



An introductory note from the new editors

Andrew Green¹ · Gabriele Uenzelmann-Neben² · Karin R. Bryan³

Published online: 28 April 2018

© Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2018

January 2018 heralds some exciting changes at Geo-Marine Letters. After nineteen years of heading the editorial team as Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor, Burg Flemming and Monique Delafontaine passed on the torch to a new team of Editors-in-Chief, consisting of Karin Bryan (University of Waikato, New Zealand), Andrew Green (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa), and Gabriele Uenzelmann-Neben (Alfred-Wegener-Institute, Germany). We, the incoming editors, would like to thank Burg and Monique for their enthusiastic and dedicated service to the marine geoscience community. Their commitment and efforts have resulted in a steady increase in the international profile of Geo-Marine Letters; their labours over the many submissions received by the journal have substantially improved the quality of the papers in both scientific content and prose. Likewise, their professional handling of the journal also ensured a rapid processing of manuscripts thereby guaranteeing a quick publication of state-of-the-art science to a broad and multidisciplinary marine geoscience audience. For many younger scientists from around the world (one of the editors included!), Burg and Monique also provided a critical sounding board for their ideas and gave some much-needed guidance into many early forays into the murky world of peer-review publication. For those of us lucky enough to have been on the receiving end of this advice, we will be forever indebted.

As the incoming editors, we aim to continue the commitment, professionalism, and energy dedicated by Burg

and Monique. This will be accompanied by a few changes, one of which will be the refocusing of the format in which the manuscripts are received. We will soon be encouraging authors to submit manuscripts in a long-letter type format (i.e. a 4-5 page long manuscript). These shorter articles are hoped to prompt the rapid publication of exciting new findings in a focused format for our increasingly busy readership. The scope of the journal will remain the same, with a strong focus on processes, products, and techniques in applied marine geology, geophysics, and geochemistry. We intend to serve the scientific community by providing our readers with access to high-quality, novel and exciting ideas and methods that are clearly communicated. By providing a shorter letter format, this will allow us to fill a niche in the marine geoscience community and increase the journal's global relevance and appeal.

We believe that the change in editorship style, by introducing three editors of differing fields of expertise, will inspire the submission of quality papers along these themes. This will go hand in hand with a newly revised editorial board that will span a variety of research thrusts to compliment those of the editor-in-chiefs'. In this light, the submission process will be slightly modified to help authors identify the best possible handling editor by expertise, and thus expedite the processing of the manuscript. Our ultimate goal is to move the field of marine geosciences forward. In so doing, we aim to deliver fair and transparent decisions to authors based on appropriate and constructive reviews.

As we step into the New Year, and begin to take over the handling processes and decision making, it is with a sense of excitement and optimism for the future of the journal. We are eager to take the helm; despite the large shoes we have been left to fill. Burg and Monique set the standard high, we will continue in this manner and are looking forward to receiving your interesting papers over the forthcoming years.

All the best

Andy, Gabi and Karin

✉ Andrew Green
greena1@ukzn.ac.za

¹ Geological Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X54001, 3629 Westville, South Africa

² Alfred-Wegener-Institut Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar-und Meeresforschung, Am Alten Hafen 26, 27568 Bremerhaven, Germany

³ University of Waikato, School of Science, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand