

# cartographic perspectives

Number 24, Spring 1996

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## messages

### MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Why is it that we are always amazed at how fast time flies by? Projects and manuscripts that we said would be done by the end of the month, end of the semester, or end of the year often times are still on our TTD list (list of Things To Do) at the end of the month, end of the semester, or end of the year. And we find ourselves often saying "Gee, I thought I would be done with this by now"—and we are generally disappointed that we have not finished the task.

Well, it has been almost a year since I notified the NACIS Board of Directors that I would be ending my term as Editor of *Cartographic Perspectives* with the Spring 1996 issue. And, as with many things, the time has flown by. But I must admit that I am a bit of disappointed that my job as editor is finally done. Don't get me wrong, there is a huge part of me that feels a sense of relief (and satisfaction) at completing my four year tenure as editor. But I cannot deny that part of me that looks back on this experience and acknowledges that I will truly miss it.

I have contemplated for some months now on what I would say in this, my final column. Would I make some profound statements





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or observations about the discipline of cartography? Would I be reflective? Would I try to predict the future? Would I pontificate my own views on the prosperity or demise of cartography, its relationship to GIS, or other topics?

I suppose I could. As editor of a journal you have almost total control over what eventually gets published. Who could stop me from writing anything? After all, I am the person who hands over to the printer the digital files for each issue and I am the one who gets to check the press proofs before the job is set to press. And anyway, this is my last issue—what can they do, fire me?

You will be relieved to know that I will not do any of the following. Instead I would like to thank all of the individuals who have made my job as editor of *Cartographic Perspectives* a rewarding and delightful experience.

As editor, I have had the privilege of receiving manuscripts from some of the brightest and creative minds in our field. Individuals who were willing to share their ideas and theories with their colleagues. Individuals who have worked hard to make cartography an interesting and lively discipline. Individuals who took the risk of subjecting their work to peer review and realized that getting ideas out there is an important means of ensuring that we have lively debates within the discipline.

I have also had the privilege of working with members of an Editorial Board who were committed to the same. They have spent their time reviewing manuscripts, writing, and taking responsibility for the Bulletin Board columns. Over the years, many of our NACIS members have served in this capacity. I would, however, like to extend a special thanks to three of them. One is Jim Anderson. Jim has been responsible for the Cartography Lab Bulletin Board column in *Cartographic Perspectives* ever since I have been editor. He has worked hard to ensure that the bulletin board was present in every issue and that it contained information of interest to our readers. Not only that, but Jim consistently meet every deadline I gave him, even the most herculean ones.

Another individual deserving of great thanks is Michael Peterson. Michael has been chair of the NACIS Editorial Board (again for as long as I have been editor). The Editorial Board Chair is a thankless job. You do a lot of work but do not receive the recognition that others, like the editor, get. Michael has been a tremendous help in ensuring that the manuscript review process has moved along efficiently and that the Editorial Board functioned as it should.

The last person I wish to give special thanks to is David Tilton. When I first took on the editorship

of *CP* I asked Dave if he was willing to help out as Assistant Editor. He agreed without really knowing what that would entail. I remember our first issue—neither one of us new a thing about desktop publishing and it was a miracle that the issue (ironically #13) ever made it to the printer. Over the years we have had our share of trying to figure out how to handle incompatible file formats or deciding what to do when we get a call from the printer saying that the job is on press "but there seems to be a little problem with . . ." Through all of it, Dave has always been of great help and willing to spend what ever time it has taken to get the issue out (and usually out on time!).

In closing, I would like to thank NACIS for the opportunity given to me to be such a part of what goes on in our discipline. I wish my predecessor as much enjoyment as I have had in being able to see the best our discipline has to offer and for the fun I have had as *CP* Editor. Thanks.

*Sona Karentz Andrews*  
Editor, *CP*



The cover was produced & designed by Daniel Weber, a graduate student in Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The map is a portion of western Providenciales, North Caicos, and Middle Caicos in the Turks & Caicos. It was digitized using AtlasGIS and then imported into CorelDRAW! where it was resized, rotated, and skewed to its present view. The islands were given a texture fill using Rock-Fractal-Cracked 2C of texture # 19702 with a density of one and a light intensity of 40%. The map is oriented with Northeast approximately at the top of the page.