



President's Column

by Thomas A. Wikle



If you've been involved in professional conferences, chances are you've seen or perhaps talked with some giants (legends) in our discipline. John Fraser Hart remains active in attending AAG meetings -- look for the distinguished and well-dressed

gentleman wearing glasses and a bowtie. Over the years I've been fortunate to meet a few others such as the University of Arizona's Janice Monk while on a field trip to Chile (organized by GTU Omega Omega Chair Richard Earl). Another was Penn State Geographer Wilbur Zelinsky, who flew into the Oklahoma City Airport to review my department many years ago. I also have fond memories of conversations with Orland Maxfield who served as GTU's Executive Secretary from 1973 until 1992 (nearly 20 years!).



Robert C. Fite

Every department has a few faculty members whose work with students has been especially influential. David Lanegran is a legend at Macalester College and in GTU circles. Dr. Lanegran has served as a GTU sponsor for 38 years! The Oklahoma State

legend I knew best was Robert C. Fite, a charter member of GTU's Chi chapter, founded at Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State) University in 1947. Before joining our faculty, Bob flew WWII reconnaissance missions with the U.S. Navy. Bob and his wife Lucy felt strongly that students should begin their study of geography as early as possible. To support and encourage first year students they established a scholarship for

freshman geography majors. Bob had retired from teaching at OSU when I met him in 1989.

Although we interacted socially, I didn't know much about his contributions to the department until I was involved in our department's annual newsletter (Bob died in 2008 and Lucy in 2013). Each year we ask our alums to tell us about their lives since they left Oklahoma State. In helping to compile this information I was struck by the number of students who sent stories about Bob (and the stories continue to be received five years after his death). Some described what they learned from him but most offered examples of his passion for teaching, enthusiasm for geography, but most important, his impact on their professional and personal lives. The story of Bob's remarkable life has emerged from those letters. I'm grateful to GTU's chapter sponsors and their unselfish service in hosting events, promoting high scholarly standards and, most of all, serving as colleagues and role models for student leaders.

New AAG/GTU Travel Award

The Association of American Geographers (AAG) and Gamma Theta Upsilon are pleased to announce a new travel award for students attending the AAG meeting in Tampa, Florida and future meetings. Students who submit an application will be eligible for a \$200 award. Preference will be given to students who are making a paper or poster presentation. Note that a limited number of travel awards are available. Information will be posted on the GTU website www.gammathetaupsilon.org



Michael Longan

2012-2013 Chapter Annual Reports and Honors Chapter Awards

by Michael Longan, 2nd Vice President

Chapter reports for 2012-2013 were recently posted on the Gamma Theta Upsilon website. Gamma Theta



Upsilon chapters have participated in a wide variety of impressive activities this year. Service is important to GTU chapters from volunteering for roadside trash cleanups to local school visits and tutoring. Two notable activities include raising awareness of genocide, on campus at the University of Florida and raising funds for the education of girls and Women in Africa at Grand Rapids Community College. Several chapters organized field trips including Emory and Henry College's trip to Niagara Falls and Toronto and Northern Michigan University's trip to visit the farm of a GTU member to learn about sustainable agriculture. Many chapters traveled to regional and national geography conferences. Numerous chapters sponsored speakers on their campus on a wide variety of geographic topics including career and graduate school panels. Earth Day, Geography Awareness Week, and student activity fairs are among the many opportunities that chapters take to raise awareness of geography on campus and in the community. A number of chapters sponsored Geography Bowl events or trivia contests. Many chapters report holding two initiation ceremonies, one in the fall and one in the spring. Many chapters also plan activities in partnership with a campus geographical society. I welcome reports of several newly established or reactivated chapters, who may not have had an opportunity to do much yet but are eager to start planning activities. At the heart of it all Gamma Theta Upsilon Chapters helped to recognize the superior scholarship of geography students by initiating new members. I hope that these chapter reports help to inspire your own chapter as it seeks to plan activities for 2013-2014.

This year eight chapters earned the *Honors Chapter Award*:

Epsilon, Missouri State University
 Gamma Psi, Kutztown University
 Iota Phi, University of Florida
 Kappa Upsilon, Texas State Univ.-San Marcos
 Epsilon Kappa, Macalester College

Lambda Zeta, Wayne State College
 Lambda Upsilon, Grand Rapids Com. College
 Mu Alpha, DePaul University

The awards committee also wishes to recognize Delta Mu (University of Mary Washington), Mu Delta (University of Richmond), Eta Lambda (Villanova University), and Gamma Lambda (Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville) as chapters that did not fully satisfy the criteria for receiving an Honors Chapter Award, but nonetheless, had an exemplary year.

The criteria for the Honors Chapter Award and the Presidential Honors Chapter Award are available on the Gamma Theta Upsilon website. Share the criteria with your chapter and use them to set goals for activities in 2013-2014.



Historian's Column

by Dawn Drake



Dawn Drake

Every once in a while, I take some time to dig through the archival material that GTU has acquired over the years. One can learn much by looking at the past. From time to time I will highlight some of these moments from geography and GTU's past. I encourage all chapters to engage in such reflection. If you find a story in your past that you would like to share with other GTU chapters, please email me at ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu. There is much we can learn from one another.



This month's look back at the past comes from a letter that GTU member, Dr. Byron Middlekauf, shared with former GTU President, Dr. Donald Zeigler. The letter was sent to Dr. Middlekauf in the late 1970s from GTU founder, Dr. Robert "Guy" Buzzard in appreciation for a thank you note that Dr. Middlekauf sent to Dr. Buzzard regarding a scholarship he received from GTU.

Before we look at some notable excerpts from the letter, let me provide a little background on Dr. Buzzard. While serving as a faculty member at the Illinois State Normal University, Dr. Buzzard



Byron Middlekauf

founded Gamma Theta Upsilon as a "national professional fraternity in Geography." The date was May 15, 1928. In 1933, Dr. Buzzard was appointed President of Eastern Illinois State Teachers College (now Eastern Illinois University),

where he remained until his retirement in 1956. It is due to his legacy at Eastern Illinois that GTU's archives reside at the Booth Library today. The Buzzard graduate and undergraduate scholarships also bear Dr. Buzzard's name today. Dr. Buzzard passed away at his home in California less than a year after this letter to Dr. Middlekauf was written. The letter contains some beautiful history of geography as a discipline that I would like to share with you.

Quoting from Dr. Buzzard's words:

Long ago – back in those 1920s after World War I, - veterans had to "finance" themselves. I received my master's degree in Geography from the

University of Chicago – in military uniform. So I learned the lesson of "helping others."

Of course when he speaks of "helping others" Dr. Buzzard is referring to his reasons for endowing the scholarships through GTU. Later in the letter he goes on to talk about his doctoral program experience at Clark University:



Robert G. Buzzard

My dissertation at the Clark Univ. Graduate School of Geography in 1924-25, (I had completed three years graduate study at Chicago), had to be a "regional" or "area" basis, so each phase of Geography (at that time) could have a share in my "training." Atwood in

physical; Brooks in meteorology; Jones in economic Geography; and Ellen Churchill Semple in historical Geography. After I refused to consider the "Buzzard's Bay area," – Miss Semple chose "Cape Cod" for me, - and I had the most thrilling experience studying that peninsula. It is quite a "tome." If you are ever on the Clark campus – take a look at an old fashioned dissertation in the library. It tells the story until 1925!!!

Dr. Buzzard's description of life as a doctoral student at Clark in the 1920s might make us all think fondly (or not so fondly) back or forward to our own graduate school experiences. Through the generosity of Dr. Buzzard and other GTU benefactors, GTU continues to help students pursue academic interests in geography. For more information on GTU scholarships or the people for whom they have been named go to the Scholarships section of our webpage at www.gammathetaupsilon.org

I hope this look back into the history of GTU and our discipline has been as interesting to you as it was for me. I always welcome historical



contributions of this type to be shared with the Newsletter or just the GTU Executive Committee. Please email me at ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu if you would like to share.

2013 Scholarship Award Winners by Burrell Montz, 1st Vice President



Burrell Montz

Congratulations to each of the Scholarship recipients for 2013. The applicant pool was very strong with each applicant having impressive academic records in addition to a clear passion for and commitment to Geography. Some of this passion and

commitment was shown through outreach and service activities while others demonstrate it through their research, internships and other academic endeavors. Because of this the Awards Committee had an extremely difficult task. These are the kinds of difficult tasks we like, however, as they illustrate the continuing strength of Geography and the high quality students who make up the next generation of professional geographers.

The scholarship recipients, each of whom received \$1,000, are:

Buzzard Undergraduate Scholarship:
Hannah Herrero, University of Florida

Maxfield Scholarship:
Agata Miszczyk, Macalester College

Buzzard Graduate Scholarship:
Brian Baskerville, University of Nebraska

Richason Scholarship:
Julio Castillo, Montgomery College

Rechlin Scholarship:
Lance Dasher, University of Toledo

News from Regional Councilors

Greetings from the Middle States region! For those that I haven't met, my name is Tim Hawkins and I'm from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. As the regional councilor, my main



Tim Hawkins

goals are to provide local chapters with assistance and information and to actively recruit new chapters. To that end, please let me know if I can be of assistance in any way and please let me know of any schools interested in starting a new chapter.

We've added several new chapters in our region over the past few years and I'd like to keep that trend going!



Teresa Bulman

Our newest Regional Councilor is Dr. Teresa Bulman who replaces Dr. Killian Ying in the Pacific Coast Region. Dr. Bulman is Professor of Geography at Portland State University. She earned her Ph.D. at UC Davis and today maintains a research focus on geography education.

From New Orleans and GTU Executive Secretary

by James Lowry



James Lowry

We have several important developments to report to our members/chapters. Most of this is based on our increased growth in members and active chapters over the past several years. We're experiencing growing pains, for which we are grateful, but which require



us to change our operations.

At the late summer GTU Executive Committee meeting in Denver (held at the NCGE) we decided to effect the following changes.

(1) Membership:

As our membership has grown the result is increased costs in processing new members and providing services in a timely manner. The bottom line is this was affecting our bottom line. We operate on a very slim margin with respect to our membership fee and what we can provide. We last changed our fee from \$25 (after decades) to \$40 in 2008 and have no desire to raise it again so we considered several options and made the decision to “fix” the problem by leaving membership at \$40, but dropping the “free” lapel pin we provide to all new members. The pins cost us about \$5.50 each and we decided saving the \$5.50 was a better option than raising the membership fee \$5-10. Once the current supply of lapel pins runs out we will cease to send them to chapters for their new initiates. The good news is we have just over 700 of them on hand so it will be sometime in the spring 2014 semester before all are gone.

(2) GTU Merchandise:

As we’ve grown we’ve also sold more and more merchandise every year (and have added stoles to our mix). It’s become quite a workload issue processing all of the merchandise orders so the Executive Committee decided to move all of our merchandising to Herff-Jones and to have them set up an online storefront and sell directly to you (there will be a link on our webpage – news on that coming soon). The good news is that merchandise will be shipped out faster, they take credit cards, and we entered into an agreement that doesn’t hurt our bottom line.

(3) Chapters and IRS Issues:

We’re still working on getting all active chapters registered with the IRS. Just today information came my way which shows how vital this process

is to all of us. Chi Epsilon (civil engineering and a sister member of ours in ACHS) has had more than 60 chapters have their non-profit status revoked in the past several years. Chapters have been attempting to be reinstated for well over a year and until the IRS reinstates them they cannot be active and that means no new members. Here at GTU we’ve had ONE chapter lose its non-profit status so we’re in much better shape than our civil engineering colleagues. One of the reasons for our success is the plan of action developed by our Comptroller, Michal LeVasseur. Some societies are leaving this process to chapters (I learned several years ago the philosophy honor society tried this and in the first year only 2 chapters got themselves registered – and one was the chapter of the Executive Secretary), but Michal contacted others and learned that it’s far more efficient for the society to register and file for chapters. So please, when we contact you about the IRS and your EIN, realize we’re trying to keep all chapters out of trouble because once the IRS revokes your tax exempt status it takes years to get it reinstated and in the meantime you must be declared inactive and, therefore, cannot induct new members.

