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A Note from the Editor

Last weekend, I attended the regional meeting of the Middle States Division of the Association of American Geographers (which, as President of the division, I was also in charge of organizing). I’ve always enjoyed the regional meetings both because of their more intimate nature and because of the breadth of the field that it exposes me to. At the national meetings, paper sessions are often narrowly focused. The smaller, more intimate nature of the regional meetings, however, ensures a degree of eclecticism within each set of papers, and re-connects us with other areas of the discipline. Indeed, I’ve always enjoyed the often unintended connections that emerge between seemingly unlike papers, and the array of subjects I see at the meetings exemplifies the diversity of the field that is one of the things that attracted me to geography in the first place. Editing this journal is a similar experience, because it allows me to delve into a variety of topics from across our discipline. As is often the case, this issue exemplifies that eclectic spirit, with papers in hazards, urban geography, geomorphology, and a pair of climatology offerings.

A note on a couple of the papers is in order. The author of the first paper in this issue, Deana DeWire, was this year’s recipient of the Strahler-Wiley Physical Geography scholarship from Gamma Theta Upsilon. As part of the scholarship, applicants had to submit an original term paper over a physical geography topic. Deana’s fine paper is a creative look at the relationship between large-scale global processes – in this case, El Niño – and local environmental effects. The second paper is the third and final in a series of papers begun in the previous issue that are derived from the conference “Environment and Security in The Asia-Pacific Region.” Mark Corson draws here not only on his knowledge of environmental hazards, but also his first-hand experience in Kosovo as an active member of the military.

Steven Schnell
Editor, The Geographical Bulletin