Welcome to a new year of the *Geological Society of America Bulletin*. We would like to offer a special welcome to the new associate editors (AEs) and a special thank you to those who have served as AEs over the past few years. The active role of AEs is crucial to the quality of science published in *GSA Bulletin*. We also depend on AEs to ensure that articles are published in a timely fashion, and we thank you all, in advance, for your efforts over the coming year.

**The GSA Bulletin Process**

For the benefit of new AEs, but also of interest to potential reviewers and authors, our peer-review procedure is as follows:

1. Manuscripts are submitted online to the editorial office;
2. Manuscripts are alternately assigned to one of the co-editors (Karl Karlstrom or Brendan Murphy);
3. The editor requests an AE to guide the manuscript through the review process;
4. The AE selects several potential reviewers and informs the editorial assistant. These potential reviewers are then contacted by the editorial assistant until two (or more) agree to review the manuscript;
5. The reviewers access the manuscript through the GSA Web site and then submit their reviews;
6. When all of the reviews have been received, the AE is notified. The AE then sends a report to the co-editor that summarizes the findings of the reviewers and includes the AE’s own recommendation and evaluation of the manuscript;
7. The co-editor makes the decision and contacts the author.

**Statistics**

Over the past few years, *GSA Bulletin* has received 200–250 articles per year, and the editorial office expects to receive more than 200 submissions again in 2007. The annual rejection rate is about 40%. For *GSA Bulletin*, initial “acceptances” are commonly followed by one or two substantial revisions that help improve the papers. The disciplinary breadth of papers continues to increase, as does international participation and recognition of the journal. *GSA Bulletin* currently ranks 18th of 286 journals in the citation index’s “impact factor” (currently at 2.562). Its articles have a half life greater than ten years, a statistic that reflects its niche as a venue for studies of high archival quality.

A recent major improvement is the reduction in time from submission to final publication. *GSA Bulletin* editors and AEs have worked hard for the past several years to reduce this time, and the most recent innovation of publishing in-press papers has further reduced this time by more than 20 weeks. The present time from acceptance to online, in-press publication is 12 weeks. At this time, the article is assigned a doi number and a PDF of the paper and the accompanying Data Repository items are posted on GSA’s Web site. The article will appear in print when it is assigned to an issue.

**The Future**

We want to ensure that *GSA Bulletin* remains a prime outlet for mature, data-rich, high-profile geoscientific research that will be of wide interest to the GSA readership. We also want to continue to emphasize the need for papers of high archival quality.

In particular:

1. **We hope to further reduce the time from submission to publication.** The careers of many pre-tenure researchers, post-docs, and graduate students depend on getting results into print in a timely fashion. Here, we rely on the vigilance of the AEs to ensure that the reviewers complete their task in a timely fashion and that a report and recommendation to the co-editor follows as swiftly as possible.

2. **We wish to increase the breadth of topics covered.** Although *GSA Bulletin* endeavors to publish high-quality articles across the breadth of the earth sciences, the statistics show that about 40% of submissions are in the areas of tectonics or Quaternary geology. Clearly, we are viewed as an outlet by scientists in those fields, and we intend to maintain that role. We believe, however, that *GSA Bulletin* would be strengthened if it reflected the research of the entire Society; we endeavor to become the venue of choice in many subdisciplines.

3. **We want to encourage submissions from authors based in a wide range of countries.** About 50% of all papers are currently submitted by authors based in the United States. Of the 23 other contributing countries, only China and Canada have substantial submission rates. We believe *GSA Bulletin* is increasingly a journal of international scope and our readership would be interested in the high-quality geoscience being done by our colleagues in other countries.

As a closing note, we would like to acknowledge and thank Yildirim Dilek, outgoing science editor, for his outstanding endeavors over the past four years to improve the journal. Those of you who worked closely with him, we are sure, will join us in thanking him for his service.

Yours Sincerely,

**Karl E. Karlstrom**
University of New Mexico

**Brendan Murphy**
St. Francis Xavier University

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