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EDITORIAL

New Name, New Faces, and Recognition for 20 Years of Dedicated Service to the Scientific Community of the Gulf of Mexico

As most of you know, when Volume 14, Number 1 was published last year, the name of the journal changed from *Northeast Gulf Science* to *Gulf of Mexico Science*. At the same time, the journal reorganized and expanded its editorial structure by appointing five Associate Editors to coordinate reviews and to recommend manuscripts for publication. In the current issue, Volume 15, Number 1, another change has occurred. After serving as Editor for 20 years, Dr. Robert "Bob" L. Shipp has turned over these responsibilities to me.

Volume 1, Number 1 of *Northeast Gulf Science* rolled off the presses in June 1977 under Bob's leadership and was supported by an editorial board of 14 distinguished scientists and engineers from the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. Originally, the editor was to be Dr. George A. Rounsefell, but "Doc's" untimely death in 1976, shortly after his retirement from the University of Alabama, left a void in this position. The faculty of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab asked Bob if he would assume the editorship of the journal and he enthusiastically (or was that reluctantly) accepted. During the ensuing 20 years, 14

volumes (28 issues) were produced. This is truly a remarkable achievement considering that the journal has never had any full-time staff but instead has operated with editorial assistance and administrative support provided by the University of South Alabama and by the Dauphin Island Sea Lab on a part-time basis. In addition, the journal has had to weather the significant setbacks endured by the Sea Lab as a result of hurricanes Frederic (1979) and Elena (1985), as well as numerous lean budget years. Indeed, Bob and his key support staff, Jerolyn Cox, Amy Gonzales, and Connie Mallon, have provided an invaluable service to the scientific community of the Gulf of Mexico and it is my goal to continue this outstanding tradition in the future.

Finally, we have re-instituted the "Commentary" section in this issue with an insightful examination of "The nursery role of seagrass beds" by Heck, Nadeau, and Thomas. We hope to regularly publish both solicited and unsolicited contributions on emerging or controversial topics and invite submission of alternate views to any of our commentaries.

WILLIAM W. SCHROEDER, *Editor*