

## FROM THE EDITORS

Volumes of *Geographia Polonica*, Special Issue Part 1 and 2 are dedicated to professor Leszek Starkel to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. The idea of this contribution, compiling a great deal of research papers, has been put forward by Starkel's friends and collaborators who, for many years, have been under his thought-provoking inspiration.

For over 50 years, Professor Leszek Starkel has carried out geographic research and published nearly 750 publications out of which more than half are innovative. He authored, co-authored or edited some 30 books. During his career, Starkel has been always instrumental in contributing to pioneering initiatives in geomorphology and palaeogeography. He was a leading figure of Polish and international research teams and also an inspiring author or editor of comprehensive regional and global syntheses printed by the most prominent publishers. In the 76th (2) volume of *Geographia Polonica* of 2003, which honours 50 years of scientific activity by Professor Leszek Starkel, the guest editor Professor Kenneth J. Gregory wrote: *Professor Starkel has revealed the breadth of his knowledge, his ability to see the relationship and correlations from one place to another and from one time to another, and he has also always been aware of the need to involve all relevant disciplines – a truly multidisciplinary, imaginative and innovative scientist.*

For his outstanding achievements in geomorphology, Professor Starkel has been awarded in Poland and by international societies, including the recent prestigious honorary membership of the International Association of Geomorphologists granted at IAG Regional Conference in Zaragoza in 2003. To express the gratitude to Professor Starkel as the prominent scientist, Polish Association of Geomorphologists awarded him the title of an honorary member in 1998.

The current volumes of *Geographia Polonica*, Special Issue, are a collection of papers by professor Starkel's international friends and collaborators. The collection presents a wide spectrum of questions related to relief evolution, environment transformation under changing climate and human impact, the topics that have been always the area of scientific interest of Professor Starkel. The contributions, the editorial board has received, were numerous and, therefore, they have been split into two harmonized volumes. One volume concentrates on relief evolution in the past while the second on transformation of relief and environment also under human impact.

The authors of the papers and the editors express to Professor Starkel their wishes of further long-lasting and fruitful contribution and devotion to progress in research.

*Zofia Rączkowska  
and Adam Kotarba*