

Mu Kappa 2017/18 annual report

Submitted on June 11, 2018, at <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/chapter-report-form.html>

President	Kari B. Jensen
Vice President	Veronica Lippencott
Secretary	Rachel Scarpino
Treasurer	-
Historian	Director of Events: Craig Dalton

“Chapter website”:

https://www.hofstra.edu/academics/colleges/hclas/geog/geog_mukappa_goals.html

“Highlights of Activities of 2017-2018 Academic Year (200-800 words):”

In the fall semester of 2017 Mu Kappa celebrated National Geographic’s annual Geography Awareness Week (November 12-18), by organizing a guest talk titled ‘Climate Change and Globalization in Coastal Regions: Opportunities and Challenges for Building Resilience’ by Dr. Robin Leichenko (Geography professor at Rutgers University) with a luncheon afterwards where invited students and faculty could talk with the speaker. The lecture was co-sponsored with the Department of Global Studies and Geography, and the Hofstra Cultural Center, and it was very well attended, with around 130 people in the audience, many of whom asked questions during the Q&A session following the talk.

Three student members and three faculty members of Mu Kappa presented their research at the annual AAG conference in New Orleans, April 2018.

On May 2, 2018, we organized the annual Mu Kappa initiation ceremony where 24 new members (23 students and one 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. Luis Alvarez León, a Visiting Assistant Professor of Urban-Economic Geography in the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University, gave a short speech about the importance of geography as a discipline for social analysis and

change. He later gave a talk to students and faculty titled, ‘From Streetscapes to Navigable Landscapes: Crowdsourcing and Contesting the Spaces of Autonomous Driving.’

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. Mu Kappa director of events, Assistant Professor Craig Dalton recruited the speaker for the initiation ceremony. Mu Kappa secretary and student member Rachel Scarpino designed the printed program, and introduced the initiates to the history and symbolism of Gamma Theta Upsilon at the initiation ceremony. Department administrator, Jackie Geis assisted with the logistics.

Mu Kappa secretary and student member Rachel Scarpino organized Mu Kappa’s “Textbooks for Africa” donation drive. The drive became very successful, with support not only from the Department of Global Studies and Geography, but also from other schools and departments at Hofstra University. Seven boxes of books were shipped out in June to “Books for Africa” in Atlanta, GA, from where books are distributed to many different African countries.

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

Additional Information to be Considered for Chapter Awards

Members inducted this year: 24

Members inducted last year: 17

“We provided leadership for two events designed to promote geography during the last academic year.

Please list the events and provide a brief description of how they promoted geography.”

- 1) The above-mentioned guest talk titled ‘Climate Change and Globalization in Coastal Regions: Opportunities and Challenges for Building Resilience’ by Dr. Robin Leichenko promoted geography by bringing together a large audience from multiple disciplines, fostering a realization of how a geographical analysis of climate change can help us better understand the phenomenon and increase our abilities to mitigate it.
- 2) The above-mentioned guest talk titled ‘From Streetscapes to Navigable Landscapes: Crowdsourcing and Contesting the Spaces of Autonomous Driving’ by Dr. Luis Alvarez León promoted geography by bringing a diverse group of students’ attention to an innovative, new research topic within geography, combining economic geography and GIS.

- 3) On November 2, 2017, Mu Kappa helped the Department of Global Studies and the student club Get Global organize a diversity dinner focusing on the aftermath of the devastating hurricanes in Puerto Rico. This event promoted geography by bringing together a diverse group of students and faculty to learn about Puerto Rico from professor Zilkia Janer and student Adriana Galarza, who both have family ties to Puerto Rico, and by encouraging all attendees to donate to AAG's Hurricane Relief Fund.

"We have submitted a minimum of two posts this academic year to the Gamma Theta Upsilon International Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GammaThetaUpsilonInternational/>. (Summaries and photos of chapter news and activities are particularly welcome, but first obtain permission of the GTU members described in the post and shown in the photo). The dates when we posted material on the GTU International Facebook posts are as follows:"

Mu Kappa postings to the GTU International Facebook page:

- 11/22/17: Robin Leichenko's guest lecture, Geography Awareness Week.
- 11/22/17: Mu Kappa board members together with Robin Leichenko.
- 05/14/18: Mu Kappa initiates celebrate with acrobatics at the initiation ceremony.
- 06/07/18: Mu Kappa joins GTU's "Textbooks for Africa" drive and ships out seven boxes of books.

Respectfully submitted, June 11, 2018,

Kari B. Jensen