

cartographic perspectives

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messages

MESSAGE FROM THE GUEST EDITOR

Over the next year *Cartographic Perspectives (CP)* will have a series of guest editors. We plan on having a permanent editor by the beginning of 1998, but in the interim we are fortunate to have several NACIS members assuming the responsibilities of publishing *CP*. Future guest editors will include Michael Peterson and Gregory Chu, while James Carter and Ute Dymon will guest edit a special issue focusing on Map Use. Jim Anderson has graciously accepted the Assistant Editor's job and will be responsible for all production facets of *CP*. Melissa Lamont (Penn State) has assumed the job of gathering and assimilating all the material that is posted on the map library bulletin board.

Mark your calendars for our next annual meeting, NACIS XVII in Lexington, Kentucky, from October 1-4. We should have a great meeting, just like we did in San Antonio. Over one hundred participants enjoyed the hospitality of one of the more charming and scenic Texas cities last Octo-

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ber. We also were blessed with the fellowship and camaraderie of faculty and students from Southwest Texas State University. Dennis Fitzsimons, long-time NACIS member, fellow University of Kansas alumnus, and outstanding teacher of cartography was our main host and did a superb job. Conference attendees praised all aspects of the San Antonio meetings, and one and all enjoyed the Saturday evening barbecue. We should have another grand meeting in Kentucky!

As former NACIS president, I also want to thank two officers who recently finished their terms in office. Henry Castner did a marvelous three-year job as Vice-President, President, and Past-President, while Ed Hall devoted

six years to keeping our finances solvent as Treasurer. Both served NACIS with a high level of excellence and were commended for their work by the NACIS Board at the San Antonio meeting

As a member of NACIS you probably noticed that your dues for 1997 have gone up. At the Annual Business Luncheon in San Antonio NACIS members passed a resolution to increase dues for all regular members, students, and institutions. The main reason dues were increased is to pay for the cost of *Cartographic Perspectives*. Both paper and printing costs in 1996 rose to the point that the old \$28 membership fee wasn't even covering the cost of *CP*. The general consensus of the members in attendance in San Antonio was that \$42 was still a bargain for membership in a professional organization with a professional journal. It should be many years before another dues increase is needed.

Potentially, one way to prevent another dues increase for quite awhile is to increase NACIS membership. If you are a professor, sign up some students. If you are an entrepreneur, librarian, lab technician, or government employee, talk to your colleagues who are not members - and sign them up! Membership forms can be found in the back of *CP*, or just give Chris Baruth (1-800-558-8993) a call and he'll send you some forms.

Finally, it is a curious phenomenon that article submission to cartographic journals is down and yet more research and experimentation with maps is occurring than at any other time in written history. Consider, for example, the advent of Digital Video Disc (DVD). It has a storage space of 8.7 gigabytes and will allow one to create a true multimedia presentation with high definition sound and full-motion video. There are

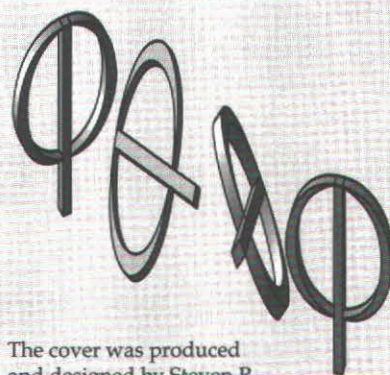
seemingly infinite possibilities of high resolution dynamic map displays that one could produce using DVD. The research potential in cartography using this device is staggering. Yet, will we adequately document our cartographic discoveries?

Cartographic Perspectives is the ideal forum for publishing innovative research. Even though we do not have a permanent editor this year, we still have a very accomplished and capable Editorial Board. Submission can easily be made to the Interim Editor or Mike Peterson during this coming year. (geolib@cwis.unomaha.edu)

Keith Rice

Past President and Guest Editor, *CP*

about the cover



The cover was produced and designed by Steven R. Holloway, cartographer and geographer at the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana. He delights in making maps with blank places, for what we do not see and know. The series from which it is taken can be found at: <http://higuma.wru.umt.edu/posters/default.shtml>. In addition, it should be noted that this is a population density map using information from the 1990 census in six classes of density. The map differs from typical choropleth census maps in that the mapping units are independent from the enumeration units. They have applied land cover, land ownership and slope criteria to create the new mapping units. The result is a far more accurate indication of the dispersion of population in the west where there are significant elevation, land cover, and land ownership patterns affecting population distribution.