

Editorial Preface

“Thanks for the Memories?”

Donald Patrick Albert, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, USA

With just a handful of prefaces to write before I hand over the reins of IJAGR, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to four individuals that were supportive on my journey through academia. While dozens, including members of IJAGR’s editorial review board, have brought a sparkle to this career, name-dropping would invariably leave off significant contributors. Rather, I would like to make a brief mention of four individuals that have had an important role in the early years of my education and career. I will begin with my undergraduate degree and proceed chronologically. The first individual that encouraged me was Albert M. Tosches, professor of geography at Salem State College (now University) which is located in historic Salem, Massachusetts. During the period I was a student, Professor Tosches was a geography advisor. It was in this capacity that he recognized that I had overcome some of the early difficulties with college (during my first two years my grades were all over the place, after completing four years in the United State Air Force I returned to accumulate a long list of consecutive “A’s”). Professor Tosches is one of the first persons that I felt saw some potential in me, and I appreciate this encouragement to this day. I still remember that Professor Tosches was interested in Albania and political geography. From Massachusetts, I headed to Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, where I enrolled in a master’s program geography. Here I met Neal Lineback, and became the first cartographer for his long running series “Geography in the News.” Professor Lineback is a down-to-earth person; I still remember the tomato sandwich he offered me some thirty years ago, a small but thoughtful gesture towards a hungry graduate student. Over the years Neal has given me solid advice concerning career and personal matters. We remain in contact with occasional emails, phone conversations, and even visits now and again. From Boone, I eventually made it to Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina. I had the good chance and privilege to work with Wilbert “Wil” Gesler. Dr. Gesler is an internationally renowned medical geography now retired and living in England. Aside from his three masters (mathematics, literature, and geography) and a doctorate in geography, what most impressed me about Dr. Gesler was his humble and modest nature. I felt honored that someone with his stature would take the time to chair my dissertation committee and mentor me through graduate school. That he was willing to take on someone with so much to learn is a credit to his patience and concern for others. Finally, I want to thank Allen Williams, who “hired” me for my first tenure-track position in the Department of Geography and Geology at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Williams is a straightforward no-nonsense person who felt that my broad interest across geography would be beneficial to the Geography Program. I learned from Dr. Williams to be happy for the successes of others. He made a point to congratulate me on each achievement - small or large; after all, personal achievements contribute to a department’s success. Tosches, Lineback, Gesler, and Williams have had a huge impact on my personal and academic journey. I appreciate their efforts to help me fulfill my dreams of becoming a geographer. Each of us could tell similar stories of inspiring individuals that have helped us along the way. Thanks to all those that have guided us along the way. Now it is our turn.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research* (IJAGR) is encouraging manuscript submissions for regular issues from across the physical, environmental, and human geographies. This journal offers policy analysts, geospatial practitioners, and academicians with studies exemplifying various application domains within applied geospatial research. Manuscripts can be uploaded to IGI Globe's Journal Online Submission System available from <http://www.igi-global.com/submission/submit-manuscript/>. For more information visit IJAGR's website: www.igi-global.com/IJAGR or contact Donald P. Albert, editor-in-chief, *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research*, Department of Geography and Geology, LDB #332, Sam Houston State University, 1900 Ave I, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2148, USA. Phone: 936-294-1453; E-mail: geo_dpa@shsu.edu.

Best regards,

Donald Patrick Albert
Editor-in-Chief
IJAGR

Donald Patrick Albert is a professor of geography in the Department of Geography and Geology at Sam Houston State University (Texas, U.S.A.). He earned geography degrees from Salem State College (B.S.), Appalachian State University (M.A.), and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Ph.D.).