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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

As one famous Mississippi songwriter exclaims “Changes in latitudes, changes in attitudes, nothing appears quite the same” applies not only to life but to the *Gulf and Caribbean Research*. Since I became Editor-in-Chief starting with the 1997 issue, many changes and attitudes have changed regarding what the “Scope” of the journal should be (see *Gulf Research Reports*, volume 11 editorial), its scholastic and scientific value, and how it is managed and produced. We have come a long way from the first issue in 1961. Much of those changes were directly influenced by the expert guidance and energy of Sigrid “Dawne” Hard, who recently retired as Managing Editor of this journal. Dawne was integral to all aspects of this journal and brought it to a higher level of scholarship by her dedication to how the journal looked and her persistence on how it was edited. She could be a taskmaster but always with the goal of a better product. I miss her and her energy and talents and she made this journal better for all her dedicated work.

Luckily (for me) I was able to replace her with other talented and hard working professionals; Diana Reid (Graphic Designer), Angela R. Bone (Administrative Assistant) and Nancy J. Brown-Peterson (Assistant Editor) who share the duties of layout of manuscripts, tracking manuscripts, and editing for style and format, respectively. We are also lucky to continue to have Joyce M. Shaw (Librarian) to assist us with literature accuracy issues. We have made this transition with limited difficulties and have made some additional modifications in the journal. We have changed the format and style to make it more contemporary, have changed the cover to better reflect our “Scope,” and now have additional early editing making the final product more consistent and accurate. All of this has allowed me to better focus on manuscript quality for the journal.

As we continue to evolve at *Gulf and Caribbean Research* our gratitude is extended to Dr. William Hawkins (GCRL Director) for his guidance and support of this 47 year old journal!



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