

Mu Kappa 2018/19 annual report

Submitted by Mu Kappa Faculty Sponsor Dr. Kari Jensen, June 14, 2019

President	Rachel Scarpino (2018) Christina Paccadolmi (2019)
Vice President	Christina Paccadolmi (2018) Julianna Cirafesi (2019)
Secretary	Ligia Clara
Treasurer	Alishbah Saddiqui
Historian	Lois Paquette
Director of Events	Craig Dalton

Chapter website:

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

Highlights of Activities of 2018-2019 Academic Year (200-800 words):

Mu Kappa increased its student influence, as six student members were elected to hold positions on the executive committee for fall 2018 and spring 2019. The Director of Events position was retained by Dr. Craig Dalton, and Dr. Kari Jensen is continuing as Faculty Sponsor although she chose to pass on the Presidency to student members: Rachel Scarpino was elected President for the fall and Christina Paccadolmi for the spring.

On October 2, 2018 four Mu Kappa members were celebrated at Hofstra University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (HCLAS) Academic Excellence Awards Celebration. This event honored students who have excelled in each of the programs in HCLAS. Mu Kappa's award winners were Julianna Cirafesi for Global Studies, Fatimah Mozawalla for Geography, Lois Paquette for History and Abby Normandin for Public Service and Public Policy.

Seven student members and three faculty members of Mu Kappa presented their research at the annual Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) conference at Montclair State University in New Jersey, October 26-27, 2018. Mu Kappa member Fatimah Mozawalla received the Rob Mason People's Choice Award for her poster titled, "Separate but Equal? Analyzing School District Funding in Relation to Race on Long Island." This GIS research project was supervised by Mu Kappa event director and Assistant Professor of Global Studies and Geography, Dr. Craig Dalton.

Mu Kappa and the Department of Global Studies and Geography celebrated Geography Awareness Week by organizing two guest talks. The first talk, on November 14, titled 'Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley: Image and Reality' by Dr. Thomas Maraffa (Professor

Emeritus of Geography at Youngstown State University) was co-sponsored with the departments of Economics, Political Science, and Sociology. The second talk, 'Digital Cartographies of Everyday Life' by Leah Meisterlin (Assistant Professor at Columbia University) was held on Thursday, November 15, and we had a luncheon afterwards where invited students and faculty could talk with the speaker. The lectures were co-sponsored by the Hofstra Cultural Center and were very well attended, with many students asking questions during the Q&A sessions.

We had another great Mu Kappa turn out for Hofstra University's Undergraduate Research Day on December 11, 2018. Ten Mu Kappa members and Geography/Global Studies majors participated, covering a huge variety of research topics. All nine Geography majors who presented had used GIS to make their own maps for their posters, advised by Dr. Craig Dalton.

On March 9, 2018 at the annual Hofstra University Honors College Accepted Students Expo and Dinner, Mu Kappa members Julianna Cirafesi, Ryan Leighton and Lois Paquette helped Mu Kappa faculty sponsor Dr. Kari Jensen represent the Department of Global Studies and Geography by presenting their research posters and answering questions from admitted students and their families about Geography, GIS and Global Studies.

On April 15, 2019, we organized the annual Mu Kappa initiation ceremony where 18 new members 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. Mona Domosh, Professor of Geography at Dartmouth College and past President of the AAG, gave a short speech about her journey to the world of geography. She later gave a well-attended talk to students and faculty titled, 'Practicing Development in the Jim Crow South.' The chapter advisor and student board members worked together to recruit and communicate with the speaker and apply for funding from the Hofstra Cultural Center. Students Christina Paccadolmi and Julianna Cirafesi as President and Vice President, respectively, of Mu Kappa, initiated this year's new members. Mu Kappa historian Lois Paquette introduced the initiates to the history and symbolism of Gamma Theta Upsilon at the initiation ceremony. Chapter advisor Dr. Kari Jensen and department administrator Jackie Geis assisted with the logistics.

On May 9, newly minted Mu Kappa members Ryan Leighton and Raymond Ram presented their GIS research posters at Hofstra University's Undergraduate Research Day, advised by Dr. Craig Dalton.

Mu Kappa board members continued their "Textbooks for Africa" donation drive through December 2018. 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. Around twenty boxes of books were shipped out in December.

Mu Kappa members organized fundraising activities by selling maps and fair-trade organic chocolate. This not only helped the Chapter raise money for shipping the donated textbooks, but also helped to raise awareness about the importance of fair trade and geography. Additionally, members sold these items and geography themed t-shirts at the Earth Day event on campus.

Additional Information to be Considered for Chapter Awards

Members inducted this year: 18

Members inducted last year: 24

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

1. The above-mentioned guest talk titled ‘Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley: Image and Reality’ by Dr. Thomas Maraffa promoted geography by speaking on the cultural and economic effects that led to the solid Donald Trump majority in a region traditionally Democratic. This event required a cross-disciplinary analysis to fully understand the effects of a post-industrial era on a once prosperous region, and brought together a large audience from many different departments.
2. The above-mentioned guest talk titled ‘Digital Cartographies of Everyday Life’ by Professor Leah Meisterlin promoted geography by exploring GIS and mapping technologies from an alternative angle to promote pluralism and advocate for a democratization of mapping technologies. This event brought students and attendees from both technical and social science backgrounds to explore mapping technologies.
3. The above-mentioned guest talk titled ‘Practicing Development in the Jim Crow South’ by Dr. Mona Domosh promoted geography by exploring the historical roots to US international development and showcasing that practices performed abroad were first developed in the American South. By exploring this topic from a historical and racial lens, Dr. Domosh’s lecture brought an audience from a wide range of academic backgrounds beyond geography and educated attendees on a heretofore underexplored topic.
4. Mu Kappa helped the Department of Global Studies and the student club Get Global organize five diversity dinners focusing on different countries around the world. In fall they helped organize a French dinner and a Nigerian dinner, and in spring a Hungarian dinner with a folk/world music concert, an Afghan dinner, as well as a Norwegian dinner. These events promoted geography by bringing together a diverse group of students and majors at each event to learn about the culture of each country from student speakers, faculty speakers, and guest speakers.

“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 page are as follows:”

June 14, 2019:

I provided the following explanation: I, Kari Jensen have tried many times the last few weeks to submit text and photos on the GTU FB page, but it was not possible to submit anything. Randy Bertolas therefore offered to post the content for me, which he did today. I had sent him material for six posts, of which he posted the two I had labeled as most important. He posted two posts for me today, June 14, 2019: one from our elections meeting last fall (September 19, 2018), and one from our initiation ceremony with guest speaker Mona Domosh this spring (April 15).

Facebook posts on GTU's page:

June 14, 2019: Mu Kappa's first meeting of the school year 2018/19 was held in the Department of Global Studies and Geography at Hofstra University on Sept. 19, 2018.

June 14, 2019: On Monday, April 15, 2019, Mu Kappa, Hofstra University's Department of Global Studies and Geography's chapter of GTU inducted 18 new initiates in a ceremony held at the University Club.

Respectfully submitted, June 14 2019
Kari B. Jensen