

Gamma Theta Upsilon  
Annual Reports from Chapters for 2008-2009

**Alpha Phi, University of Nebraska at Lincoln**

President: James Thayer

Vice President: Jad Callahan

Secretary: Trish Larson

Treasurer: Nataliya Lys

Events: "Weekly Wind Down", camping, kickball, holiday party, annual bowling tournament; Geography Promotion/Community Service; Geography Week, including a campus-wide Geography Bee; Big Red Welcome (an event for incoming UNL students held every August); Multiple Sclerosis Walk - Lincoln (2005, 2006, 2007); Books for Africa (2004, 2005); Playground Map at Norwood Park Elementary (March 2003); Repainting of Playground Map at Norwood Park Elementary (September 2005); Playground Map at Atkinson, Nebraska Elementary School (August 15-16, 2003); Cultures of the World Nights at Holmes and Hawthorne Elementary Schools in Lincoln (May 13 and 20, 2003) and Hawthorne Elementary School on May 12, 2004; Nebraska State Museum Family Day "Cultures of the World" - February 15, 2003; Adopt-a-Highway - Interstate 80 mile markers 410 to 412 (2003-2005); Sandhill Crane watching - every March; See [http://snr.unl.edu/current\\_students/geostudentorg-gtu.asp](http://snr.unl.edu/current_students/geostudentorg-gtu.asp) for more information.

**Beta Iota, East Carolina University**

Faculty Sponsor: Derek Alderman

President: Jessie Messina

Vice President: Carrie Tragert

Secretary: Christy Swann

Treasurer: Naomi Perez-Sanchez

Historian: Teddy Allen

Events: Hosted "News Hour: Democracy NOW" broadcast for students (in fall 2008); Created and hosted "Global Film" viewings for students (in fall 2008); Co-sponsored "Climate Change and Hurricane" faculty panel (September 2008); Participated in North Carolina GeoBowl Competition, State Champions (September 2008); Financially supported the participation of 25 students at SEDAAG Conference (November 2008). Co-Sponsored "Geographies of Social Justice" faculty panel (January 2009). Raised \$1000 for "Relay for Life" (April 2009); Co-sponsored of Department of Geography Colloquium Series (2008-2009).

**Delta Lambda, University of South Alabama**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Miriam Fearn

President: Ashley Turton

Vice President: Christopher Murphy

Secretary/Treasurer: Peter Campbell

Events: During the academic year 2008-2009 members of GTU participated in the September 2008 Alabama Coastal Cleanup by removing litter and debris from Moore Creek, a tributary of Mobile's Dog River. This has become an annual service activity for

GTU. At Christmas, we collected donations of health and beauty aids, toys, etc., for the University of South Alabama's Pediatric Infectious Disease and Cogburn Midtown Nursing Home. Delta Lambda chapter, in conjunction with the University of Southern Mississippi chapter, sponsored a visit by Dr. David Butler from Texas State University in the spring of 2009. Dr. Butler's presentation on "Geomorphic and Geological Controls of Alpine Treeline in the American West" was well attended by Geography students. Officers of GTU received a Student Government Proficiency Award at the annual student organization awards banquet in April. This award recognizes student organizations that have conducted their yearly business according to the SGA protocols.

### **Delta Mu, University of Mary Washington**

Faculty Sponsor: Dawn Bowen

Events: Given the very small number of honorary members this past year, there were fewer activities than normal. GTU-DM was a sponsor of the symposium that the Department holds each year (April 15, 2009). GTU students were also instrumental in working on the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Department, which included a banquet and soliciting memories from alumni.

### **Epsilon Eta, University of Wisconsin at La Crosse**

Faculty Sponsors: Professor Rafique Ahmed and Dr. Cynthia Berlin

President/Treasurer: Jacklin Steege

Vice President/Secretary: Martin Elmer

Historian: Prof. Rafique Ahmed

Events: 1) Regular Meetings: GTU officers and Geography Club members met Tuesday evenings followed by dinner at a local restaurant, 2) Sep. 24, 2008: Fall Picnic, 3) Sep. 26, 2008: La Crosse Grandad Bluff cleanup, 4) Oct. 8, 2008: Geocaching, 5) Dec. 8, 2008: GTU Initiation and Annual Banquet, 6) May 7, 2008: Spring Picnic.

### **Eta Alpha, University of Vermont**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux

President: Anna Royar

Vice President: Sam Werbel-Sanborn

Secretary/Treasurer: Andrew Turgeon

Events: Thirty-seven undergraduates who fulfilled GTU selection criteria were invited to join the Eta Alpha Chapter in September 2008. Twenty accepted the invitation and were initiated at a special luncheon in their honor during Geography Awareness week in November 2008. This is the largest cohort of eligible undergraduates ever inducted into the Eta Alpha chapter. The GTU induction luncheon was preceded by an activity around the National Geographic's travelling map which was circulated among schools in Vermont during Geography Awareness week. Several GTU members assisted K-8 students from the Edmunds Elementary and Middle Schools in Burlington, VT to hunt for treasure in true "pirate-style" from North America to South America. At the Geography Department's annual Appreciation Banquet on 9 April, 2009, 21 graduating GTU seniors were presented with their GTU cords. It is significant that all of the awards (Outstanding senior, Globe Awards for either academic excellence or service to the department) presented by the Department during this Banquet went to graduating GTU seniors. The

Alpha Eta Chapter also sponsored a number of social events designed to introduce members to each other and foster a sense of camaraderie around Geography. These included a pizza night in October 2008 and a games night in February 2009.

### **Eta Omicron, George Mason University**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Barry Kronenfeld

President: Katarina Doctor

Vice President: Louis Drotos

Secretary: Mark Plummer

Treasurer: Caroline Vernon

Historian: Karen Owen

Events: This was an exceptional year for our chapter. In addition to participating in a number of campus-wide events, we organized and hosted events, outings, and a seminar series that attracted many new members to our society. Our student membership grew this year from 20 to 59, an increase of nearly 300%. For example, we organized several field trips to organizations and companies that are involved in Geography-related activities and located in the Washington D.C. Area and Northern Virginia. These field trips gave members a chance to interact with working geospatial professionals who provided insight into what it is like to work in the field of Geography and learn about Geography-related issues. Visiting the D.C. Boundary Stones, Dr. Lee De Cola of the U.S. Geological Survey led us on a full day field trip around the nation's capital to visit the original survey marker stones, erected in 1890 to officially define the legal boundaries of the 10-mile-square Federal District. Our chapter was granted a tour of MDA Federal's home office in Rockville, Maryland. MDA Federal is a leading company in the use of remote sensing and geographic information systems. During this tour we were provided an overview of many of MDA Federal's products and methods including MOSPOLY, GeoCover, and Cross Correlation Analysis. The trip provided the GTU attendees with a remote sensing perspective of the geospatial industry. Furthermore, the contacts that students made during the tour resulted in two attendees receiving job offers. We also organized a visit to the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Library in Silver Spring. The library staff showed us some of the oldest maps and books in the collection as well as presented an overview of the image library that the library makes available in their public domain. This was very useful for our members as information that could be used in thesis or dissertation research projects. Our chapter participated in the Sally Ride Science Festival, hosted by GMU Geography and Geoinformation Science Department, which brought together hundreds of upper elementary and middle school girls, parents and teachers for a day of science and socializing. We invited and were privileged to receive participation from women scientists from both within the University as well from outside agencies, such as the U.S. Geological Survey. GTU organized a presentation of Geocaching for the festival. Nancy Perry and Mark Plummer gave an overview of Geography and possible Geographic careers, followed by a demonstration of using a GPS (Global Positioning System) device to find a hidden cache. Katarina Doctor demonstrated to girls and their parents how to use Google Earth to learn about Geography or simply to play and explore the world within a virtual globe. We also participated in the following events with a booth promoting the ΓΘΥ for the undergraduate and graduate students within various majors and recruited

many new members: 1) Student Organizations Involvement Day at GMU, 2) College of Science Student Reception at GMU, 3) GIS Day. We hosted the Initiation Ceremony for the new members of the ΓΘΥ HO Chapter. The sponsor of this event was the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation. We supported our members that presented at the Annual AAG Meeting in Las Vegas with small grants to offset travel costs. We organized the weekly Geography Seminar Series for which we invited speakers and advertised Geography-related talks that were part of a class. In this way, we broadened our audience and presenters. Each seminar presentation was 45 to 50 minutes long and there was additional time for questions, networking and socializing. The presenters were GMU faculty, graduate students and scientist from organizations and companies from related disciplines. As a result of the seminars, students and faculty learned about their colleagues' research work and made connections with those outside of GMU. Some students pointed out that they made great connections necessary for their dissertation work. Since the seminars were interdisciplinary and yet geography-related there were even some "discoveries" made within the department among students and faculty. The seminar series was a significant factor in the increase of membership.

**Eta Theta, Auburn University**

Faculty Sponsor: Philip Chaney

President: Kristen Shaw

**Gamma Omicron, University of Texas at Austin**

Faculty Sponsor: Gregory Knapp

Events: Our Gamma Theta Upsilon Chapter meets with our undergraduate geography club (UT Geographical Society). Weekly meetings on Thursdays at 5:00 included lectures by Jay Banner, Larry Maginnis (UT's urban forester), Eliot Tretter, Bill Doolittle, Troy Kimmel, Don Huebner, and Greg Knapp. Other activities included: 1) a graduate student panel Q&A, 2) tree planting activity, 3) field trip with Shane Davies to the Holly Power Plant with a barbecue following, 4) field trip with Shane Davies to Fredericksburg, TX, and 5) a pie sale fundraiser.

**Kappa Delta, Central Connecticut State University**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Xiaoping Shen

Events: Initiated 26 new members into the GTU. The initiation ceremony was held on April 26, 2009 and the new members took the pledge at the end of the ceremony.

**Kappa Kappa, University of South Florida**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Mark R. Hafen

Events: The Kappa Kappa chapter inducted five new members in Fall 2008 and two more in Spring 2009. GTU members paired with the USF Geography Club in team trivia competitions, the annual Geography spring picnic, and other volunteer service work in the USF and greater Tampa Bay communities.

**Kappa Nu, Indiana State University**

Faculty Sponsor: Susan M. Berta

President: Robin Van De Veer

Vice President: Brian Cox

Secretary: Stephanie Slade

Treasurer: Ray Porter

Historian: Joshua Knight

Events: Each Thursday the Chapter would meet and adjourn to a different restaurant to dine together. This camaraderie has greatly enhanced the sense of kinship among the members. Fundraisers included two bake sales that went toward admission charges to two state parks where the group hiked and camped over night. In January we initiated five new members to our chapter.

### **Kappa Pi, University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point**

Faculty Sponsor: Lisa Theo

President: Kevin Kapitan

Vice President: Holly Ehrhardt

Secretary: Adam Shebelski

Treasurer: Michael Broton

Events: Annual Halloween Candy Sale Fundraiser; Michigan Backpacking Trip; bowling Nights (Fall and Spring semesters); Sponsored trip to Continental Mapping (Sun Prairie, WI) to give students an idea of job ideas; Sponsored hotel room and transportation for volunteers at the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA); Sponsored Julia "Butterfly" Hill presentations; Lamba-palooza (Greek Orthodox culture party put on by faculty advisor); Fall and Spring Banquets. The main goal of these events (services) were to bring students together and let them get to know one another, while we primarily focused on geography, any student from around campus was welcomed to attend our meetings and events.

### **Iota Omega, Ball State University**

Faculty Sponsor: Reuben Allen

President: Adam Harwood

Vice President: Nick Rosser

Secretary: Brie Hettrick

Treasurer: Mike Morales

Historian: Anthony Borys

Events: This past academic year, membership has increased from nine to eighteen students. Together, we have formed lasting friendships that may not have existed in the absence of this student organization. In the course of the 2008/2009 school year, our chapter of Iota Omega has organized events around campus in order to help raise funds, spread the knowledge and awareness of Geography, and form a bond within the department. For example, in the fall semester, we organized a bake sale that raised \$80 for charity. Even though this was the first time we held a bake sale, we considered it to be a successful event. We also sold T-shirts which read on the front, "Ball State University, Department of Geography", and on the reverse, "The best known major in the world." We sold these shirts throughout the department to students and faculty members. This helped to over \$200 for charity. What better way to show off our pride of geography than wear it on our backs?

To continue, we organized a geography contest, in the form of Jeopardy (GEOPARDY). Last year, we had 24 contestants. This past year, we had 84 contestants. Fortunately, it went smoothly because of the dedication and hard work of fellow GTU members. Every year we sponsor a "Teacher of the Year Award." This consists of GTU members going into classes to ask students to vote on the instructor of their choice. Each student is allowed to vote only once. The faculty recipient has his or her name engraved on the plaque, which is displayed in the hallway of the department inside of our GTU showcase.

### **Lambda, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Leslie Duram

Events: Our GTU chapter works closely with our Geography Club. They had numerous activities throughout the year, including: Geography Action Week Trivia Event; Little Grand Canyon Adopt-A-Trail work (with USFS); camping trips; Earth Day Clean-Up; Earth Awareness (volunteer educating young children); and bake sales.

### **Lambda Delta, Elon University**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Heidi G. Frontani

President: Elizabeth Sise

Vice President: Margaret Zimmerman (outgoing), Shelley Russell (starting Sept. '09)

Secretary: Nicholas Dioguardi

Treasurer: Evan Ross (outgoing), Samuel Shoge (starting Sept. '09)

Events: GTU had two induction ceremonies (Oct 30th, 2008 and April 6, 2009). In October we inducted one faculty and one student member. In April we inducted two student members. Each induction ceremony was held jointly with the Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society) because Geography is housed in Elon's Department of History and Geography. Each induction ceremony includes a formal sit-down dinner. GTU also jointly hosts an annual book sale fundraiser with Phi Alpha Theta. We are a small chapter with generally only around five or six student members at any time, so we don't have many chapter activities. Geography and GIS are minors at Elon. There is no Geography major and only 2.5 fulltime Geography faculty members.

### **Lambda Mu, United States Military Academy at West Point**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Rick Wolfel, Major Jon Bushman, and Major Benef Verell

President: Cadet Heidi Koller

Vice President: Cadet Greg Rueth

Secretary: Cadet Caleb McCollum

Treasurer: Cadet Eric Rathbun

Historian: Cadet Nicholas Lewis-Walls

Events: On 7 and 8 November 2008 GTU sponsored ten cadets to represent the United States Military Academy in the Regional Geography Bowl Competition at the Middle States AAG Conference in Millersville, PA. The ten cadets, all undergraduate students, split into two teams for the competition and won one match as part of the competition. All other competing teams had graduate student representation. The students also had the opportunity to interact with students from other universities and listen to a series of academic papers presented at the conference. On 11 November 2008 GTU hosted its annual Fall Luncheon for all members and faculty, as well as all Geography and GIS

majors. The guest speaker, LTC Dan Gilewitch, PhD, spoke about his recent deployment to Iraq. He explained how being a geographer gave him a unique perspective when conducting military operations and emphasized the importance of understanding the physical and cultural landscape. On 19 February 2009, GTU sponsored a trip for cadets from the GIS Program's "Photogrammetry" course. They spent the day gaining valuable hands-on experience at Keystone Aerial Surveys, Inc., a private mapping and imaging company based out of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The twenty-three cadets were exposed to different aspects of aerial imaging to include film processing, flight mission planning, precision scanning and data storage, orthorectification, photogrammetric analysis, and flight simulator training. This detailed and comprehensive trip provided valuable insight to practical application of skills learned in the classroom over the past semester. From 27 February to 1 March 2009, GTU sponsored 7 cadets from the Geography Program's "Geography of the Middle East and Africa" and "Special Topics in Geography and the Environment" courses to attend the Penn State University No Boundaries Geography conference. Cadets presented posters of original research and had the opportunity to attend other presentations and meet with students from other universities. Over spring break, GTU sponsored a cadet and faculty member to attend the American Geological Society Northeast meeting in Portland, ME. They presented a poster on original research conducted the previous summer at the Bering Glacier in Alaska. From 23-27 March 2009 GTU sponsored six cadets to travel to the AAG national conference held in Las Vegas, NV. Five cadets presented original research conducted as independent projects and for the Geography department's honors program. One cadet was an alternate for the Middle States Geography Bowl Region Team. All six cadets were able to attend many paper and panel sessions, getting a first hand look at what a national level professional conference is all about, as well as enjoying some of the amenities of the greater Las Vegas area. Three cadets also attended the annual Geography Program Breakfast, visiting with emeritus faculty, former visiting professors and friends of USMA Geography. On 26 March 2009, GTU sponsored the GIS program's trip to the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. The purpose of the trip was to provide geospatial technical expertise on a multi-disciplinary design project involving a group of cadets and faculty from West Point's GIS program and the Civil Engineering program at the USCGA as well as students and faculty from Mitchell College in New London. Cadets and students collected, processed, and analyzed GPS data of Mitchell Beach. The data was used by cadets and students in various design projects involving beach rehabilitation. On 20 April 2009 the Lambda Mu chapter of GTU held its annual induction ceremony and luncheon, initiating 9 cadets and 4 faculty members. The guest speaker was Dr. Kent Hughes Butts, Director, National Security Issues Branch Center for Strategic Leadership, U.S. Army War College. Dr. Butts spoke of the link between geography and national security. He linked physical and cultural geography to regions of instability and made these issues relevant to the cadets' near future as Army officers. On 30 April 2009, GTU sponsored the annual projects day in which five honors students presented their theses to a group of faculty and cadets. Projects were very diverse and included a regional analysis on Montenegro and its role in the Balkans; an economic, demographic, and morphological analysis of change in Folsom, CA; resource security in Sub-Saharan Africa; understanding the significance of population change and its effects in the Chesapeake Bay; and an in depth hazard assessment of Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

Following the presentations was a poster session in which faculty and cadets had the opportunity to view work from final projects in many of the geography program's elective courses. Topics range from representations of the U.S./Mexican border in the media to 3D modeling of ground penetrating radar used to correlate foreland stratigraphy in the Bering Glacier, Alaska. This year, the Lambda Mu chapter continued sponsorship of the Occasional Paper Series in Geography. The intent is to capture, edit, and publish the best papers written by our majors in the upper level elective courses. Papers covered a diverse range of topics to include "Green" Urban Planning and National Memorial Landscapes. This year Lambda Mu continued sponsorship of the Geography Colloquium, a series of brown-bag noontime talks by faculty and invited guests intended to promote professional development and camaraderie amongst the geography program as well as department faculty. Dr. William Doe from Colorado State University spoke to the faculty about Military Land Management and the Army's movement toward sustainability. Geography faculty presented original research on topics such as Somaliland, Cultural Impacts on Environmental Remediation Projects, Christians and anti-environmentalism, and Environmental Security. GTU sponsored the Geography club's two cultural awareness trips to New York City. The trips were open to all cadets at the academy with the intent of showing how the discipline of Geography can be both educational and fun. Cadets participated in a walking/eating tour of NYC where they experienced different foods and also gained knowledge on the different ethnic enclaves within Manhattan. The second trip involved a scavenger hunt in which cadets had to navigate to different points within the city collecting geographical clues along the way. Lastly, GTU sponsored a Graduation Awards Ceremony and Reception for all our graduating seniors and their family and friends. The program recognized the overall top graduate as well as the top performer in our two majors, Human Geography and Environmental Geography. Additionally, the top cadet in each elective received recognition.

### **Lambda Omega, Grand Valley State University**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jeroen Wagendorp

President: Jeffrey Sweeney

Vice President: Ashley DuRocher

Secretary: Anne Santa Maria

Treasurer: Diane Miller

Historian: Miles Hunsinger

Events: Members participated in the following (during the 2008-2009 academic year): 8/19 Freshmen Student Move-In; 9/02 Campus Life Night at the Fieldhouse; 9/27 Grand Rapids Mayor's Grand River Cleanup; 10/2 Fall Departmental Open House at Kirkhof Center; 10/11 Geography Club Homecoming Display; 11/5 Fall Sale of Geography Club "Michigan Hand" T-shirts and Baked Goods; 11/13 Fall Mapping Workshop in GIS Lab, Mackinac Hall; 11/19 GIS Day: Host Grand Rapids Middle School students with Geography Education Activities. 2009 activities included: 2/5 Winter Departmental Open House at Kirkhof Center; 4/7 Winter Mapping Workshop in GIS Lab, Mackinac Hall; 4/16 Gamma Theta Upsilon 1st Induction Ceremony at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Deans' Conference Room, SEVEN charter members.

### **Lambda Phi, Millersville University**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Angela Cuthbert

President: Michael Maret

Events: As a brand new club in a small department, we were a little slow getting started. We lost over half of our members to graduation in May and December so we combined our efforts with the well established Geography Club. Many of the current members are also members in the Geography Club. The combined activities include: 1) attending the Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers annual conference and the Towson GIS Conference; 2) touring the Lancaster Solid Waste Management Authority's transfer station; 3) whitewater rafting in West Virginia, camping in northern PA, rock climbing in Berks County, and 4) end of semester (December and May) dinners at Dr. Cuthbert's house

### **Lambda Upsilon, Grand Rapids Community College**

Faculty Sponsor: Mike DeVivo

President: Ben Gerlofs

Vice President: Cadey Segard

Secretary: Amanda Colegrove

Treasurer: Diana Howerton

Historian: Jill Ritchie

Events: The Lambda Upsilon Chapter has engaged in a number of activities during the 2008-2009 academic year. In October 2008, chapter members took part in a field trip to the City of Grand Rapids Wastewater Treatment Plant and attended the National Council for Geographic Education annual meeting in Dearborn. A field trip also was held devoted to the geography of wine. The chapter made arrangements with the Association of American Geographers and the International Geographical Honor Society for GTU Past-President Leon Yacher to deliver lectures in February 2010 as part of the Visiting Geographical Scientist Program. At Aquinas College, Professor Yacher provided an illustrated lecture on contemporary urbanization in Central Asia, and at Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC), he was on the program for the institution's annual Black History Symposium, among a slate of nationally known scholars in the social sciences and humanities. Dr. Yacher presented the results of his research on the development of the African-American community in New Haven, Connecticut, and survey results indicated that he was the audience favorite among the entire list of speakers. Lambda Upsilon members attended events at both Aquinas and GRCC, and they learned much from this experience. During Professor Yacher's visit, the chapter sponsored an agricultural and viticultural field trip of western Michigan, and Professor Yacher received a certificate from Grand Rapids Community College, honoring him as a distinguished visiting speaker. In March 2009, the Lambda Upsilon Chapter organized two sessions at the 10th Conference on the Americas, Immigration: The Art and Politics of Movement. One session devoted to "A Roundtable Discussion on the History, Politics, Economics, and Geography of U.S. Actions and Policies in the Americas," which was well received, and included discussants from the GRCC Social Sciences Department. A second session devoted to "A Historical Geographical Perspective on U.S. Policy and Latin American Immigration" included paper presentations by chapter president Ben Gerlofs on "Reflections on NAFTA: A Geographical Perspective" and chapter vice president Cadey

Segard on “The U.S. and Haiti: A Failed Attempt at Diffusing Democracy.” These papers were also well-received and generated much discussion. Professor DeVivo, the chapter sponsor, also presented a paper and chaired both sessions. All members of the chapter have made significant contributions to geographical scholarship as well as society; as community college students, these young men and women work tirelessly in their studies while also working part-time jobs to fund their education. A good example is Amanda Colegrove, the incoming chapter president for 2009-2010. Ms. Colegrove is one of the five new members recently initiated into the only community college GTU chapter in the country, and she has demonstrated a stellar academic record, which is evidenced by her 4.0 GPA. In April 2009, Ms. Colegrove was honored with one of three highly competitive scholarships awarded by the GRCC Social Sciences Department (the first GRCC scholarship to a Geography major), and she was recognized as one of the top five students at the college at a special reception organized by the institution’s President. When the President conferred the honors, Ms. Colegrove proclaimed, “Geography Lives!” to the two hundred people in attendance. It is this kind of passion, coupled with intellectual curiosity and academic rigor, that makes a good geographer, and Lambda Upsilon is extremely fortunate to be represented by such remarkable students. Again, these are special students, and they are great examples of the discipline’s promising future. Recognizing that field studies are integral to sound geographic education, while also acknowledging that the current economic downturn makes it nearly impossible for some financially disadvantaged students to take part in field trips and study abroad activities, the Lambda Upsilon Chapter launched two important initiatives in May 2009. The chapter provided funds for subsidizing the field trip costs for students enrolled in the Geography of Michigan course, and it plans to continue to allocate funds for the purpose of assisting students in financial need that are enrolled in geography courses that require field trips. Additionally, the chapter contributed substantial funds to establish a scholarship of no less than \$500 for students enrolled in geography study abroad courses at GRCC called the GEOGRAPHY LIVES! Field Studies Scholarship Award, which is anticipated to be awarded in January of 2010. In essence, through academic excellence, service, passion, and professionalism, the members of Lambda Upsilon have taken great strides in promoting geography.

### **Lambda Zeta, Wayne State College**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Randy Bertolas

President: Aric Butterfield

Vice President: Heather Hegi

Events: GTU sponsored the first campus ‘Geography Festival’ designed to make Wayne State College students aware of Geography internship experiences, graduate school requirements, and employment opportunities. Current and past GTU members who are majoring in (or who majored) in Geography were invited to give public presentations. GTU members also participated in 1) the Festival of Trees fundraiser to purchase and deliver holiday gifts for Wayne County children from low income families, 2) participation and help with the annual Students vs. Faculty Bowling Challenge among the social sciences departments, 3) 4 new GTU initiatives on December 11. Spring activities included a talk by Col. Brian Miller, Commander of the 185th Refueling Wing of the Iowa Air National Guard on “Middle East Perspectives: People and Policies.” Other

activities in the Spring of 2009 included another ‘Geography Festival’ that featured Heather Hegi (State of South Dakota GIS Intern during summer 2009), Cara Watchorn, (employed at Yellowstone National Park), Brian Bruckner (water quality analyst at Lower Elkhorn Natural Resource District), and Norman Small (GIS Specialist for Madison County in Nebraska). GTU President Aric Butterfield and GTU Vice-President Heather Hegi gave presentations at the 40th Annual South Dakota State Geography Convention. 10 new GTU members were initiated on April 27. GTU members participated in hosting and sponsoring events on the annual Social Sciences Day at Wayne State College. These included: 1) social sciences honor societies – initiation ceremonies including Gamma Theta Upsilon, 2) a student awards and recognition ceremony including GTU Award of Excellence, and 3) the annual Social Sciences Dinner (GTU members helped with organization of this annual event).

### **Omicron, Shippensburg University**

Faculty Sponsor: Tim Hawkins

President: A.J. Beck

Vice President: Jim Spatz

Secretary: Kaja Spaseff

Treasurer: Dave Miller

Historian: Kaja Spaseff

Events: Campus hot chocolate give-away; organized and staffed geography tutoring center; volunteered at campus children’s fair; competed and won honors program sponsored Jeopardy among honors organizations; volunteer at Ship Shape Day community cleanup; volunteered at PA state geography bee; participated in campus-wide Earth Day celebration; annual awards banquet: featuring department student research posters; hosted department end of year cookout

### **Psi, University of North Dakota**

Sponsor: Jin-Kyu Jung (Advisor)

President: Rylan Kabanuck

Vice President: Jordan Neau

Secretary: Justin Braaten

Treasurer: Ben Prusa

Events: Various activities during Geography Awareness Week: 1) GTU members spoke and informed middle school students at Valley Middle School about the uses, facts and opportunities in the field of geography; 2) GTU assisted in the set-up of Great Plains Rocky Mountain Geography Conference held on the campus of UND. Some of the volunteering/community service activities that GTU were involved in included: 1) the Grand Forks District Special Olympic Bowling Tournament, 2) a Turkey Basket donation and GTU canned food drive in conjunction with UND’s Mortar Board, and 3) volunteering at the Northland’s Rescue Mission assembling shelving units. New members were recognized during the Geography Department and GTU spring picnic. Additionally, two students who are geography majors were awarded the B. L. Wills Geography Scholarship.

## **Rho, Eastern Illinois University**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Vincent Gutowski

President: Tara Whippo

Vice President: Laura Giboo

Secretary: Aaron Handzus

Treasurer: Chad Wetzel

Historian: Vincent Gutowski

Events: The academic year began with the annual GTU Olympics event on the banks of the Kickapoo Creek. Students, faculty members, family and friends gathered for a day of festivities. Events included a "Bags" tournament (a horseshoes type game with soft bags thrown at wooden boxes with holes cut in the top), egg toss, closest to the pin (with a golf club and ball), hammer toss, Easter egg hunt (eggs filled with cash), an obstacle race, and everyone's favorite....the rubber ducky race in the creek. A feast was prepared over the campfire and grills. The first meeting of the year included the annual "So You Want to Go to Grad School" informational discussion between faculty and students where faculty discuss the process of applying to graduate school and how to successfully complete graduate studies. This year we had 5 of 14 graduating seniors going on to graduate studies. The club funded two speakers during Geography Awareness Week, Dr. Constance Brown from the Dept. of Geography at Indiana University and Dr. Chris Sutton from the Dept. of Geography at Western Illinois University. Rho Chapter GTU initiated a river and reservoir shoreline clean up day with the Geoscience Club, the Biology Club and a local watershed organization. GTU provided food and drink for the 37 participants. The Rho Chapter was well represented at the West Lakes Annual Meeting; members Tara Whippo, Tim Hopper, Steve Di Naso, Patty Shabrou, Betty Smith and Vince Gutowski presented their research. Geology student and Rho Chapter member, Susan Krahn presented at the North Central GSA Annual Meeting. The Club paid all travel expenses, registration and lodging. The end of the Fall Semester was celebrated by the traditional "Last Supper", attended by approximately 40 faculty, staff, students and families. This semester we celebrated at the Stovepipe Grill and Smokehouse. We gave "Grace" the traditional salute; Grace Markwell Meier is the Chapter's benefactor, providing an endowment resulting in an annual stipend of over \$10,000. Grace was a Charter member of Rho Chapter, being initiated by Dr. Robert Buzzard, who was the EIU President from 1933 - 1956. The Spring 2009 semester was kicked off with a combined GTU/Geoscience Club bowling festivity. There was no competitive aspect to the event and it was followed by a lunch at the Panther Paw. GTU paid for bowling and the luncheon. The two clubs also participated in a food drive for needy people in the town. Students and faculty in the department collected over 200 pounds of canned and boxed food items. Rho Chapter held its annual "Spring Break Casual Learning Experience". This year Dr. Gutowski and a van full of students took a road trip to New Mexico and Colorado. They explored the volcanic fields around Raton, the Rio Grande Rift Zone near Taos, the Jemez Caldera and Jemez hot springs. The middle portion of the trip was dedicated to learning about the ancestral Pueblo culture at Bandelier N. M. and Chaco Culture National Historical Site. The trip home explored the San Juan River and Great Sand Dunes National Park. We camped the whole time and learned the extent of the Great Plains from a van-based perspective! At the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Geographical Society we had Chapter members, Laura Giboo and

Keith Darby, present their research; this year Laura was selected as the Outstanding Senior. Rho Chapter paid for their meeting expenses. The "Last Supper" of the Spring Semester was held at Fox Ridge State Park, where Dr. Gutowski and Dr. Khan did grill duty for the hungry group. We all said "Grace". Another way Rho Chapter uses Grace's endowment is to offer research stipends each semester to Geography and Geology majors within the department. Grace Markwell Meier Undergraduate Geography Research Awards are funded as \$300 stipends to initiate and carry out research and another \$200 if the student presents their completed research at a professional conference. During the Fall 2008 Semester Rho Chapter presented awards to James Kelly and Tim Hopper; Tim presented his research at the Annual Meeting of the West Lakes Division of the AAG and received an additional stipend and meeting expenses were paid. During the Spring 2009 Semester awards were given to Laura Giboo, Anna Larkin and Kevin Jungk. Laura presented at the Annual meeting of the Illinois Geographical Society and received an additional stipend as well as having her meeting expenses paid; Anna and Kevin will complete their research in the upcoming Fall term. Because of Grace's generosity, her endowment was able to assist Geography and Geology student's research with \$2,600 worth of research stipends and \$2,500 worth of meeting expenses to Association of American Geographers, Geological Society of America, and Illinois Geographical Society professional meeting expenses. Rho Chapter also uses the endowment to pay for GTU initiation fees, honors cords and Rho Chapter insignia t-shirts and sweatshirts.

### **Theta Iota, Ohio University**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Harold Perkins

President: Rebekah Clark

Vice President: Michael Goldman

Secretary: Nicole Gram

Treasurer: Samantha Lilienthal

Historian: Dina Rouff

Events: Our chapter officers set up information tables in our student center on the OU campus to increase awareness of GTU Theta Iota membership. The officers also gave brief informational presentations in classes throughout the department to bolster awareness. The officers held a well-organized informational meeting for anyone who was interested, and checked eligibility for applicants. Two weeks later the officers held a fantastic induction ceremony, with zero waste catering from the University Dining Services. GTU Theta Iota inducted 13 new members this year. At the end of winter quarter GTU Theta Iota officers and members teamed up with all the geography professors teaching lower-level survey courses and hosted a tutoring session during finals week. The GTU Theta Iota members did all the coordination, however. The department generously kicked in pizza and refreshments, and for 2 1/2 hours members tutored over 40 students in a wide range of lower level geography courses. The event was such a success it is going to be held again at the end of May of this year (2009). After spring break GTU Theta Iota decided to start meeting every month at a favorite local restaurant in order to get to know each other even better. It was a nice change of pace as all the members really liked getting together over good food outside of a classroom building! We are confident that this monthly get-together is building a strong network of people that they will know and reference for the rest of their lives. Earlier in spring quarter GTU

Theta Iota held a grilled cheese sale on one of the busy streets in town, a common way to raise funds at our school. GTU Theta Iota is borrowing a pedal-for-electricity bike from another student organization, which plays music and attracts a crowd. The grilled cheese sale raised around \$150 for our organization. GTU Theta Iota held a Mom's Weekend Social in May at one member's house. The social was planned on a weekend when moms come to visit their sons and daughters at OU. It was a success in bring the group even closer together and helping to spread the word about GTU and geography more generally as a discipline to all those parents! GTU Theta Iota adopted a section of U.S. Highway 33 near Athens Ohio and has scheduled a clean-up day in late May. GTU Theta Iota has established new officer positions for next year because the group is rapidly gaining in popularity and members. Membership elected to add two events coordinators and one recruitment person to the list of officers. Everyone who is running for an officers position for 2009-2010 is teaming together to help to organize the last of this years events (mentioned above), before elections are held. Having them organize these events is a way for each nominee to prove their dedication and competence to the organization before being elected into office. Elections will be held on the last week of May. As faculty adviser, I must say that I am very much impressed with this year's officers and members. Our officers and members have worked very hard on top of many other academic and extracurricular commitments/accomplishments. For example, our President Becky Clark has been instrumental in founding our local campus chapter of the Sierra Club and tries to get both Sierra Club and GTU Theta Iota members working together on important issues on and around campus.

### **Theta Psi, University of Central Oklahoma**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Brad Watkins

President: Tim Fordenbacher

Senator: Michael Reid

### **Zeta Chi, Old Dominion University**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Hua Liu

President: Heather H. Thomas

Vice President: Morgan Darr

Secretary: Tonya Arthur

Treasurer: Sarah Sebree

Historian: Walter Kloth

Sergeant at Arms: Sander Mathews

Events: Since our chapter had not been active the previous year, all the members, officers and the advisor were brand new. We were all eager to make our chapter of GTU the best that it could be. Here are the activities that we organized during the 2008-2009 academic year: 1) we had monthly outings for the members to socialize at different local restaurants and sports events, which also served as successful recruiting events for new members; 2) in November 2008 with the help of the Department of Political Science and Geography, we sponsored GIS Day at Old Dominion University. Over 60 people from over 14 departments and programs of the university and five local communities attended the event. There were three speakers that gave presentations in the morning. In the afternoon, there was a student poster competition where students could submit current or

previously completed GIS projects. After the competition, there was a discussion forum on GIS. During this time, students and faculty shared their experiences and challenges with GIS; and 3) to celebrate the achievements of the graduating members, an end of the year picnic was held in their honor at a local park in April, 2009. Cords and pins were given to the graduating seniors, and certificates were handed out to new members. A GTU award, "Excellence in Geography" was given to a geography graduate. As with our other events, we used the picnic as a recruiting event. Because our chapter was not active the previous year, we lacked the necessary funds to complete projects that we had in our plan. These projects are scheduled to be implemented during the 2009-2010 school year. Among the projects for next year are submitting a paper to the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Conference, providing new maps to local elementary schools that may have outdated materials and holding an even bigger GIS Day for next November. Since the AAG conference is in Washington, D.C. in 2010, members from our chapter will be able to attend.

### **Zeta Eta Chapter, Salisbury University**

Events: Eta Chapter of the GTU is growing and doing well. Overall, more than 10% of our students have met the criteria of being a member of the GTU honor society. The department continues to show the support of these students by paying their initiation membership fees. Although we don't have a separate induction ceremony, we use the department award ceremony and university honor convocation to applaud their achievement and highlight the importance of the GTU honor society. We don't have a lot of other activities due to a very active departmental geographic society which encourages a wider spectrum of student participation, rather than a selected small group of honor students.

### **Zeta Omega, University of North Carolina at Charlotte**

Faculty Sponsor: Tyrel G. Moore and Jamie L. Strickland

President: Stephanie J. Wodarski

Vice President: Ronnie Schumann

Treasurer: Ryan James

Graduate Student Professional Group Senator: Ronnie Schumann

Events: The Zeta Omega Chapter enjoyed another active year. Highlights are listed in chronological order: 1) conducted an annual orientation for new Master's and Ph.D. students, 2) conducted a Geography Bee for local K-6 students for the Annual Community-Wide GIS Day as part of Geography Awareness Week, 3) participated in the annual meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG) at Greensboro, NC; the chapter secured funding for registration for student paper and poster presenters. UNC Charlotte Geography Master's student Ginette Wessel was a Co-Winner of the Student Honors Paper Competition, 4) participated in a Second Harvest Food Bank drive for needy families in the Charlotte region, and 5) sponsored and organized a hugely successful North Carolina Planning Association (NCAPA) Student-Mentor Panel and nicely catered social. The panel spoke on Sustainable Planning Issues and the event featured several firsts for the NCAPA Outreach Program. It was the first held at Charlotte and included an all UNC Charlotte alumni panel, the first ever to be made up entirely of graduates from a single institution. Our Department and Program

were duly proud to host the first NCAPA Student-Mentor panel comprised entirely of past and present NCAPA Presidents. Students gained informative insights into sustainability at different geographic scales and, especially, a wonderful exposure to the rich experiences and leadership that our former students have enjoyed in their planning careers, 6) Participated in the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) in Las Vegas. Thanks to the capable and diligent leadership of Chapter President Stephanie Wodarski, and faculty grants, the chapter secured funding for registration for student paper and poster presenters. The SEDAAG and AAG meetings included presentations by 18 students across Ph.D., Masters, and Undergraduate Geography programs, 7) Organized and funded the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences Annual Awards Banquet. Scholarships were awarded to six students and 11 new students were inducted into Gamma Theta Upsilon.