

EDITORIAL PREFACE

# Jam-Packed and Bursting at the Seams

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This is a jam-packed issue bursting at the seams. Twenty-two authors contributed towards producing seven items in this issue of IJAGR: two articles in a special section, four articles from our regular submissions, and an event report. The special section, edited by Jay Lee, professor of geography at Kent State University and executive director of the Applied Geography Conferences, Inc., is titled “Special Section Highlighting the Agc-Ijagr Invitation: Fort Worth, Texas, 2010.” This section includes two papers that were invited and accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research* with expansion, peer-review, and revision from the originals in the *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences, Volume 33, 2010*, and appear herein with the expressed permission of the Applied Geography Conferences, Inc. This is the third such AGC-IJAGR collaboration with past contributions appearing in IJAGR volume/issue 1(2) and 2(3). The Editor-in-Chief of IJAGR plans to continue collaborating with the Dr. Jay Lee with our next efforts showcasing select participants from the 34<sup>th</sup> Applied Geography Conference that meet in Redlands, California, in October, 2011. For geospatial aficionados, Redlands, Esri’s headquarters, is ground zero, and for some our visit a pilgrimage.

There are four research articles from our regular submissions. The first two explore environmental issues from different perspectives—one qualitative (Pathak and Whalen) and the other qualitative (Rex, Matthews, and Lancaster). The second two describe geospatial toolbar customization (Moore, Larsen, and Sinton) and the evolution of Salem State University’s geospatial labs (Pappathanasi and Young), one of the earliest geospatial facilities in the United States.

Besides Salem State University’s Digital Geography Lab, IJAGR has showcased other geospatial facilities in previous issues including Central Washington University’s GIS Lab (IJAGR 1(3), pp. 1-16), Sam Houston State University’s Incident Command Simulation Training Facility (IJAGR 3(1), pp. 69-75), Stephen F. Austin State University’s Columbia Regional Geospatial Service Center System (IJAGR 2(1), pp. 63-74), University of North Carolina at Greensboro’s Center for Geographic Information Science (IJAGR 2(2), pp. 33-38), and Harvard University’s Center for Geographic Analysis (IJAGR 3(2), pp. 63-71). The range of philosophical approaches underpinning these geospatial facilities spans from fostering teaching and learning communities to subscribing to the entrepreneurial university. Together these

studies are instructive for entities planning, designing, or evaluating geospatial facilities and centers.

The event report is a synopsis of a panel session originating from the Association of American Geographers (AAG) annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, on April 14, 2011. This distinguished panel of eight experts in applied geography was sponsored by the Applied Geography Specialty Group and the Geography

Education Specialty Group. The panel's outline of strategies for teaching and learning in the field of applied geography is a must read for all academic and professional geographers

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*Donald Patrick Albert is a professor of geography in the Department of Geography and Geology at Sam Houston State University (Texas, USA). He earned geography degrees from Salem State College (BS), Appalachian State University (MA), and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (PhD). 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: 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.*