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The first Secretary-Treasurer of our Association, Dr. Juan G. González Lagoa, is a remarkable administrator having been head of 23 major organizations for the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the last 50 years. He actually missed the first meeting of the Association at his University because he was completing a masters degree in Texas. However, soon afterwards he became the Secretary-Treasurer (1957-1969) taking the AIMLC through the difficult formative years. He made up for his initial lapsus by continuing to be an AMLC Individual Member for 50 years. He also filled in for Lucy and me as AMLC Secretary-Treasurer again while we were in Japan (1985-1986). Beside running the Association, he coordinated cooperative research projects and cruises supported by the Office of Naval Research. He brought another laboratory that he directed, the Center for Energy and Environmental Research, into Association Institutional Membership in 1978. Dr. Juan G. Gonzalez Lagoa was born 19 January 1933 in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, received a BS in Zoology at UPRM 1955, MS in Biological Oceanography at Texas A & M University 1957, and a PhD at the University of Rhode Island 1973. In 1957, he was hired by the Institute of Marine Biology that later became the Department of Marine Science, UPRM, as an Assistant Professor and Research Associate until 1967 when he left to pursue a PhD Degree; EPA, Environmental Research Laboratory in Narragansett, RI, Research Aquatic Biologist 1969-1976; Senior Scientist, Center for Energy and Environmental Research, UPRM 1979-1981; Associate Professor, Department of Marine Science, UPRM 1981-1987; Professor 1987-2000, and Associate Dean twice. He has graduated 10 PhD and 13 Master’s students. He has conducted 32 major grants and research projects with more than $32 million in funding. He has enriched the educational experiences of millions of students through lectures, workshops, TV programs, videos, and field trips. We are aware of no other Super-Administrator so generous with their time for the young. We are honored to be considered friends of such an outstanding academician and statesman.

Keywords: distinguished service award, Juan Gonzalez, Secretary-Treasurer