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## Editorial

This editorial was started some months ago, but the pace of running an editorial office delayed finishing until early winter. Our efforts have been focused on making sure the Journal is running smoothly and moving forward on several fronts.

The first announcement is one that most readers will clearly be aware of, and it is that Tom Blenkinsop of the University of Zimbabwe has joined the Journal as an Associate Editor. Tom brings a broad range of expertise and experience in structural geology, economic geology, and geographical coverage. This change was brought about by Sue Treagus' retirement from the Chief Editor position, and my moving up to that position. We welcome Tom and thank him for agreeing to serve as an Associate Editor.

In addition, we have had some changes in the Editorial Advisory Board. Leaving the board are Professor Takeshi Uemura and Professor Jean Pierre Burg. Professor Uemura leaves as a result of his retirement, and Professor Burg is now an editor for Tectonophysics. We wish both well, and thank them for their service to the Journal. Additions to the board include Professor Laurel Goodwin of New Mexico Tech., Dr Peter Henning of Mobil Exploration Technology in Texas, Professor Ben van der Pluijm of the University of Michigan, Professor Hideo Takagi of Wasda University in Japan, and Dr. Emanuel Willemse of Shell, Netherlands. These changes add new blood to the advisory board, and broaden it with some workers in industry. As mentioned in my first editorial, more changes will be made to reflect growing submissions and readership in other regions. We have received more manuscript submissions this year than ever before, and an increasing number are from countries which have historically been under-represented in the Journal.

We are pleased to announce that the Journal has entered the era of electronic communications in several ways. Along with titles, abstracts for all articles in the Journal can now be found in the web site <http://www.elsevier.nl/locate/jstrugeo>. In addition, JSG has been added to the Science Direct system, which is Elsevier publishing company's electronic accessible system for many of their journals. A number of libraries throughout the world now subscribe to this system, and it can be accessed via <http://www.sciencedirect.com>.

Volume 21 also marks noticeable changes in the Journal style. Page layout, page size, and various editorial changes are the result of the need for clearer images in PDF formats, electronic indexing and cataloging of references, and what we hope will be smoother conversions from authors' files of the final drafts of the manuscript to the printed page. Such changes are not taken lightly, but the efforts towards more rapid and efficient publication of papers were the reasons the publisher decided to undertake the reformatting.

As a result, new 'Instructions for Contributors' can now be found in the Journal detailing submission of Brevia or discussion/reply to the editorial office electronically and highlighting changes to reference style. Small modifications have been made to the 'Statement of Editorial and Publication Policies' to reflect multi-authored papers. Authors wishing to submit Brevia, discussions and replies, and book reviews electronically should contact our office for details. Currently, the editorial office can easily read Microsoft files, Corel WordPerfect, Illustrator, Photoshop, Canvas, Cricket Graph, KaleidaGraph, Quark Xpress, Pagemaker, and Corel Draw. Other programs can be supported as the need arises, but authors should contact the editorial office before submitting a paper with another type of program. Both Macintosh and IBM-PC compatible platforms are supported by the office; UNIX-based submissions done with LaTeX may also be supported upon request.

One of my goals as editor is to develop a platform by which a variety of research results can be presented that are not limited to a paper page. We are happy to announce that a beta version of a web-based system to present such results is now being tested, and should be working in 1999. The site will be maintained by the publisher, but will be accessible to all users of the World-Wide Web. Large data files, results of models which depict the evolution of structures through time, on three-dimensional graphics could be submitted with a paper. Upon acceptance, the electronic annexes will be stored in a journal-related web site with free access. Authors wishing to use this system should contact the editorial office before submitting such papers. Because the paper journal is still the best way to archive the results of research, the content of the paper must stand alone. Material in the annexes can support or help visualize results.

Two issues for which we ask input from the authors and reviewers concern photographs and sending a standard manuscript via the electronic system. Many authors are now submitting photographs which have been acquired in a digital format initially, or scanned and formatted into an electronic file. However, some authors are reluctant to lose the resolution that sometimes results from these processes, and still wish to submit photographic prints. As an author who often publishes photomicrographs, I am sympathetic to this concern, and if an author wishes to submit real photographs, our office will certainly support this.

In the new world of electronic submissions, we should ideally receive a file from an author, send the papers on to the Associate Editor electronically, and they in turn, would send it on to the reviewers in the same fashion, who then could print out a copy, and

send the review back in the same way. However, we are aware that editors and reviewers deal with our papers in a variety of places, including hotel rooms, cabins, tents, rafts, planes, trains, cars, trucks, mining bunkhouses, and the like, and it seems premature to attempt a pure electronic system in a world which is still a mixture of digital and analog signals. We would like reader and author input to the idea of submitting papers electronically—what the perceived advantages and disadvantages might be.

We thank all authors who submit their papers to the Journal, and to all of the reviewers who help insure that quality results are published. We will continue to try to improve the operations of the editorial office and the quality of the Journal.

*Jim Evans*  
November, 1998