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Dear Readers and Friends,

As I write this, the world is in the midst of the worst economic crisis in a century and we face a global pandemic the likes of which has not been witnessed in at least two generations. Covid-19’s effects have left neither the Delta nor this journal untouched. Tragic loss of life, especially in New Orleans but in all the states of our region, have shaken us; losses of jobs and incomes have impacted many many residents, resulting in long lines and low stocks at food pantries; a “hunker down and bunker down” mindset has led to shortages of common household goods and groceries.

Meanwhile, Arkansas State University has closed and remains so for the foreseeable future, with all classes taught online and non-essential personnel asked to remain home. The good folks at the ASU printshop as well as my editorial team are among the many of us who are not on campus. For the journal, this situation means for the first time an issue will be released in electronic form before the print issue is ready. It is unclear when this issue will be plated and printed; equally unclear, when it will be mailed.

With luck, that day will come in the relatively near future, and—in the face of probable state and university budget cuts for our next fiscal year (2020-2021)—the delayed release of the print version of this issue will not set a precedent. It is my sincere hope that our print journal will not become another casualty of this plague year.

Yours, Marcus C. Tribbett