

Continuing On: Editors' Introduction

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For nearly a decade, the *Southwestern Geographer* has been publishing articles highlighting research and scholarship on the southwestern region of the United States, and by scholars working in that region. In 1996, with the support of the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) leadership, the journal was initiated and housed in the geography department at Texas State University-San Marcos. With significant support from that department and its leadership (and several anonymous donors through the years), the journal has been published annually since 1997. Initially co-edited by John Tiefenbacher and Julie Tuason and then later edited solely by Tiefenbacher, the journal has held fast to its commitment to regional scholarship and young scholars, publishing over forty articles covering a wide range of disciplinary and regional topics.

The following volume, Volume 9, is a collaborative product between John Tiefenbacher and the new editorial team. Several of the articles began the review process during John's tenure as editor, and we certainly want to acknowledge his role in this process. He has also provided both professional and personal support throughout the editorial transition.

As we begin our editorship, we hope to further the journal's role as a strong outlet for regional scholars, particularly graduate students and young faculty, while also maintaining a rigorous review process and commitment to strong scholarship. We are both products of graduate programs in this region and continue to feel proprietary about SWAAG as we teach and mentor students in one of the newest geography programs in the region. In addition to publishing articles on the region and by scholars within the region, we will encourage articles contributing to the scholarship of teaching and learning in geography, as well as articles highlighting field-based teaching and learning, a rich geographical tradition that is particularly vital in many programs in the SWAAG region. Beginning in this volume we introduce a Book Review Essay section. Unlike a traditional book review these essays offer both summary and personal reflection on books of particular relevance to the southwest region.

We also continue the tradition of publishing a departmental history in each volume of the journal. This series began with the first volume of the *Southwestern Geographer*, and has to date, recounted the successes and travails of the region's oldest geography departments including Louisiana State University, University of Texas, University of Oklahoma, Texas A&M University, Southwest Texas State

University (now Texas State University-San Marcos), University of Arkansas, Oklahoma State University, University of North Texas, and in this volume, University of New Mexico. These rich histories chronicle dynamic geography programs, but more significantly create a collaborative history of the discipline of geography itself. To our knowledge, this departmental series is unique to the *Southwestern Geographer*.

We have composed a new editorial board for the *Southwestern Geographer* representing all of the states in the region as well as a diverse range of interest and expertise. We want to thank our board in advance for their willingness to serve and for all of their hard work as we depend on them for reviews, soliciting strong submissions, editorial guidance, and general journal promotion. As the editors of the *Southwestern Geographer*, we are eager to continue the efforts of John Tiefenbacher and all who have contributed to the journal thus far.