

Editorial Preface

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INTRODUCTION

For those of us who claim to be professors of geography it is essential to embrace research and publication. While each of us has unique talents, qualifications, and experiences with some excelling more or less on teaching, service, or research, as professionals we should not ignore our weakest link. For myself, I hesitate to call what I do “research,” nevertheless, I have been able to pursue various, and sometimes esoteric, curiosities. It has been a great thrill for me to be able to come up with creative ideas and follow these through, notwithstanding the hard work and perseverance required, to submit a manuscript and have it published in a *bona fide* peer-reviewed journal. For those not engaged in this process, it is hard to convey the amount of time, effort, and diligence involved to get something in print. In my opinion, any self-respecting professor should be involved in research and publication at some level — even those with administrative or other duties that pull them away from scholarly pursuits. I have encountered “professors” that become sensitive when chatting about publication requirements and expectations; others openly, often, and quite emphatically mention that research is just not their “cup of tea.” Such professors, especially the latter, have more in common with high school teachers than their colleagues in academia. Maintaining an involvement in research allows us to remain current and sensitive to the nuances and changes in our field(s) of expertise. This is in essence the bar for measuring post-tenure, however, some have managed one way or another to circumvent this five-year review. Seeing one’s article in print is exciting — at least it is still for me after more than twenty years in the business. I have over the years equated publishing an article analogous to a songwriter, singer or musical group getting a hit song on the radio. Even if you don’t become a super star with an article making geography’s top forty, at least you have made the stage. So let me encourage all professors to remain or become engaged, and to join the club, band, or stage for a memorable concert.

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Best regards,

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