

Mu Kappa 2020/21 Annual Report

Submitted by Mu Kappa Faculty Sponsor Dr. Kari Jensen, June 13, 2021

Mu Kappa Executive Committee:

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Kari Jensen (Dr. Jean-Paul Rodrigue served in Spring 2021 while Jensen was on leave)
President: Margaret Engel
Vice President: Olivia Tu
Secretary: Jenna Reda
Treasurer: Dr. Kari Jensen (Dr. Jean-Paul Rodrigue served in Spring 2021 while Jensen was on leave)
Historian: Christopher Heilig
Director of Events: Dr. Craig Dalton

Chapter website:

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

Highlights of Activities of 2020-2021 Academic Year (200-800 words):

The students on the board of Mu Kappa organized and led several Geography-focused events on Zoom (full list of events can be seen towards the end of this report).

On Tuesday, April 12, 2021, Mu Kappa organized a virtual induction ceremony held over Zoom, in which the number of Mu Kappa members was increased by 11, to a total of 169 since the chapter's founding in 2012. The ceremony's keynote speaker was Dr. Farhana Sultana, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and the Environment at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, and Research Director for Environmental Collaboration and Conflicts in the Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration (PARCC) at the Maxwell School. She traced her academic and career trajectory, including her work at the United Nations Development Program and provided many practical career insights to the inductees.

Dr. Farhana spoke about the academic discipline of Geography, which entails a diverse skillset that can be successfully applied to a wide range of topics and career paths. She congratulated Hofstra's initiates on their accomplishments and assured them that they are entering an honors organization with strong networking opportunities.

Professor Grant Saff, the Department Chairperson welcomed the speaker and inductees and thanked the Mu Kappa President, Margaret Engel '21, Vice President Olivia Tu '21, Historian Christopher Heilig '21 and Secretary, Jenna Reda, '21 for all their hard work in organizing the event. The induction ceremony was conducted by Margaret Engel and Olivia Tu who read the honors pledge to the inductees.

Additional Information to be Considered for Chapter Awards

Members inducted this year: 11
Members inducted last year: 20

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:

- 10/8/20: Alumni Mixer: The executive board sat down (on Zoom) with several Geography and Global Studies Hofstra alumni where they gave career and academic advice for current students. The advice was then formatted into a helpful packet of guidelines for all students in the department, posted as a PDF in the Department of Global Studies and Geography's Facebook group.
- 10/29/20: Movie Night: We used Netflix Party to watch the movie I'm Thinking of Ending Things to celebrate Halloween and incorporate a geography-based conversation about the film.
- 11/17/20: Jackbox Party: We played Jackbox games including geography trivia questions to celebrate the end of the semester.
- 3/11/21: Geography Trivia (on Zoom): Co-Sponsors: Hofstra UNICEF: The trivia questions were centered around geography and UNICEF activities in hopes of making attendees better informed.
- 5/7/21: Virtual Diversity Dinner: Co-Sponsors: Culinary Club: Culinary Club president Syed Bukhari spoke on Pakistani food and Muslim traditions for Ramadan and Eid while teaching us how to make pakoras.
- 5/12/21: Study Night: The executive board opened a Zoom room for any students studying for final exams who may have geography or global studies questions or just wanted to study with others.
- Mu Kappa Fall '20 and Spring '21 Social Media Initiatives:
 1. Spring Charity Spotlight
 2. Advice from Hofstra Mu Kappa Alumni
 3. Black Geographers in History
 4. Academic Tips (Studying Abroad, Honors Thesis, Geography Clubs, Book Recommendations)

Facebook posts on GTU's Facebook page, 2020/21:

Sept. 6, 2020: Mu Kappa's honors chapter award announcement, with a photo of our 2020 Honors Chapter badge.

Nov.25, 2020: Jackbox Party organized by the students on the Mu Kappa board, open for all students at Hofstra University.

April 18, 2021: Mu Kappa's induction ceremony of 10 new members, organized on zoom, with guest speaker Dr. Farhana Sultana from Syracuse University.

Respectfully submitted, June 13, 2021.

Kari B. Jensen