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In Memoriam: Remembering Asa Green

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IN MEMORIAM

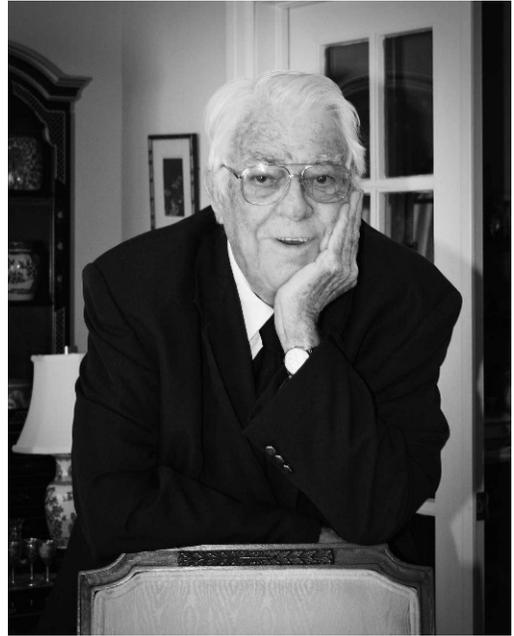
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REMEMBERING ASA GREEN—Dr. Asa Green, second Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium (MESC), passed away in March, 2012 at his home in Livingston, AL. He is being widely lauded for his twenty-year term as president of the University of West Alabama, 1973–1993. It is much less known that he led the board of the MESC, better known as the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL), for the last ten of those years as well.

He succeeded Dr. Frederick Whiddon, president of the University of South Alabama, who was the founding chair for the first ten years of the existence of MESC. He faced the double challenges of transition and extreme financial difficulty as the budget for the DISL was cut by 25% under Governor Fob James' first administration. Dr. Green was the ultimate calm and straightforward leader who was critical to the laboratory at a time when the entire facility was placed on a 4-day work week. The staff and faculty did not recover from that setback for many years.

Asa was a good friend to DISL and the University of South Alabama, where he served many years on the USA Foundation as chair. More importantly to me, he was personally kind in his treatment of me as executive director. He was a master of the academic culture, relations with Montgomery, and generous with his counsel, something I sorely needed at the time.

University of West Alabama was Livingston University at the time and well regarded as a “teachers college,” and Dr. Green was quick to assess the value of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab in the role of teacher training. The state was in the early stages of pushing science education majors to dramatically increase the content components of their training. In-service teachers were being “encouraged” to get advanced certifications or Master’s degrees, and he moved quickly to provide graduate credit through UWA using



the curriculum at DISL’s Discovery Hall Programs to provide the material. He got the tuition, which he shared with the laboratory, and more importantly, the head count of graduate students and certificates issued. I said he was a master of the culture.

There have only been four chairmen of the board of directors and I can say honestly that he may have been one of the most personally engaged—at least in my experience! I will miss him, and the DISL owes him an enormous amount of gratitude. His patience, genuine concern, and gentlemanly approach to academic management should be a model for all.

GEORGE F. CROZIER, *Retired Executive Director, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island, Alabama.*