

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Got Geography?

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This issue largely focuses on geospatial applications in forestry with papers on forest cover and income (northeastern United States), tenure characteristics and rural well-being (Black Belt Alabama), and modeling forest species to estimate forest canopy distribution (Cap Cod, Massachusetts). These studies employ a range of geostatistical techniques and models including a spatial error regression, geographically weighted regression and the environmental Kuznets curve (Bentley, Cromley, Hanink, & Heidkamp), descriptive statistics and Mann Whitney U tests (Dyer, Marzen, & Hite), and species distribution models (McCauley, Rogan, & Miller). That there is a sustained interest in using geospatial technologies for forestry studies should be no surprise. Remembering Aronoff's (1989) *Geographic Information Systems: A Management Perspective* from days (years) as a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill I scanned its index for "forestry" and found pages 7-13, 223-225, and plates 1 and 2 listed. These pages highlight "Forestry and Wildlife Management" as one of six examples of GIS applications (pages 7-13), buffer zone generation for forest applications (pages 223-225), forest cover mapping (plate 1), and combining vector graphics and raster images for editing forest stand boundaries (plate

2). Over the subsequent twenty plus years the range of geospatial applications continues to increase to the boon of geographers and other disciplines such as forestry. For example, a search for "forestry" in the *Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas 2011-2012* and *AAG Handbook and Directory of Geographers* (AAG, 2012) returns a result of 100 instances. These "hits" illustrate the sundry links and mutual benefits between geography and forestry.

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- Association of American Geographers. (2012). *AAG guide to geography programs in the Americas 2011-2012 and AAG Handbook and Directory of Geographers*. Washington, DC: Association of American Geographers.

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.). His articles have appeared in such journals as Applied Geography, Complementary Health Practice Review, Journal of Geography, Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences, The North Carolina Geographer, The Pennsylvania Geographer, The Geography Teacher, The Social Studies Texan, The Police Chief, Texas Journal of Rural Health, World Health Forum, and others. Dr. Albert has contributed as author, co-author, editor, or co-editor on the following books: Emerging Methods and Multidisciplinary Applications in Geospatial Research (2013), Geospatial Technologies and Advancing Geographic Decision Making: Issues and Trends (2012), The Geography of Naturopathic Physicians in the United States and Canada (2006), GIS in Law Enforcement: Implementation Issues and Case Studies (2003), A Case Study in the Role of Environmental Values in Conservation: The Roanoke River Project (2002), and Spatial Analysis, GIS, and Remote Sensing Applications in the Health Sciences (2000). Dr. Albert is editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research.