

GTU Chapter Report 2016/17

Chapter Name: Mu Kappa
Faculty Sponsor: Kari Jensen
President: Kari Jensen
Vice President: Veronica Lippencott
Director of Events: Craig Dalton
Secretary: Sabrina Clarke

In the fall semester of 2016 Mu Kappa organized the annual Geography Awareness Week (November 16-20), where we had an African diversity dinner, a guest talk on "The Emergent National Security Landscape: The New Strategic Polarization of the World" by Professor Francis Galgano from Villanova University with a luncheon afterwards where invited students and faculty could talk with the speaker, and a student photo contest titled "Debating/voting/dissenting; civically engaging in 2016" inspired by the presidential debate experience at Hofstra and the overall election experience. The winner of the photo contest was announced at our department's end-of-semester party on December 8, 2016. See details of the events listed below.

Three Mu Kappa student members presented posters at the AAG in Boston, in April 2017.

On April 26, 2016, we organized the annual initiation ceremony where 17 new members (14 students and three faculty) were initiated. The ceremony was held as a luncheon at the University Club. The event was attended by both new and old members of Mu Kappa, along with Global Studies and Geography faculty and staff. Keynote speaker, Dr. Marianna Pavlovskaya, a professor at Hunter College and CUNY Graduate Center, gave a presentation on "Geography That Matters: Place-Making Potential of Credit Unions in New York City." She highlighted the unique qualities of credit unions (employment, ethnic, and religious oriented) and mapped them to show the various concentrations of branches as they related to the socio-economic neighborhoods in which they were located.

Associate Professor Kari Jensen and Adjunct Assistant Professor Veronica Lippencott serve as president and vice president, respectively, of Mu Kappa, and they initiated this year's new members of Mu Kappa. Mu Kappa secretary and student member Sabrina Clarke designed the printed program for the event, and department administrator, Jackie Geis helped with the logistics. This year's inductees are:

Hofstra student inductees:

Carol Jane Burka
Marissa Nicole Duhaney
Jasmina Dzurlic
James Eager
Kelly Gallo
Celene Guzman
Sara Elizabeth Hicks
Mannat Thakur Kamboj
Connor Mayes
Claudia Hope Modica
Lauren Morgan
CapriAnna Pappalardo
Rachel Scarpino
John Van Fossen

Hofstra faculty inductees:

Hewan Girma
Nisha Korattyswaroopam
Ying Qiu

For more information on the Global Studies and Geography Department at Hofstra University, visit: <http://www.hofstra.edu/academics/colleges/hclas/geog/>

Additional information about our events organized as part of Geography Awareness Week, 2016:

1. Students' Geography Photo Contest. Instruction for the contest, which was organized by Mu Kappa: "Send an email to Prof. Jensen with your best photo of anything that fits the topic title "Debating/voting/dissenting; civically engaging in 2016". In no more than two sentences, explain why you feel the photo is relevant to Geography. Make sure to send the photo (as an attachment) from your Hofstra student email to ensure eligibility. The winner's photo will be exhibited in the Department of Global Studies and Geography. This photo contest is organized by the Department of Global Studies and Geography, and Mu Kappa, the Hofstra chapter of the international geographic honor society Gamma Theta Upsilon. First prize: \$50 Amazon gift card. Second and third: T-shirts. The photos will be judged by two members of Mu Kappa, and freelance photographer Naser Khan. Submission to kari.jensen@hofstra.edu no later than November 20, 2016. The winners will be announced at our end-of-semester party in early December!"
2. Mu Kappa helped hosting a guest talk on "The Emergent National Security Landscape: The New Strategic Polarization of the World", with Professor Francis Galgano, the Chair of the Department of Geography and Environment at

Villanova University, former Geography Program Director, U.S. Military Academy at West Point (2002-2006); and Lieutenant Colonel (retired), United States Army (1980-2007). The very well attended lecture (around 100 people) rounded off with a lively Q&A session. Afterwards there was a luncheon at University Club where invited students and faculty got a chance to talk more with the guest speaker. Organized by the Department of Global Studies and Geography and Hofstra Cultural Center. Date: Wednesday, November 16, 11:15 a.m.-12:40 p.m., Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater, Hofstra University.

3. "Dinner in Africa! Learn about different countries in Africa while eating African food!" This Diversity Dinner was organized by our student club, Get Global, and the African Student Association (ASA) at Hofstra, as part of Geography Awareness Week, sponsored by Mu Kappa. Student and faculty speakers who are originally from Africa spoke about their home countries' cultures, including different ethnicities and foods. Mu Kappa Vice President, Dr. Veronica A. Lippencott, was one of the speakers. Date: Thursday, November 17, at 6:30pm, Student Center, Plaza Rooms Middle and East, Hofstra University.

Respectfully submitted by Kari Jensen, President
June 14, 2017