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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

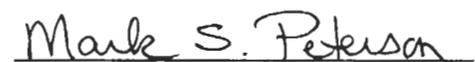
In the early 1960s, Dr. Gordon Gunter, then the Director of Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, almost singlehandedly developed the concept of *Gulf Research Reports* (GRR) as a mechanism “. . . devoted primarily to publication of the data of the Marine Sciences, chiefly of the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent waters”. The first issue appeared in April 1961 and since that time *Gulf Research Reports* has produced 34 issues covering over 280 reports on the resources and processes of the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent waters. Many of the papers in those early issues focused on local and regional issues, processes and problems. Through the years, however, papers appeared from authors outside the local and regional areas which focused on organisms and/or processes relevant to the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent waters. Papers have been published from scientists in Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Canada, Japan, Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea nations, giving a more international flavor to the journal. The Director of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) served as Editor of GRR until the 1997 issue.

The editorship of GRR was passed on to the late Dr. Harold D. Howse from Dr. Gordon Gunter beginning with the 1975 issue. At that time the journal was reformatted to a larger page size and a nominal page charge was, for the first time, assessed to help defray the cost of publication. The first “Guide to Authors” appeared in that issue and manuscripts had to be found acceptable by at least two referees (Howse, editorial in GRR 5(1)). Dr. Howse was Editor of GRR through 1992 with volume 8(4). Dr. Thomas D. McIlwain became Editor of GRR and guided the 1994 and 1995 issues to print. Interim GCRL Director, Dr. Robert T. van Aller, served as Editor of GRR for the 1996 issue. From 1989 until 1996 Ms. Susan Griggs acted as Assistant or Managing Editor of GRR and provided guidance with her expert editorial and managerial skills.

I formally became Editor-in-Chief of GRR with the 1997 issue and currently serve in that capacity. Changes in GRR procedures instituted in 1997 continue to be modified and refined today. GRR now has an Editorial Board that includes five GCRL scientists who, in association with Managing Editor Linda C. Skupien, provide vital information and guidance for the production of GRR. In 1998, the position of Editorial Associate was added and has been filled by S. Dawne Hard. The Editorial Board is chaired by the Editor-in-Chief. The role of the Editorial Board is to make policy for GRR. All changes and modifications to GRR are discussed, reviewed and voted on by the Editorial Board. A group of Associate Editors was appointed, including the scientists on the Editorial Board, the Editor-in-Chief and national and international experts to bring disciplinary depth and international perspective to GRR. All Associate Editors have a two-year appointment. This major change in GRR policy has

been an important and fruitful one. At this time we removed the page charges for published manuscripts and initiated a nominal subscription fee. The 1997 issue included a complete revision of the “Guide to Authors” and “Scope” of GRR, a change in the volume numbering sequence of GRR issues, and a minor redesign of the cover. The Editorial Board modified the cover again in the 1998 issue by including the new Institute of Marine Sciences logo in lieu of the GCRL logo. Finally, in the 1998 issue (Volume 10), the abstracts from the annual meeting of the Gulf Estuarine Research Society (GERS) were published in GRR. GERS abstracts will continue to appear in GRR. These changes were made to help our readership recognize the changes within the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, the supporting structure of GRR, (see Preface of Dr. D.J. Grimes in GRR Volume 10).

During 1998, the Editorial Board in consultation with Dr. Grimes began discussions about major changes in GRR. The changes we envisioned will result in the ultimate goal of making GRR a “. . . widely recognized source of scientific information that underpins the understanding, planning, and management of Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean natural resources and processes” (see Preface of Dr. D.J. Grimes in GRR Volume 10). Our goal was thus to reformulate and repackage the original vision of GRR. At the 1998 Editorial Board meeting in December, we voted to again update the “Guide to Authors” and the “Scope” to better reflect our mission and audience. We also voted to remove a published submission deadline such that more manuscripts might be submitted to the journal with the ultimate vision of publishing two issues annually. We voted to change the name of the journal from *Gulf Research Reports* to *Gulf and Caribbean Research*. This change will become effective in Volume 12 published in the year 2000. We feel this name change will more accurately reflect the scope of the papers published in the journal; and we hope our readership will enjoy our new look and name, which we feel will support and extend the original vision of its founder Dr. Gordon Gunter. As this issue was going to press, Dr. Gordon Gunter passed away at the age of 89 on 19 December 1998. The Editorial Board dedicates this issue to his memory and long standing in the Marine Science Community. He will be long remembered as the founder of *Gulf Research Reports*.



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