

TRIBUTE: ALAN MACPHERSON

Our good friend and colleague Alan MacPherson passed away in May. Most of us, undoubtedly, know of Alan's acumen and accomplishments as a researcher and teacher at the University at Buffalo. His research record was impressive: Alan's work on international trade, technological change, and regional economic growth was without compare and certainly informed the work of many others in our field. What is perhaps more remarkable was that his work was entirely straightforward, easily accessible, and highly applicable to real-world issues of interest to geographers, economists, regional scientists, and policymakers. Many geographers from Buffalo, of course (present company included), remember Alan as a graduate advisor who truly cared about his students and without exception, made them better researchers. On a personal note, Alan was a truly inspiring advisor, always ready with helpful suggestions and encouragement. Perhaps more importantly, he taught me not to take things so seriously and to keep everything in perspective...critically important advice! Beyond the academic tasks and accomplishments, all of us remember Alan as a good friend. To be honest and I think one finds general agreement here, there were few people who were more enjoyable to grab a beer, a sandwich, a chat, and a football (or hockey) game with than Alan. The fact that he was so genuinely fun to spend time with and moreover, that he was game for any adventure, is testament to his impact on his friends. Alan will be truly missed.

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