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A Note from the Editor

Peer review is the lifeblood of academic publishing. First and foremost, I would like to extend a hearty thank you to the hundreds of people who have reviewed articles for me over the past dozen years. It is due to your diligent efforts that we are able to continue to publish a quality journal. Your feedback has been invaluable, and has helped to turn many manuscripts with promise into much more tightly argued and insightful published research.

Particularly to the young scholars reading this who are entering into the world of academic publishing, I want to encourage you to take part in the peer-review process when the opportunity arises. It is not something that gets in the way of your own research – it is something that *enables* your own research.

I understand fully that at times, excessive over-commitment may not allow you to take part in a review, or that your expertise might not allow you to provide meaningful feedback. If that is the case, simply reply promptly with recommendations of other scholars who might make good reviewers for the manuscript. There is no excuse for not answering a request. While in the process of looking for reviewers for one article in a previous issue, I had to contact eighteen individuals before I was able to put together a panel of three reviewers. Of these, only four even bothered to answer my requests; the resulting review was delayed almost two months as a result.

One basic rule of thumb: if you are submitting articles for consideration for publication anywhere, then you should be willing to review at least three times that many articles for other authors and publications. That's the only way the system can continue to function. So, the next time a journal editor comes calling, say yes! The authors, and editors, will thank you.

Steven Schnell
Editor, *The Geographical Bulletin*

