

2023/24

13 New Members Inducted to Hofstra's Mu Kappa Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the Geographic Honor Society May 8th 2023



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The Department of Global Studies and Geography recently inducted 13 students into Mu Kappa, Hofstra University's chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the international geographic honor society. **Dr. Antònia Casellas**, a visiting professor at Hofstra and a professor of geography at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, delivered the ceremony's keynote address. Mu Kappa President **Kayla Staderker '23** and Vice President **Julian Rocha '24** welcomed the following new inductees:

Juline S. Chowdhury

Natalie Correa

Samuel Siembos Dennis

Camryn Gallagher

Andreas Gukeisen

Zachary Kerzner

Irene Leary

Nicholas Lucchetto

Genevieve M. McCormick

Melanie Quackenbush

James Ricciardi

Ashley G. Santiago

Grace Varnum

"Many of our students are motivated by the prospect of being initiated into the international geographical honor society," said **Kari Jensen**, professor of Global Studies and Geography and the faculty sponsor of Mu Kappa. "It is important for the honor society to have a presence on campus, since Geography as an academic discipline is becoming more visible."



Dr. Kari Jensen inducts students into Mu Kappa (pictured l to right) **Juline S. Chowdhury, Natalie Correa, Samuel Siembos Dennis, and Camryn Gallagher.**

Dr. Jensen noted that Hofstra's chapter of GTU has organized diversity dinners, book drives for colleges in several African low-income countries, and sold fairtrade chocolate. "This way we are able to showcase that Geography is so much more than knowing where places are on the map; Geography is really about caring for those places and the people who inhabit them."

GTU) is an international honor society in Geography. The first chapter was founded in 1928 at Illinois State Normal University and Gamma Theta Upsilon became a national organization in 1931. In 1949, Gamma Theta Upsilon became an International Geographical Honor Society.

Hofstra's chapter of GTU, Mu Kappa, was founded in the spring of 2012 by Dr. Jensen. Since that time, Mu Kappa has been awarded the prestigious Gamma Theta Upsilon Honors Chapter Award six times. That award recognizes the scholarship of Hofstra's geography students, and activities that celebrate and bring awareness of geography to the university campus and community. Membership in Mu Kappa now stands at 199.