

Note to Readers

Herewith is the latest edition of the Florida Geographer. This spring edition is the result a rather longer transition in editorship and institution than I had originally anticipated. The next edition will come out in fall, 2004, as per the usual timing well established by our immediate past editor, Dr. Mort Winsburg at Florida State University. We all owe Mort an enormous amount of gratitude for his hands-on editorship over the years. Mort good-naturedly and quite doggedly modernized the Florida Geographer both in style and content. He was avid in his pursuit of manuscripts---a pursuit that remains urgent---and when they arrived he ensured that they were evaluated in a timely and professional manner. Thanks, Mort, for all your often-ignored efforts on behalf of the Florida Society of Geographers. I only hope that I can fulfill my duties as the new editor of the Florida Geographer with such quality and professionalism.

Following in Mort's footsteps, my goals as editor of the journal are essentially fourfold. First, I would like to ensure that all manuscripts sent for potential publication are thoroughly peer-reviewed in an appropriately double-blind manner. To this end, I will be calling on you members of the Society from time-to-time to help me in this task. The intent is to maintain and perhaps even increase the quality of the journal whilst ensuring that authors can count the publication of their manuscripts as, indeed, peer-reviewed. I intend eventually to announce percentage rates of acceptance for the benefit of both authors and readers alike.

My second goal is to increase the number of manuscripts sent for potential publication in the Florida Geographer. Hopefully, if I meet the first goal, potential authors will come to view the journal as a good second-, or excellent third-, tier peer-reviewed outlet for their research. In addition, I intend to pester you members of the Society to no end in pursuit of your, and your

students', research. I really would like to underscore---as Mort did so often before me---that the Florida Geographer is a good, not just appropriate, outlet for research on Florida issues. Finally, in further pursuit of this goal, I intend to entertain manuscripts concerning regional issues of the Southeast and Caribbean, as well as Florida.

The third goal to which I aspire as editor is to increase the participation of geographers in K-12 institutions. I think all readers of the journal would benefit greatly from the publication of manuscripts concerning pedagogical and other geography-related issues at this level of education, particularly because geography is given such short-shrift in pre-University institutions. If I am successful in this regard, publication of such manuscripts may even generate greater communication between University and K-12 faculty interested in geography and geographic education.

My final goal follows directly from this last point concerning communication. I hope to vary the format of the journal--if enough manuscripts are forthcoming---to include not only full-length manuscripts, but also shorter "notes" or "discussions" on geographical issues of concern to the journal's readers. This includes book-reviews, which I hope will be a continuing section in each edition. Please, then, consider the journal as a potential outlet for your shorter pieces, or for concerns/issues you may want to discuss with your geography colleagues around the state and region. While I do not intend the journal to become a newsletter, I do think that it could become a medium for reportage and discussion of things geographic to the benefit of greater scholarly communication all around. If this call catches your interest but you are unsure of the suitability of your potential contribution please feel free to contact me directly at my postal address, phone number, FAX, and/or e-mail address and we can discuss it further.

While these goals may seem ambitious, I think that I can reach them if we all increase our level of participation in the flag-

ship journal of the Florida Society of Geographers. There are a few state/regional geography journals out there that enjoy a high level of scholarly respect. There is no reason that the Florida Geographer cannot maintain itself as one of them. But this demands a much more concerted and sustained effort from all of us in the Society to author and solicit manuscripts intended for publication therein. By following Mort's example, I hope to render the journal an appropriately peer-reviewed outlet for your, and your students', best work.

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