NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2004 is certainly a year of change for AMS. Those of you who did not attend the Annual Meeting in New Orleans will be surprised by one obvious change: this is a message from the Acting President and it is not coming from Ruth Dewel. Ruth is busily arranging our AMS Symposium for the 2005 San Diego meeting, “The New Microscopy: Toward a New Phylogenetic Synthesis,” and at the New Orleans meeting asked if I would consider handling the presidential duties this year so that she could devote her considerable energies to the Symposium. Since I first suggested the idea for the Symposium several years ago but did virtually nothing to pursue it, I (perhaps naively) thought this was appropriate, as did the Executive Committee. Ruth is putting together a marvelous symposium that promises to meld rapidly growing techniques in microscopy with the equally rapidly developing findings in animal phylogeny. Ruth deserves all of our support and thanks for her efforts, and I encourage all of you to attend it.

A second change for AMS will also be evident from our list of Officers. Julian Smith, who ably handled the office of Treasurer for two three-year terms, was re-elected to a third term in January. However, Julian is facing increasing demands on his time from various fronts, and realized that it would be difficult to continue on as Treasurer. In Julian’s place, Bruce Conn has graciously agreed to serve as Treasurer for the next three years. This office operates largely transparently to most of us at AMS. It is usually not until we read the Annual Treasurer’s Report and wade through the financial details that we have an inkling of the work and responsibility associated with the office. On behalf of the Society, I thank Bruce for his willingness to serve in this capacity, and I especially want to thank Julian for his years of service, and for attending to the
generally thankless details of dealing with the Society’s finances. Finally, thanks to Mary Beth Thomas and Bill Hummon for their efforts in facilitating the change.

Yet a third change is on the horizon as I write these words. For years our journal (Invertebrate Biology, previously the Transactions of the American Microscopical Society) has been published by AMS, but we have contracted printing to Allen Press. That is soon to change: Allen Press and other publishers have presented the Executive Committee with proposals to become co-publishing partners with AMS, with the promise of increased royalty income and other benefits to the Society. These benefits include on-line publication / access and on-line handling of manuscripts, as well as increased visibility of our journal, to name several. We are currently reviewing these proposals, and will inform you of our decision, and its implications for the Society and the journal, in the Fall Newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Committee for their input on these proposals, and give BIG thanks to Pat Reynolds, our Editor, and Vicki Pearse, Founding Editor, for all of the considerable time and effort that they have put in on this question. This is certainly the largest decision that we have had to make since TAMS became Invertebrate Biology. Pat’s efforts have already resulted in a major advance: JSTOR, who is involved with the digital archiving and on-line access of journals, has invited IB to join their on-line archive. This would include not only past issues of IB, but also all of TAMS, and its two short-lived predecessors, Proceedings of the American Microscopical Society, and the Proceedings of the American Society of Microscopists. These collective date back to 1880, making the series one of the oldest biological journals in the US.

We have our annual election coming up in the Fall, and we need candidates for President-Elect, Program Officer and Member-at-Large. I urge any of you who are either interested in being a candidate, or who know of someone who is, to contact either Steve Gardiner or myself. With the changes in publication of Invertebrate Biology, AMS looks forward to an exciting future, and our officers are an important part of that future.

Fortunately there are some AMS things that have not changed. Our Photomicrography contest, now most appropriately named the Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Excellence in Photomicrography Competition, continued at the New Orleans meeting (as it will in San Diego). This year two individuals shared in producing the winning micrograph, which was a stunning photo of a pilidium larva: David Matus and Patricia Murata, both of the Kewalo Marine Laboratory in Hawaii. This year saw a record number of applicants for our Summer Research Fellowship competition, so ably organized by President-Elect Vicki Pearse. I am pleased to announce that this year’s recipient is Glen Elliott of the University of Alberta, who will use the funds to investigate contractile mechanisms in sponge cells. Our congratulations and best wishes to all three winners!

Finally, I encourage all of you to contact any of the officers if you have comments or suggestions about AMS or Invertebrate Biology. A society is only as good as its members make it, and we need your input and perspective.

Have a great summer!

Clay

Clayton B. Cook
Acting President

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Please recall that the Executive Committee made the decision to publish the complete Newsletter only online. Please go to the Society’s web site (http://www.amicros.org) for the complete Newsletter which includes all of the information from the New Orleans meeting. At the New Orleans meeting, the Secretary requested, and the Executive Committee approved, the return to the publication of two Newsletters each year. The main reason for the request was the recognition that a single Newsletter constrained the time required to identify candidates for offices of the Executive Committee. Elections for President-Elect for 2005, Program Officer, and Member-at-Large will be held with the announcement of candidates in the Fall Newsletter.
NOTES ON STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AND 2005 SYMPOSIUM

(submitted by Dr. Ruth Dewel)

Report on the Student Research Fellowship

The Student Research Fellowship Committee set a postmark deadline of March 15, 2003, for proposals for the Student Research Fellowship and indicated that the award would be made by April 15. The committee received a total of eight applications for the fellowship. All proposals were of very high quality but the one from Ms. Maille Lyons entitled “Linking Pathogens to Molluscan Shellfish: The Role of Marine Aggregates” was outstanding and received a unanimous recommendation for the award. Maille is doctoral student in the lab of Dr. J. Evan Ward in the Department of Marine Sciences at the University of Connecticut. The goal of her study was to examine the utilization of flocculent material (marine aggregates) by suspension-feeding organisms to determine if aggregates are utilized and if they serve as a vector for bacterial and protistan diseases. A letter of congratulations was sent to Ms. Lyons on April 15 th. The letter indicated that the recipient of the award needed to file a report to be published in the AMS Newsletter on how the funds contributed to the success of the research project by April 30, 2004. The chair of the committee received and forwarded a check for $700 from the Treasurer of AMS the week of June 9 th. Ms. Lyons received this check on June 16 th.

I give heartfelt thanks to fellow committee members, Mary Beth Thomas and Bill Hummon for all of their advice and help in evaluating the proposals.

Report on the 2005 Symposium

Planning for the symposium, “The New Microscopy: Toward a Phylogenetic Synthesis” that AMS is organizing is progressing well. The symposium has received approval from the SICB Program Committee. The committee gave two recommendations. The first is that we modify the title. Two alternative titles were suggested, “The New Microscopy: Toward a Phylogenetic Synthesis for the Major Invertebrate Lineages” and “The New Microscopy: Insights in Invertebrate Morphology and Phylogenetic Relationships.” A concern with adopting either of these titles is that use of the term “invertebrates” may restrict the subject matter and would not be used by people in systematic and evolutionary biology because it refers to a paraphyletic taxon. The second suggestion is that AMS develop an accompanying workshop in microscopy and imaging techniques. The Program Committee was very enthusiastic about encouraging us to organize such a workshop, feeling that it would generate a great deal of interest from SICB attendees. A possible concern regarding this suggestion is that the symposium organizing committee would not have the time/resources to devote to developing two events for the 2005 meeting.

Additional considerations center on the number of participants and scheduling of their talks given time constraints imposed by afternoon poster sessions and the Executive and Business meeting for the Society.

Many thanks must go to fellow symposium organizing committee members, Kathy Coates, Mary Beth Thomas, Clay Cook, and Julian Smith for all their work on this project.

AMERICAN MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP REPORT

(Secretary's Note: The original figures for this report are rendered in color. Please go to the Society's web site to obtain a PDF copy of the report that includes the original color figures.)

M. MAILLE LYONS
Department of Marine Sciences, University of Connecticut
Linking Pathogens to Molluscan Shellfish: The Role of Marine Aggregates

OBJECTIVE: Evaluate the capacity of marine aggregates to function as environmental reservoirs and abiotic vectors for pathogenic protistans to benthic, suspension-feeding molluscan shellfish (e.g., oysters, clams, scallops, mussels).

INTRODUCTION: Aggregations of organic and inorganic particles are ubiquitous in the marine environment. These marine aggregates (e.g., marine snow, flocs, amorphous detritus, particulate organic matter) are enriched with bacteria, phytoplankton, protistans and metazoans. My thesis work combines field surveys with laboratory experiments to assess the ecological role of marine aggregates as a link between marine pathogens and suspension-feeding, molluscan shellfish. It is hypothesized that marine aggregates enhance the transmission of shellfish diseases in two ways: (1) as reservoirs, if aggregates are enriched with marine pathogens; and (2) as vectors, if pathogen-laden, marine aggregates are more readily captured by the gills of suspension-feeding bivalves (Figure 1). Oysters, clams, scallops and mussels have relatively low retention efficiencies for individual, pathogen-size particles (Riisgard, 1988; Mohlenberg and Riisgard, 1978) yet, human and molluscan pathogens are often concentrated within these bivalves. The processing (i.e., capture, retention, transport, ingestion and rejection) of large, microorganism-enriched, marine aggregates is not well understood. Marine aggregates are often overlooked in field studies because they are destroyed by traditional sampling equipment such as plankton nets. Simon et al., (2002) recently reviewed the microbial ecology of aggregates and found that those studies that have used appropriate collection techniques have shown that individual marine aggregates vary in size, shape, porosity, density and composition. Biological composition of aggregates is a reflection of geographical location, depth, age, community structure, seasonality and/or mechanism of formation. Aggregates are microhabitats of enhanced productivity, enriched with an array of organisms, including eubacteria, cyanobacteria, phytoplankton, foraminifera, heterotrophic flagellates, ciliates, various zooplankters, and even some benthic organisms such as turbellarians, nematodes, polychaetes, ascidians, molluscs and salps (references in Simon et al., 2002). Also found embedded within the mucus matrix of marine aggregates are abandoned feeding structures (e.g., larvacean houses, pteropods webs), fecal pellets, macrophyte pieces, mineral grains, fungal spores, sponge spicules and unrecognizable detritus (Silver and Alldredge, 1981).

METHODS: To test my hypothesis, laboratory procedures developed for pathogen detection within bivalve tissues must be applied to pathogen detection in environmental samples. I started by making artificially enriched marine aggregates in the laboratory using the rolling table method of Shanks and Edmonson (1989). Artificial aggregates enriched with cultured pathogens were collected, dried, and fixed for analysis via in situ hybridization to confirm the application of the techniques.

RESULTS: Histological detection procedures may be used to detect pathogens in environmental samples. First, artificially-enriched marine aggregates should be generated, with and without,
cultured pathogens to verify that detection is feasible and determine what aggregates, with and without pathogens, look like after processing. Second, natural aggregates should be collected and screened using the artificial aggregates results for visual comparison (i.e., positive controls).

FELLOWSHIP BUDGET: The money awarded via this fellowship was used for the construction of a second rolling table and for the purchase of supplies needed for the detection procedures. This allowed me to verify the application of the detection procedures for environmental samples and continue my research with natural marine aggregates. I am very grateful to the American Microscopy Society for this award. I hope that you will continue to sponsor student research.

REFERENCES


ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY

New Orleans, Louisiana

5-9 January 2004

Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee

The annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Microscopical Society was convened at 8:16 p.m. on 7 January 2004 in the Galvey Room of the New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, Louisiana. In attendance were President William Hummon, President-Elect Ruth Dewel, Past-President Mary Beth Thomas, Past-President Clayton Cook, Treasurer by Appointment D. Bruce Conn, Secretary Stephen L. Gardiner, Program Officer Kathryn Coates, Member-at-Large Susie Balser, Chair of the Spencer-Tolles Fund Committee Donald Munson, Editor of Invertebrate Biology Vicki Pearse, Co-Editor of Invertebrate Biology Patrick Reynolds, and by special invitation Nancy Olsen of Wiley Publishers.

President William Hummon introduced Ms. Olsen who initiated a discussion of how Wiley and the Society might team together to publish Invertebrate Biology. She indicated that she could not offer a formal proposal at this time but continued by providing background information about Wiley and the types of journals it publishes. She said that a color budget could be created for the journal to subsidize one or two color pages per issue per year. Beyond that number, authors may have to pay charges. Dr. Pearse asked about digitizing back issues, and Ms. Olsen said that Wiley would do so for all issues of Invertebrate Biology but wait on a decision to digitize earlier issues of the Transactions of the American Microscopical Society. Dr. Reynolds asked what would happen to the Society’s revenue, and Ms. Olsen indicated that the Society would receive a royalty payment of perhaps $10,000 per year initially. Dr. Cook stated that the Society currently pays honoraria to the Editor and Co-Editor, but Wiley would pay them in the future. Dr. Conn asked if Wiley would set membership fees, but the Secretary indicated that this was not possible because of Constitutional constraints. Dr. Reynolds asked if Wiley had an on-line review process, and Ms. Olsen said that they were developing a pilot program at the time. The Secretary offered a motion to request Wiley to submit a formal proposal to the Editor to publish Invertebrate Biology. The motion was approved. The Secretary then offered a motion for the approval of the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of 2003. The motion was approved.

Dr. Coates continued the meeting with the Program Officer’s report. She first offered a motion that two prizes be awarded in the photomicrography contest, one for color and one for black and white and each at $50. The motion was approved. The Committee then approved a motion that the book Sea Life in Focus, A Memoir by Douglas P. Wilson would be awarded to the winner in the black and white photograph category. Dr. Coates next said that submissions were up 33% this year and that the 2005 symposium was moving ahead well. Dr. Pearse asked if the Society was the only sponsor of the symposium, and Dr. Coates noted that there were five co-sponsors. Dr. Coates next indicated that pressure was mounting to change the time of oral presentations to 15 minutes and symposium presentations to 30 minutes. Dr. Hummon offered that there were too many concurrent sessions and posters, and that SICB was attempting to reduce the number of symposia. Dr. Coates told the Committee that the agenda for the 2005 meeting was in place: the symposium would be held the first full day of the meeting, the Executive Committee meeting on the second full day, and the Past-Presidential address and Society luncheon on the third full day. She also stated that upgrades to the Society’s booth would be in place in 2005. A discussion then occurred involving an assessment of the Society’s social on the previous evening. There was general agreement that the Society’s presence was not evident and must be improved at future social events.

The Secretary offered his report first by noting the following election results: President-Elect for 2004 Vicki Pearse, Treasurer Julian P. S. Smith, III (Secretary’s Note: by an approved motion Dr. Bruce Conn was appointed as Treasurer following the resignation of Dr. Smith), Chair, Spencer-Tolles Fund Committee John Clamp, and Member-at-Large Calhoun Bond. The Secretary indicated that one Newsletter had been published in December. The delay was the result of difficulties in identifying candidates for the Society’s positions on the Executive Committee.
Emeritus memberships were granted in 2003 to Edward B. Lyke and William Dewel. The Secretary indicated that no deaths of members had been reported and no contributors to the Spencer-Tolles Fund were known. The Secretary completed his report by noting that elections in 2004 were needed for President-Elect for 2005, Program Officer (2005-2007) and Member-at-Large (2005-2007).

The Editor of *Invertebrate Biology* next offered her report. She began her report by noting that major changes in staffing of the Journal had occurred. Dr. Reynolds had been appointed as Editor (2004-2006) and Dr. Balser had been appointed as Co-Editor for a three-year term. Dr. Reynolds offered a motion to extend the appreciation of the Executive Committee to Dr. Pearse for her outstanding efforts on behalf of the Society and especially *Invertebrate Biology*. The motion passed. The Editor continued with her report. The ninth year is complete. The four issues for 2003, volume 122, are out (36 papers in 385 pages plus announcements and year-end summaries), and the first issue for 2004 is in press. The continued high quality and broad interest of the papers bring us good feedback from the readership.

*Publication.* The rate of receiving manuscripts was about the same as last year, roughly one new manuscript every eight days. This is fewer than in previous years, which averaged a submittal every six days, for reasons that are unclear and would be useful to understand. However, we are not short of excellent material and are not considering altering the Journal’s scope or standards.

Impact factor, a measure of the frequency with which articles are cited, is considered by some authors in choosing a journal for submissions. Over the last six years for which data are available (1997-2002), *IB*’s mean impact factor (1.00) was at or above the level of comparable journals in the field, e.g., *J. Crust. Biol.* (0.74), *JMBA* (0.83), *Biol. Bull.* (0.92), *J. Morph.* (0.97) and *Zoomorphology* (1.02), putting us in a strong position.

Another factor important to authors is the average interval from receipt to publication. For vol. 122, the time for most articles was 13-17 months. The largest variable was the speed with which authors returned a revised manuscript in response to reviews recommending acceptance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Papers Received in the Years:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 ALL % of Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 42 43 33 51 44 30 38 21 1 329 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 8 33 42 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 12 12 10 8 15 9 11 6 7 7 99 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 11 9 6 2 5 11 16 8 3 83 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 3 1 0 4 4 5 1 1 0 21 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 68 65 49 65 68 55 67 44 44 574 100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the 574 manuscripts received in the last 10 years, 1994 through 2003, since the start of the publication of the present title, 64% have been published or are in press or in the process of review and revision, whereas 36% have been rejected after review, have been returned without review, or have dropped from the process at other stages. These figures have remained remarkably constant from year to year.

The average article in vol. 122 was 10.7 pages. The minority that were longer than 10 pages incurred excess page charges (69 pages @ $60 - $4140); excess pages were 18% of the total. The Journal continues to be international; 44% of the papers published this year came from overseas or were cooperative efforts of US scientists with those of other nations. Subjects continue to span a healthy spectrum of fields, phyla, and habitats. No clear trend emerges in either the number or the mean length of papers.
Memberships & subscriptions. During the first two years of IB (1995 and 1996), the Society reversed a period of decline and enjoyed a steep climb in membership. The numbers then appeared to reach a plateau, where they have floated ever since and appear to remain; despite some recent dips, this last year’s memberships were higher than last’s. However, as I have urged before, membership needs attention, if we want the Society to remain vigorous and financially solid. Subscriptions are relatively steady.

The year 2004 brings major changes for the Journal. Patrick Reynolds, after serving as Co-Editor of IB for six years, will assume the Editorship. And he is joined by new Co-Editor Elizabeth Balser, who has already begun working with the Journal. Their respective institutions, Hamilton College in Clinton, NY and Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL, deserve our deepest gratitude for hosting IB’s presence, lending logistical and financial support, and allowing the Journal to distract these valuable people from their duties as faculty. Please send your most excellent manuscripts to Pat and Susie!

With this skilled team launched, and with confidence that IB’s first decade will be one of many, I will be taking a breather during 2004. I will miss working with our wonderful authors; with our superb staff at Allen Press, especially Annielaurie Seifert; with our editorial assistant, Michael Anthony Orlando, who has aided me faithfully with a variety of editorial and support functions for 4.5 years; and with Pat and Susie. On behalf of the Society, I heartily thank them all. The Society remains grateful also to the Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California at Santa Cruz for the space provided to me for the operations of the Journal.

Finally, IB will welcome in 2004 a number of new members to its Editorial Board. The last scheduled rotation, in 2001, was skipped because, well, we were thoroughly occupied with editing, and there was little motivation to disturb a distinguished assemblage. On the other hand, the goal has always been to keep this body a dynamic one, so as to involve many and diverse members of the community of invertebrate biologists in the Journal. We want to express our deep appreciation to all who have served, to those continuing, and to the new board members now joining IB.

I am thankful as always for the support and encouragement of those Society members who serve on the Executive Committee. Mary Beth Thomas has been a particularly active Past-President of the Society during this past year, while Bill Hummon became President. And I know the Society will be served well by the Presidency of Ruth Dewel and the rest of the Executive Committee during this coming year. Thanks are due Steve Gardiner for producing the Newsletters and IB fliers, and to Julian Smith and Bruce Conn for managing the finances. Special thanks go to webmaster Seth Tyler. My own deepest gratitude, and that of the Society, is owed to my Co-Editors, for sharing with me the editorial load, and also the fun, as we work together to produce the Journal.

The Treasurer was not in attendance to provide a report so Dr. Munson continued the meeting by presenting the following report of the Spencer-Tolles Fund:
Spencer-Tolles Fund Committee Financial Report

1 July 2002 - 30 June 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Opening Balances</th>
<th>Income Earned</th>
<th>Disbursements</th>
<th>Changes in Value</th>
<th>Closing Balances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merrill-Lynch - CMA</td>
<td>$28,133.00</td>
<td>$67.74</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$11,272.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>756 Sh – Mass. Inv. Trust</td>
<td>$10,946.00</td>
<td>$57.46</td>
<td>$11,272.00</td>
<td>$10,560.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1421.425 Sh – Putnam Fund A</td>
<td>$23,805.00</td>
<td>$297.72</td>
<td></td>
<td>$23,297.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350 Sh – De. Group Global</td>
<td>$4,410.00</td>
<td>$437.48</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4,305.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 Sh – Enron Capital trust</td>
<td>$928.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,160.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 Sh – Conseco Fin. Trust</td>
<td>$3,720.00</td>
<td>$343.50</td>
<td></td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25000 - FNMA</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$289.25</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25,281.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darbaker Distribution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,524.47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Funds Available</td>
<td>$71,942.00</td>
<td>$3,017.62</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
<td>$1,115.00</td>
<td>$75,995.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Hummon offered the following motion: move to extend the appreciation of the Executive Committee to Don Munson for his long-standing dedication to the Society as demonstrated by his over 10 years of service on the Executive Committee. The motion was approved.

The meeting continued with a discussion of the summer research fellowship. Dr. Dewel stated that the fellowship was advertised on the Society's web site with a 15 March deadline for submittal of proposals. Eight high quality proposals were submitted for consideration, and the fellowship was awarded on 15 April to M. Maille Lyons of the University of Connecticut for a study entitled "Linking pathogens to molluscan shellfish: The role of aggregates." The discussion continued and focused on potential additional requirements fellowship recipients should meet in reporting their results. Dr. Thomas first suggested a poster at the next SICB meeting but later changed her suggestion to an oral presentation. Dr. Cook indicated that the grant from the Society should be acknowledged in any type of presentation.

Dr. Thomas next presented a final draft of the duties for officers of the Executive Committee of the Society and asked officers present to submit any changes to her as soon as possible. She also indicated that the duties should be available on the Society's web site.

Dr. Dewel informed the Committee that the prospective program for the 2005 symposium was in hand. Planning was going well, and SICB had approved the symposium and its publication in Integrative and Comparative Biology. The Committee discussed several possible titles for the symposium, but no firm decision was made at this time. Discussion also centered on the possibility of a workshop to accompany the symposium. Dr. Dewel expressed some concern about funding of such workshops as NSF will not provide funds for technique driven proposals. She suggested that vendors might be approached for support of the workshop and symposium. The Committee continued to discuss various concerns about funding and the type of events that the workshop could host. Dr. Cook suggested the possibility that another division within SICB could sponsor the workshop, but Dr. Balser believed the Society should sponsor both events.

Dr. Cook offered a motion to approve the new Editorial Board as submitted. The motion was approved.
The Secretary initiated a discussion about the possibility of only placing the Society's Newsletters on the web site. The Committee decided to continue to mail the Newsletters to members as well as post them on the web site. Dr. Pearse suggested sending out a mass e-mail to members indicating that the latest Newsletter was available on the Society's web site. The Secretary offered a motion requesting that the Society return to publishing two Newsletters yearly. The motion was approved.

The Committee next initiated a discussion of the problems being encountered with the current Treasurer. After a lengthy discussion, the Secretary offered the following motion: move that the Executive Committee request and receive in writing the immediate resignation of Julian Smith as Treasurer and subsequently designate Bruce Conn, *Invertebrate Biology* Business Manager, as acting Treasurer for 2004. The motion was approved.

The Secretary next offered the following motion: move that the Executive Committee recognizes and greatly appreciates the outstanding efforts of Ruth Dewel to organize the upcoming AMS microscopy symposium and thereby releases her from serving as President of AMS in 2004. The motion was approved.

The Secretary next offered the following motion: move that the Executive Committee appoint Dr. Clay Cook as Acting President for 2004. The motion was approved.

Dr. Conn indicated that he would organize an audit of the Society's assets after receiving material from Dr. Smith.

Dr. Pearse noted that a new three year contract with Allen Press for membership services was due for signature. The Committee agreed that a one year contract should be sought with an option for renewal.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

119th Annual Business Meeting

The meeting was convened by President William Hummon at 2:15 p.m. on 8 January 2004 with 18 members in attendance. Dr. Hummon began the meeting by reading and explaining the motions passed by the Executive Committee during the previous evening. Dr. Cook and Dr. Dewel followed Dr. Hummon with a discussion of the nature of the upcoming 2005 symposium on microscopy, indicating that it would likely be mostly confocal microscopy and morphology.

The secretary followed with his report, indicating that election results were: President-Elect 2004 Vicki Pearse, Treasurer Julian P. S. Smith, III, Chair, Spencer-Tolles Fund Committee John Clamp, and Member-at-Large Calhoun Bond. Two Emeritus memberships were granted, and no deaths of members had been reported to the Secretary. Elections required for 2004 include President-Elect for 2005, Program Officer (2005-2007), and Member-at-Large (2005-2007).

Dr. Munson followed with the report for the Spencer-Tolles Fund. He first thank the Society for the opportunity to serve and noted that Dr. John Clamp would succeed him as Chair of the Spencer-Tolles Fund Committee. He noted that the fund value had increased about $4000 from last year and that some funds had been moved from a cash account to Fannie Mae which was currently paying a 4.2% return. He indicated that the market was doing generally better as was the Spencer-Tolles Fund. As of November 30, 2003, the Fund value was $80,150. The Spencer-Tolles fund was able to provide the Society with a grant of $2203 in 2003. Dr. Dewel asked why the Society was investing in Enron, and Dr. Pearse answered that at the time of making the investment they were considered fairly conservative. Dr. Munson then followed with a discussion of investment strategies for the Spencer-Tolles Fund.

Dr. Pearse next offered the Editor's report. She first noted that Dr. Reynolds would be Editor of *IB* for 2004-2006 and that Dr. Balser had been appointed as Co-Editor. She stated that the Journal was doing well and then thanked Dr. Seth Tyler for maintaining the Society's web site. Dr. Wil Jackle asked who controls electronic publishing, and Dr. Pearse answered that print versions and online versions of journals are usually bundled together. A discussion continued and centered on online publishing and ways to access it and on institutional subscriptions.
Dr. Coates provided the Program Officer's report. She noted that SICB had decided to reduce the time of oral presentations to 15 minutes and symposium presentations to 30 minutes. She said she would explore the possibility of having a microscopy workshop accompany the 2005 symposium. She also noted that several SICB divisions, except DVM, were acting as co-sponsors of the 2005 symposium. She expressed concern that the Society should be more aggressive in seeking to be a co-sponsor of symposia, as she asked members to provide ideas for symposia in 2006. Dr. Coates completed her report with a discussion of the Society's luncheon, including its expense and location, i.e., in the hotel versus off-site.

Dr. Hummon noted that the number of members was up slightly in 2003, and institutional members were about level. He explained that there was no Treasurer's report available, and the Executive Committee was moving to rectify the situation. He also noted that an audit of the Society's assets would be forthcoming.

Dr. Cal Bond expressed disappointed with the format of the printed SICB program, and Dr. Cook noted that attempting to print the on-line grid was impossible. Dr. Hummon also commented on the lack of Society presence in the joint social the previous evening. All in attendance agreed that the Society must have a prominent presence at the socials.

Dr. Hummon called Acting President Dr. Cook to the podium and passed the gavel to him. Dr. Cook thanked Dr. Hummon for his efforts on behalf of the Society and said he looked forward to working with everyone in 2004.

There being no further business, Dr. Cook adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.