

Editorial Preface

After Climbing the Academic Ranks

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INTRODUCTION

How does one maintain an appropriate amount of motivation after tenure, promotion, and perhaps an award or two have come and gone? Navigating through these stages is a testament¹ of one's success in the triangle of teaching, research and service. So what's next? Well, in those universities that base financial remuneration on "merit" one must continue to engage or salaries in effect dwindle with annual increases in insurance premiums and other payroll deductions. If that doesn't spur one on, salary compression will reduce one's compensation relative to recently minted PhDs that often are enticed with competitive offers. How does one avoid "burning out" and succumbing to academic fatigue? If the reader will indulge me for a moment or two, here are three suggestions from personal experience. First, find a fresh topic or activity that is invigorating. For me, establishing IJAGR and becoming its editor-in-chief fulfilled a professional aspiration (Albert, 2014). Two other colleagues similarly redirected their activities, one shifted focus from urban poverty to cultural geography with emphasis on the pedagogy of place, and the other to historical-geographical investigations of the "Sabine River-Caddo Lake border area of Texas and adjacent Louisiana"—both to great acclaim. Second, mix "business with pleasure," that is, incorporate travel to explore world regions and places in conjunction with international conferences. I have combined one-month visits to Turkey (2014) and Australia (2015) in conjunction with presentations at international conferences, respectively, the Turkish Association of Geographers and the Institute of Australian Geographers. Since I also teach World Regional Geography these trips have the added value of enhancing the credibility of classroom lectures. This strategy is fantastic for developing contacts and building networks while also taking in the "sights." Third, mentoring junior and encouraging senior colleagues is rewarding and generates goodwill. Interacting with untenured members should be altruistic with no personal gains anticipated. Simple things such as critiquing manuscripts, encouraging conference attendance, and recommending potential publication outlets, especially journals and magazines from state and regional organizations that might be unknown to those incoming faculty hired from outside the region. While listening to their concerns, it is important to maintain trust to ensure that information divulged is not dispersed through the infamous "grapevine" without their permission. Congratulate mentees

on accepted manuscripts, conference participation, grant awards, and other endeavors as individual achievements are departmental triumphs too. So there are countless other avenues to success after tenure and promotion, these three activities have allowed me to maintain a professional edge after climbing the ranks.

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,

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ENDNOTES

- ¹ Usually — consider the Peter's Principle, or its yet unnamed variant, as when an individual rises multiple levels over his or her incompetence.

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