

# cartographic perspectives

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## messages

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I look back through my set of *Cartographic Perspectives*, I come to a slim dark red issue labeled Number 1 from March 1989. Ten years ago, CP was 24 pages with one featured article on radar video mapping at NOAA. It was chock full of cartographic news about software (Adobe Illustrator for PC platforms had just been announced), cart labs (Wisconsin was seeking advice about color separation with these new-fangled computer tools), reviews of fugitive literature (Alan MacEachren reviewed an article on the first interactive classification system he had come across), and lists of new maps, upcoming events, and more.

Back then, CP selected featured articles through a competition held at the annual meeting, and this 1989 issue contains the call for papers for the next meeting in Ann

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**NACIS WEB SITE**  
[www.nacis.org](http://www.nacis.org)

*from the President  
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vidently. It was my first NACIS meeting and I came with copies of a manuscript corresponding to a presentation about my master's research. I submitted those copies to the Publications Committee chair, Alan MacEachren, and then worked with the new editor, David DiBiase, to prepare the paper for publication. That was the most prescient of conferences in my career; I eventually married that young editor, getting to know him as we worked on preparing my paper for publication in CP, and I am now Alan's colleague on the faculty at Penn State.

CP has grown up too, moving from 24 pages to over 64 under the guidance of three marvelous editors: David DiBiase, Sona Andrews, and now Michael Peterson, as well as a series of guest editors. We've graduated from a bulletin to a journal, to perfect binding, and to a peer-review process of paper submission. CP has retained its multidisciplinary character, gathering news about mapping companies, government agencies, map libraries, academia, and university cartography labs.

We have had the pleasure of a stable and committed 'home office' with Chris Baruth, Susan Peschel, and Sona Andrews keeping things running smoothly: keeping membership organized, negotiating conference hotel contracts, ensuring the treasury is well managed,

and keeping us Presidents and Vice Presidents on schedule. This year, the NACIS board happily reappointed Chris to his third four-year commitment as our Executive Officer. We greatly appreciate the American Geographical Society's continued contributions to NACIS through its support of Chris and Susan as they manage our executive office.

This past year, as we have continued to work on improving CP, we have been working on increasing the NACIS membership. This effort has led in numerous directions. We prepared and distributed a brochure to recruit new members and have been reminding our current members to recruit their colleagues. We are currently advertising in ArcUser and ARC News, with a smartly designed 6.5-by-5.5-inch ad by Tom Patterson, and are reaching mapmakers on circulation lists totaling over 300,000. ESRI has been very helpful in assisting promotion of NACIS membership. We have also been working on our web site at [www.nacis.org](http://www.nacis.org). Jeremy Crampton deserves much thanks for leading our web development work. We are averaging about 100 hits a day, with the most attention to the CP part of the site. The site also includes information on how to join NACIS, lists of university cartography labs and custom cartographers, and conference plans and programs.

We are a healthy and vital organization that creates channels of communication between people

from all aspects of mapping. We want to increase our membership to get news out to many more people about mapping from all perspectives. We would be very pleased to hear other creative ideas about ways to increase membership: please contact Tom Patterson, chair of our Membership Committee, at [T\\_Patterson@ccmail.itd.nps.gov](mailto:T_Patterson@ccmail.itd.nps.gov) with your suggestions. We always have an eye out for new nominees for the board of directors, for contributions to CP, and for new cartographic web content. So, please participate in NACIS in any way that matches with your interests.

Our 1998 conference in Milwaukee was a success, with high attendance, a jam-packed slate of interesting papers, and an invigorating buzz of discussion and laughter. Please plan to join us at our next conference in Williamsburg in October. The call for papers is out, so please plan your conference participation: abstracts will be emailed to our Vice President, Tom Patterson, who is Program Chair for the conference this year. Preliminary program information will begin to appear on the web site in the summer and will also be mailed to members. I hope to see you there.

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President NACIS  
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