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in this issue

Letter from the Editor

Dear Members of NACIS,

Welcome to CP54, the spring 2006 issue of *Cartographic Perspectives*. A quick look out my office window would hardly suggest that it is the middle of spring here in Duluth. Forty degrees…rain and snow mixed with fog…hardly a leaf in sight on the trees. Is this possible evidence that global warming is a ruse? Hardly. It's more an indication that I'm just not very good at selecting places to live that have desirable spring climates. Some geographer I turned out to be…ya, shuure, you betcha.

Jim Anderson, Lou Cross and I have revised the *Instructions to Authors* for *CP.* These are published in the back of this issue. Please take note of the expanded information on citing Internet sources, submitting illustrations, and obtaining permissions to re-publish work. Of special note are permissions to reproduce previously published

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(letter from editor continued)

images. There is a growing trend for holders of copyrights to charge ever-increasing fees to those wanting to reproduce copyrighted images. This is especially true of large publishing houses that operate for profit…that includes, unfortunately, most publishers (thankfully not *CP*; we operate at cost). Some authors of recent works in *CP* have spent months obtaining permissions, some at significant cost. Examples include one author spending about 5 months obtaining necessary permissions, and another having to secure resources for $2500 for rights to re-publish images. "Wow" is putting it mildly. Mind you, these are the extremes, but it is something prospective authors need to be mindful of, and it is something that will be experienced more often.

In this issue of *CP*, there are four thought-provoking papers. The first is an opinion piece on ethics by Tom Koch. A paper about ethics is hardly new territory for *CP*. What is new territory, though, is that this piece comes from the perspective of those who spend their working hours making maps, rather than talking or teaching about them…the bona fide "mappers" among us. Yeah, I know I might be making categories of cartographers that might make some uncomfortable. My point is that those of us who make maps for our paychecks do have a reality different from those of us who don't make maps for our paychecks. NACIS recognizes (celebrates even) this difference with PCD (practical cartography day) the day before each annual meeting in the fall. All positive responses on this opinion column are welcome…send all the others to Tom *grin*.

Next is a paper by Alan MacEachren *et al*. on map based data exploration and decision-making using natural interfaces to large-screen displays. This

paper explores novel methods to facilitate the use of spatial data for group decision-making. The research explored in this paper delves into the implementation of large screen displays that support natural, human-system dialogue within a group decision-making dynamic. Natural language user interfaces for spatial data have long been fantasized about (see NCGIA Initiative 2 report on Language of Spatial Relations (1989), and Initiative 13 report on User Interfaces for Geographic Information Systems (1992)). The work by MacEachren *et al*. helps to envision how such interfaces can impact communication with, and about spatial data.

The paper by Kennelly and Kimerling on non-photorealistic rendering of terrain representations shows the concomitant research happening in cartography and in non-photorealistic rendering. Their paper illustrates how the work in both research areas can inform each other, and lead to multiple depiction methods for terrain representation. The aim, of course, is to "improve" our spatial representations.

Last is a paper by Churchill and Stege on journalistic cartography. The publication of this paper is bittersweet, for certain. While I know that Hope Stege is proud to see her co-authored work published here, she and her friends and colleagues morn the loss of their friend and mentor, Dr. Robert Churchill. Bob passed away as this paper underwent publication. It is essentially his last publication, and with Hope's hard work and tenacity, it is a wonderful paper, very much in the spirit of Dr. Churchill's work. This paper demonstrates to us the power of "maps in press" to construct (persuade even) the general public's geographical, and more importantly, political knowledge. Enjoy!

As you all know, *Cartographic Perspectives* is healthy and strong.

The current editorial board and section editors have worked tirelessly to make this happen. To insure the health of *CP*, please consider submitting your work for publication consideration. Send your opinion papers, articles and visual field contributions to me at sfreunds@d.umn.edu; send your cartographic techniques contributions to Charlie Frye at cfrye@esri.com; send your cartographic collections contributions to Chris Mixon at mixonch@auburn.edu; and contact Mark Denil at m.denil@conservation.org if you are interested in reviewing a book, atlas or software.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Warmest Regards,

Scott Freundschuh, Editor