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Foreword: Charting a Course for *Gulf of Mexico Science*

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FOREWORD

Charting a course for *Gulf of Mexico Science*

As chance would have it, Will Schroeder dropped by the Sea Lab yesterday for a visit while on vacation from “retirement” in Colorado. Conversations with Will have always been enjoyable because he provides me with a sense of *place* here along the Gulf of Mexico. Stories that transcend mere scientific rhetoric of the “old days” become sometimes hilarious accounts of personalities and situations. I suspect if Steinbeck had lived in Bayou La Batre he might have based the character of Doc on Will Schroeder rather than on Ed Ricketts. So, as I begin my own tenure as Editor of our beloved journal, I think the greatest tribute to Will’s hard work is to have *Gulf of Mexico Science* be the guidepost for this *place*.

The transition of *Gulf of Mexico Science* from Will to me has been pleasant owing to the great shape in which Will left the journal. Yet, with transition comes a few changes. Foremost is that we now handle submission and review of manuscripts electronically through Allen Press at <http://goms.allentrack2.net>. Though not without kinks, this transition is already proving its worth by decreasing handling time of manuscripts through review and increasing the efficiency of communications between our editorial staff, associate editors, and authors. Please visit the website and register your area of expertise.

Certainly the life-blood of any scientific journal is the communication of research among scientists. Editors of journals are faced with a two-fold task: maintain manuscript submission and maintain readership. Hopefully, electronic handling of manuscripts will facilitate the former, and I will be addressing readership through

increased graduate student involvement as well as through more “dedicated” issues. In fact, the next dedicated issue will be particularly interesting: a retrospective on marine laboratories of the Gulf of Mexico.

Gulf of Mexico Science is, and should always be, a journal of regional scope. Yet, I must admit, it is easy to forget that our region includes three countries (two of which are primarily Spanish speaking) and five U.S. states. Like Will, I believe it is very important to continue reaching out to marine scientists in the southern Gulf, though increased submissions from Mexico and Cuba will have challenges for the journal, and I hope to count on many of you to assist our small editorial staff with language translation.

I would be remiss as Editor not to mention money. Like everything else, the cost of publishing continues to increase. Looking back, *Gulf of Mexico Science* has not raised its annual subscription rate from \$4 in over a decade, and the Executive Director and I feel it is time to make a small adjustment to offset some of the journal’s costs. Be assured, though, that a bargain is to be had by maintaining your subscription.

Let me conclude by again congratulating Will Schroeder on a job very well done. I can only hope to maintain the trajectory he set for *Gulf of Mexico Science*. To all of you, I thank you for your continued support of the journal, and I look forward to my tenure as Editor.

William (Monty) Graham, *Editor*
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