Mike Wilson — A Vision, An Adventure

David Weindorf will replace Mike Wilson, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service National Soil Survey Center, who served as editor since 2003. Under Wilson’s leadership Soil Survey Horizons became known for publishing articles with a vast appeal but an impressive variety. His efforts at finding unique articles took readers on historical journeys, across the globe, and into emerging areas of soil science research.

Wilson enthusiastically sought out interesting work that demonstrates the breadth of soil science today, as well as the many lives of soil scientists. He published articles about both once in a lifetime individual adventures and the impacts of regional or global trends on our work. He introduced a diversity that reflects our changing science, from embracing student work to encouraging international contributors, from exploring the latest techniques to the broader questions about what is soil, what is our work?

Wilson also worked to create a culture that matches the spirit of Soil Survey Horizons, facilitating a review process that improved the quality of the contributions while building community among soil scientists.

Wilson achieved a goal of elevating the quality of the contributions and the look and feel of Soil Survey Horizons to match the exciting developments in the field. He always said his stated goal was to grab the reader’s attention, making them curious enough to want to read an article when seeing it highlighted on the cover or noticing it in the table of contents rather than just throwing it on a desk, as we all have been known to do with mail in our busy lives.

We wish Mike the best of luck in his next endeavor and are confident that his enthusiasm and passion for soil science will lead to many new adventures.

Editor’s note: This article was compiled and published at the request of members of the editorial board.