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Cover, Forewards, and Editor Note

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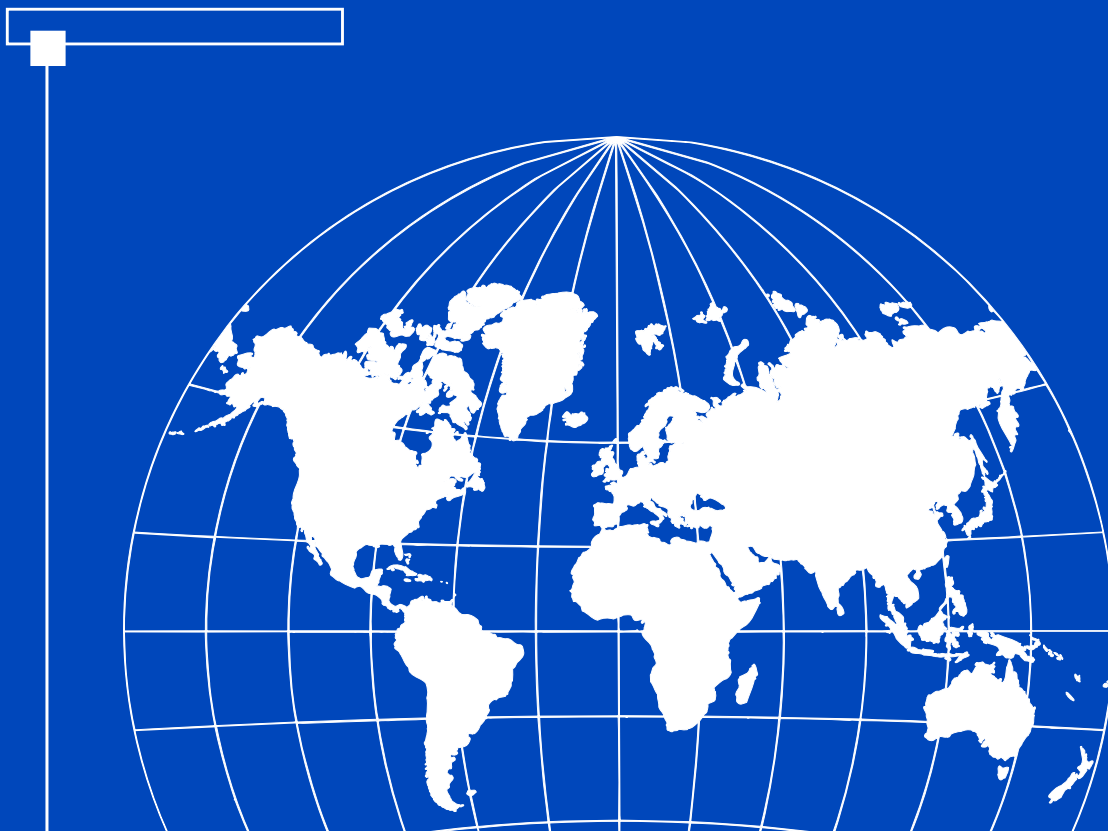
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THE GEOGRAPHICAL BULLETIN

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Gamma Theta Upsilon and *The Geographical Bulletin*

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) was established in 1928 as a professional geography honor society. The organization was founded by faculty members and students at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois to recognize and promote scholarship in geography. Since its inception, over 300 chapters have been added, mostly in the United States. Currently, the society has over 70,000 members worldwide.

The purpose of the society remains embodied in the symbolism found in the key insignia printed on the back cover of the *Geographical Bulletin*. The body of the key is seven-sided and represents the seven continents of the Earth. The Greek letters ΓΘΥ represent the three great environmental domains of our planet: Ge (Earth), Thalassia (sea), and Hypaithrois (atmosphere). The waves in the center of the key signify the major oceans of the world and the star is symbolic of Polaris, which guided travelers over the lands and oceans of the northern hemisphere for centuries.

With the rise of globalization, the need to have an understanding of the complex array of forces that shape our world is more critical than ever before. Gamma Theta Upsilon is committed to fostering geographic knowledge and education among the public. Currently, the society awards five scholarships to undergraduates, graduating seniors, and to a graduate student in the field of geography that hold membership in the society. In cooperation with the Association of American Geographers, the society also funds the “Visiting Scientist Program,” which sponsors prominent geographers to work with university and college Geography Departments.

Gamma Theta Upsilon also publishes *The Geographical Bulletin*, a peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles and reviews of interest to geographers and laypersons alike. While *The Geographical Bulletin* began publication as an outlet for student research in 1970, it welcomes submissions from established geographers, researchers, and other scholars, and publication occurs biannually (usually in May and November). Many students who have gone on to graduate school in geography and related fields have seen their first professional publication appear in *The Bulletin*. To encourage student publication, Gamma Theta Upsilon awards a “Best Student Paper Award” and a two hundred dollar prize annually. Published articles are available free of charge in PDF form on the GTU website, as well as being indexed through EBSCO’s databases and selectively abstracted in *Current Geographical Publications of the American Geographical Society*, *Geo-Abstracts*, and *Sociological Abstracts*.

www.gammathetaupsilon.org

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

The Geographical Bulletin is published semi-annually (May and November) by the Geography honor society, Gamma Theta Upsilon. In keeping with its goals of promoting geography awareness, GTU offers *The Geographical Bulletin* as an open-access, online journal that does not charge authors for either submission or subsequent publication.

The Geographical Bulletin began publication in 1970. A complete 25-year cumulative bibliographic index, by author, is printed in Volume 38, Number 1 (May 1996), and available on the website. While supplies remain, back issues from 1970 through the present are available for \$5.00 per issue.

For questions about *The Geographical Bulletin*, including potential article submission, please visit the website (<http://gammathetaupsilon.org/geographical-bulletin.html>) or contact:

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Since beginning my duties as Editor for *The Geographical Bulletin* in 2017, I've striven for including articles which cover the breadth of geography as a discipline. I'm happy to say this issue continues that tradition, with articles spanning geography's triumvirate: physical, human, and technical (geospatial). Not to spoil anything, but as you peruse this issue, you'll be treated to the socio-political landscape of Paris' Algerian immigrant community, an atmospheric analysis of Michigan's Granite Island, Kuwait's burgeoning population, the US's Civil War History, and even a geospatial-focused geography education piece. Quite the variety, indeed.

This issue remains a bitter sweet one for me personally as, after six years and 12 issues, I have decided to step-down as Editor. When I was asked to be Editor, I outlined four main goals I hoped to accomplish: streamlining the submission and review process, raising the journal's visibility, increasing online availability, and integrating more undergraduate research into the mix. The first three goals were accomplished by making *The Geographical Bulletin* a fully online, open access peer-reviewed journal. Now, more people than ever have access to every article as soon as they are published – and you can download one article or an entire issue. I am grateful to GTU's Executive Committee for supporting the fully-online open access, and free(!) nature of the journal.

My final goal of promoting undergraduate research was challenging. I remember when I was pursuing my PhD (at ASU...go Sun Devils!) and a professor spoke up during a guest speaker's talk, asking if they had seen the work done by so-and-so. The speaker admitted they had not. The professor replied, "I'm not surprised, since it was a master's thesis, and although thesis research often contains interesting findings, we seldom utilize them for our own research". That comment struck me as interesting, and I made it a point to chat with this professor afterwards, asking if they felt the same way about undergraduate theses. Their response was a resounding "of course!" and then they went on to explain how student research – even student-led or student-driven projects – remains one of the most untapped research-rich outlets. I agreed. And still do. I'm happy to say that, reviewing issues since I began as Editor in 2017, *The Geographical Bulletin* hosts an average of just over one peer-reviewed article by an undergraduate (solo or part of a team) per issue. Of course, some of these represent students who had already graduated and were now working in professional level jobs or heading to graduate school, but the published research was conducted while they were an undergraduate. The neatest thing about this, I believe, is that their research was subjected to the same rigorous peer-review process as a high-ranking journal. What other peer-reviewed journal can boast giving (undergraduate) students such an experience? How wonderful! As always, I encourage you to think of *The Geographical Bulletin* for your own research – whether a student, faculty member, or other professional.

Looking back at my tenure as Editor, it has been a privilege to serve in such a capacity. One of the benefits of being Editor for a journal like *The Geographical Bulletin*, is that it keeps you aware of trends and research across the discipline. I get to read every article, discuss it with peer-reviewers and authors alike, and then share it with the world. What an exciting thing! We've even had a few special issues: the recent *Food, Fermentation, and Drink* (issue 63, volume 1, guest edited by Nancy Hoalst-Pullen and Mark W. Patterson), the first-ever double issue on *Tales From the Field* (issue 62, volumes 2A & 2B), and an issue devoted to *Inspirational Geographers* (issue 62, volume 1) – the latter of which includes the late (and great!) Yi-Fu Tuan's final, formal journal publication.

But there's more! *The Geographical Bulletin* hosts a rich legacy. At least one issue has been published every year since 1970. All of its issues are available free of charge online and with color graphics (where applicable). Each article is subjected to a rigorous double-blind peer review process, ensuring the research remains sound, with reviewers selected based on expertise in their fields. To top it off, some of geography's luminaries have published in *The Geographical Bulletin*, as I've noted previously (Allen 2019). Not many other peer-reviewed geography journals can claim such a long-lasting trend. It's just a fabulous publication that showcases all sorts of geography! *The Bulletin* reminds me of something a great geographer once said, "Geography is an art that is structured, research-driven, and challenging like a science, but also a science that is creative, open-ended, and inspiring like art". As Editor – and as a Geographer – I've taken that to heart. And through the years I've learned that the best way to experience a landscape (geography!) is by walking in/through it, making time for pauses in the midst of your life, because that's exactly when appraising the meanings of your experiences occurs. Savor life. With zest.

I am grateful for the continual support Gamma Theta Upsilon's Executive Committee provided (and continues to provide) over my tenure as Editor. Without strong leadership, GTU – and its flagship publication – would be lost. Although I was familiar with GTU since my days as an undergrad, and even more so after founding and subsequently sponsoring the Mu Lambda chapter at the University of Colorado Denver, I had no idea the organization was so focused on promoting geography and students until I was *in* it. You could not ask for a better, more friendly, open, and gracious group of colleagues or organization. I will cherish the collegiality and friendships made during my tenure as Editor, and consider myself very lucky to have been associated with such a diverse publication as *The Geographical Bulletin*.

Special thanks should also be extended to the numerous peer reviewers over the years. The peer-review system plays such an important role in professional settings, and the willingness to take the time and help was/is

always very much appreciated. I wish there were some way to compensate reviewers for the copious amounts of time and effort which go into reviews. Until something gets established however, please accept my profuse thanks and sincere gratitude. I would also like to thank Dewayne Gimeson at Chadron State College, who is *The Geographical Bulletin's* longtime layout editor. He dealt with many changes during my tenure, including revising the journal's size and format, but always came through in a timely manner.

I wish an amazing future for the new Editor, *The Geographical Bulletin*, and GTU. I am certain the next Editor will continue GTU's long-standing tradition of helping people (students!) pursue excellence in research while also encouraging our next generation of Geographers to disseminate their research. Success is a process, not an event, and we sometimes need to be reminded of that. Getting our research published may take time – sometimes a LONG while – but the end result is worth it. I encourage you to think of *The Geographical Bulletin* for your next publication, whatever the topic. Serving as Editor has been a pleasure. Thank you for allowing me to do so.

Casey D. Allen, Editor

REFERENCE

Allen, C.D. 2019. Editor's Note. *The Geographical Bulletin* 60(1): 1.

