

EDITORIAL TRIBUTE: JAMES O. WHEELER, 1938-2010

James O. Wheeler, a valued friend, colleague, and member of *The Industrial Geographer* editorial board, passed away on December 9, 2010. Jim was widely known as one of the most prolific researchers and editors in the field of urban/economic geography. During a long and productive career, Jim wrote more than 150 articles, books, reviews, and other publications, and was broadly known and appreciated as founding co-editor of *Urban Geography*. His record of significant accomplishments within the discipline of geography is well-documented elsewhere (Adams 2011), so there is no need to repeat anything further here, aside from noting that his many achievements stand as a most impressive testament to his immense creativity, drive, and ambition.

Beyond Jim's many substantial research accomplishments, the legacy of Jim's career that will remain with me is his generous mentorship. Although I did not study under Jim in a formal sense, his service as external examiner on my doctoral defense in the mid-1990s provided me with an introduction to a man who was most open with his time and advice. Jim had no obvious reason to continue any interaction with me following my defense, but nevertheless he followed up with an encouraging letter and hints as to what might make for good publication material from my dissertation. Subsequent meetings at multiple AAG meetings, where he always made time to sit down for a good one-on-one chat, left me with an indelible impression of Jim's kind and helpful disposition. Given his constructive nature, it was entirely characteristic of the man that the final AAG session he organized (and kindly sponsored personally) was intended to raise the profile of *The Industrial Geographer*.

Jim was a solid and loyal friend and colleague. Such traits are not the ones that necessarily stand out on a public stage or gain a person much credit in the academic world, but they are the ones that distinguish the great from the good. Jim Wheeler was a great man, and he is missed.

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References

Adams, J.S. 2011. James O. Wheeler, 1938-2010: An Appreciation. *Urban Geography* 32(1): i-iv.