A Note from the (past) Editor ............................ .63
A Note from the (new) Editor ......................... .65
Effects of Giant Traveling Map Use on Student Spatial Thinking
By Jory Fleming and Jerry Mitchell .................. .67
Rhizoplaca chrysoleuca as an Alternative Lichenometric Species: a Preliminary Investigation at the Lawn Lake Alluvial Fan, Rocky Mountain National Park, CO USA
By Jennifer Shanteau and Casey D. Allen ............ .79
Environmental Impact of Power Five Conference Realignment
Bradley Farley, Lisa M. DeChano-Cook and Lucius F. Hallett, IV ......................... .93
Leon Yacher: Scholar, Mentor, and Eclectic Geographer
By Michael S. DeVivo ................................. .107
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A Note from the (past) Editor

The previous issue of *The Geographical Bulletin*, the special issue on Star Trek and geography, was my last as editor. I hope you enjoyed it – it was probably my favorite issue in my dozen years as editor. I had an opportunity to take on the editorship of the *Journal of Cultural Geography*, and it was an opportunity that was too good to pass up. I want to thank Gamma Theta Upsilon and all the various people who have served on the Executive Committee for placing their trust in me over the course of the past twelve years. A lot of things have changed at *The Geographical Bulletin* over that time. When I started in 2005, authors still had to submit all their articles in triplicate, on paper, by post! Now, the submission, editorial, and review process is entirely digital. The journal also only existed in paper form. Today, the entire 47-year archive of past issues is available online, and the journal now can be accessed through numerous online databases, including EBSCO and ProQuest – it has never been more accessible to a wide readership. But other things haven’t changed. I felt when I started, and I still feel that *The Geographical Bulletin* has a vital role to play in geography. As the only journal with a strong focus on publishing student research, it gives students first-hand experience with the process of rigorous peer review in a supportive environment. There’s not much in academia that compares to that first time seeing your article in print, and *The Geographical Bulletin* has given that opportunity to generations of researchers. Thank you all for reading and supporting the journal.

The Executive Committee of Gamma Theta Upsilon has named Casey Allen as the new editor, and he takes over starting with this issue. Casey has broad interests in geography, an enthusiasm for exploration and getting one’s hands dirty in the field, and a passion for helping students learn to be geographers. I have no doubt that his will be a capable, enthusiastic, and creative hand on the tiller, and I look forward to seeing where he steers the journal as editor.

Steven Schnell
Past Editor
*The Geographical Bulletin*
A Note from the (new) Editor

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Editor for *The Geographical Bulletin*. Gamma Theta Upsilon’s tradition of supporting students in geography remains rich, and being part of that legacy serves as a highlight of my career. Many thanks goes to our past Editor, Dr. Steven Schnell, who accomplished many great things for *The Bulletin*. But, on a more personal note, he has gone above and beyond in helping me come aboard this Editorship. Steve’s guidance, insight, and vast knowledge of all things *Bulletin* remains invaluable, and he always seems eager to help. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to him. He has done a highly admirable job steering *The Bulletin*.

As Editor, my efforts remain focused on four goals, three of which are logistic. First, I intend to further streamlining the submission and review processes started by Steve. Second, expanding solicitation outlets – raising the journal’s visibility beyond GTU and its constituents. Third, increasing the journal’s online availability, extending Steve’s (and the Executive Committee’s) archiving of back issues for general access. Finally, as those who submit articles to *The Geographical Bulletin* know, our peer review process remains a demanding and rigorous one, with reviewers treating each submission as they would a review for any other journal, even though *The Bulletin* is perhaps not as well-known, broadly speaking. This tradition upheld by Steve, I believe, helps account for *The Bulletin*’s high-quality articles over the past decade. I fully intend to continue this trend of exceptional peer review, ensuring the journal’s integrity. That said, my fourth goal centers on promoting *The Bulletin* as an outlet for undergraduate research, alongside its traditionally graduate study-based and faculty-led fare. Too many times outstanding senior theses or projects get overlooked, even when their results may be insightful and impactful. As Steve notes, *The Geographical Bulletin* provides many budding geographers and researchers with their first publication, and such an experience is not only transformative for a student, but a great learning experience. As an Educator, serving as a guide for such students – helping them navigate the peer-review process successfully – lies at my core. I am pleased that this issue – my inaugural as Editor – contains two student-driven articles (Fleming & Mitchell and Shanteau & Allen). I would like to see the trend continue. As you work with students on projects, I hope you think of *The Bulletin* first. Or, if you are a student conducting research you think is impactful, ask a faculty member if *The Bulletin* would be an appropriate outlet, and begin your journey into the intrepid waters of peer-reviewed research...

Casey D. Allen
Editor
*The Geographical Bulletin*