic: Baltimore, MD, October 30-31

Middle States: Altoona, PA, November 4-5

New England/St. Lawrence Valley: Sherbrook, Quebec, October 14-15

Pacific Coast: Portland, OR, October 5-8

Southeast: Columbia, SC, November 20-22
GTU session: GTU 4 U – for both students and faculty -- an interactive session to share ideas on how GTU can serve students better and on chapter activities

Southwest: Denton, TX, October 20-22