Message From the President

Solstice Greetings! As we move from spring into summer, it is a pleasure to report that AMS has been buzzing and chirping with excitement. Those of you who attended our annual meeting in Orlando began the year with a gigantic buzz from Kevin Eckelbarger’s AMS Distinguished Lecture, a richly illustrated tribute to the many pioneers of invertebrate zoology in America. With special thanks to Kathy Coates for her engineering as AMS Program Officer, we co-sponsored two symposia: “Integrating Functions over Marine Life Cycles” and “Zebrafish in a Comparative Context.” Thanks to Kathy as well for organizing the good fellowship, sustenance, and libations for the AMS luncheon and our joint social with DIZ, DEE, and TCS, and for overseeing our booth in the exhibit hall as a gathering place as well as an advertisement for AMS.

Speaking of promoting AMS, please consider adding to the visual appeal of our booth in Phoenix by entering the annual Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Prize for Excellence in Photomicrography. Check out the winning entries from Orlando in the first issue of 2006 *Invertebrate Biology*: Bruno Pernet and Juliane Pirano in the grayscale division for their SEM of phyllodocid polychaete larva and Sara Lindsay in the color division for the luminous eversible jaws of a juvenile nereid polychaete. As an unrepentant morphophile, I found the first issue of the year rich in data of the visual kind, with more than 100 micrographs. Our journal is the heartbeat of the society. Please join those who are already publishing in it. It just keeps getting better.

The Executive Committee meeting and business meeting in Orlando were, well, chock-full of business. See Steve Gardiner’s report below for the details, and please join me in thanking him for his outstanding job of keeping us all informed.

In our second year of partnership with Blackwell, *Invertebrate Biology* is flourishing, as our Editor-in-Chief Pat Reynolds reports in this newsletter. Without stealing all his thunder, I am delighted to say that submissions have skyrocketed. Pat and Co-Editor Susie Balser were joined late last year by a new Co-Editor, Bruno Pernet; and the Executive Committee has recently approved the addition of two more Co-Editors, Louise Page and Mike Hart. Please join me in welcoming their expertise and service. We have a winning team.
Most of you are also members of SICB and will already have taken delight in the April publication, in *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, of the AMS symposium from our 2005 meeting in San Diego, “The new microscopy: Toward a phylogenetic synthesis”, organized by Ruth Dewel, Kathy Coates, and Jon Norenburg. It is an accomplishment of which we can all be proud, and we are working with SICB to find a mechanism for providing electronic access to this issue to those of you who are not also members of SICB.

Some new committees are at work behind the scenes. We have contracted the construction of a new and improved AMS website, and members of the Website Advisory Committee are “test-driving” it as it develops. I am especially grateful to Vicki Pearse for heading this committee and also to Seth Tyler, Steve Gardiner, and Cal Bond for working with her on this effort. Stay tuned. If you have suggestions for what you would like to see or ways to make it better, please contact Vicki.

Clay Cook continues his dedicated service to AMS by chairing the Membership Committee. He and the Committee welcome your suggestions for expanding our membership. This is a reminder that AMS is your society, and we all want to find ways to make it better. The nominating committee will soon begin looking for candidates to carry us into our future. If you are interested in serving, set aside your modesty and let us know. I also encourage you to suggest others for these positions. I intend to add an elected student representative to the Executive Committee and would particularly appreciate your thoughts on potential candidates who would help us build a stronger student membership in AMS.

I am profoundly grateful to our Past President, Vicki Pearse for her wise counsel and coaching, at the same time that I welcome Judy Winston as President-Elect.

Now is the time to begin planning for good times in Phoenix. Look for more about the meeting in our Fall Newsletter.

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable summer,

Carole

Carole S. Hickman
AMS President

Message From the Program Officer

I am pleased to note that the proceedings of the very successful symposium *The New Microscopy: New Characters and the Importance of Morphology in Phylogenetic Analysis*, jointly sponsored by the American Microscopical Society (AMS) and the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) at the January 2005 annual meeting in San Diego, has been published in *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, 2006, Volume 46, issue 2. Many thanks are due to Ruth Dewel, both for the organization of the symposium, and for organizing the receipt of manuscripts for the journal. A website complementing this symposium is posted at the SICB website, [http://www.sicb.org](http://www.sicb.org). This site provides numerous additional, annotated, color images from the symposium presentations and should prove a very useful source for educational purposes, among other uses. Ruedi Birenheide and the symposium contributors have made the development of the site possible, along with funding from NSF award #0500318 to R. Dewel, K. Coates, and J. Norenburg.

Thank you to all who helped make the AMS program at the SICB meeting in Orlando (January 2006, annual meeting) so very successful – organizers, participants, and attendees. A particular highlight was the special invited address, an historical review of influential US-based invertebrate biologists of the recent past, given by Dr. Kevin Eckleberger. The AMS social, held jointly with a number of SICB Divisions, and the AMS luncheon were both well attended and well provisioned. We were very pleased to have a number of AMS awardees as our guests at the luncheon. We co-sponsored and supported one symposium with the SICB Division of Invertebrate Zoology, *Integrating Function over*
Marine Life Cycles, and co-sponsored another with the SICB Divisions of Evolutionary Developmental Biology, Systematic and Evolutionary Biology, Vertebrate Morphology, and Comparative Biomechanics, Zebra Fish in Comparative Context; and we provided financial support to one of the Society-Wide Symposia, Metamorphosis: A Multi-Kingdom Approach. By all accounts, these were all well organized, well attended and well received. There were also a record number (for the past six years) of presentations from identifiable members of AMS, which is a very welcome indication of the important and ongoing contributions of the Society and individual members in the Society.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

2007

AMS program highlights for the annual meeting in Phoenix, January 3-7, 2007 will be our Annual General Meeting, always interesting Past-Presidential Address, and our very congenial post-address luncheon. If you are at the meetings, please try to attend as many of the functions as possible, in particular your input is always important at the AGM. At the luncheon we will honor recipients of the fellowships and of the prizes for best black and white and best color photomicrographs entered in the Buchsbaum competition. Don’t forget to make an entry yourself.

We are a sponsor or co-sponsor for two of the 10 symposia that will be held in Phoenix, Key Transitions in Animal Development and Integrative Biology of Pelagic Invertebrates. All the symposia that will be presented in Phoenix are now listed at http://sss.sicb.org/meetings/2007/symposia. Individual webpages associated with each of the symposia will be developed and made available by the early fall of 2006. As the deadline, September 8, 2006, for submission of abstracts of individual contributions for the 2007 annual meeting approaches consider that one very successful recent venue for developing integrated paper and poster sessions has been through submissions that are identified as “complementary” to any one of the symposia.

2008

Proposals from all AMS members for symposia for the 2008 annual meeting in San Antonio are strongly encouraged. The web submission page for proposals is already open; instructions can be found at http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2008/index.php3). The due date is August 19 for completed proposals. Please contact the Society Program Officer (Kathy Coates, kcoates@transact.bm) or any of the other executive members if you have questions about an idea for a symposium or about the procedure for developing your idea. At present, we are working on one prospective proposal for this meeting - dealing with the application of a variety of microscopic methods to provide the data for testing particular hypotheses.

Finally, I wish you all a pleasant spring and a very productive summer, and I hope to see you in Phoenix in the New Year.

Respectfully,
Kathy Coates
Bermuda
American Microscopical Society Student Research Fellowship

The AMS is pleased to announce that the AMS Student Research Fellowship for Summer, 2006, has been awarded to:

Jodi L. Caskey of the Department of Biology whose project is entitled “Contact chemoreception of sex pheromones in shrimp,” and

J. Matthew Hoch of the Department of Ecology and Evolution whose project is entitled “Effects of environment and population density on barnacle penis morphology.”

Our congratulations to both students!

Watch the AMS web site for the announcement of the 2007 AMS Student Research Fellowship program and instructions for applications, to be posted early next year. The funds may be used for summer support of any research project involving microscopy. Any undergraduate or graduate student member of AMS is eligible to apply.

American Microscopical Society Distinguished Scientist Lecture

Dr. Kevin Eckelbarger of the Darling Marine Center, University of Maine presented the first AMS Distinguished Scientist Lecture to a packed audience at the Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. His talk was entitled “The Dawn of Invertebrate Zoology in America: a Tribute to the Pioneers.”

Dr. Eckelbarger prepares for the talk. Dr. Eckelbarger speaks with colleagues after the talk.
Phyllodocid polychaete larva. Scanning electron photomicrograph, ventral view, of an unidentified phyllodocid polychaete larva collected from the plankton in the Gulf of Mexico. The small mouth is visible just posterior to the prototrochal ciliary band, whose compound cilia are fixed in metachronal waves. The segmented body is tucked up into the anterior part of the larva, ready to pop out at metamorphosis. The larva was viewed and digitally imaged with a JEOL 6400 Visions scanning electron microscope.
Color Division

Dr. Sara Lindsay  
School of Marine Sciences  
University of Maine

**Jaws.** The eversible chitinous jaws stand out in this whole mount of a juvenile nereidid polychaete. The specimen was collected from scallop spat samplers deployed in Cobscook Bay, Maine by University of Maine graduate student Erin Owen. The image was captured using a Spot RT-slider digital camera mounted on an Olympus BX60 microscope, using differential interference contrast.
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY

Orlando, Florida

4-8 January 2006

Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee

The annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Microscopical Society was convened at 8:10 p.m. on 6 January 2006 in the Oxford Room, Buena Vista Palace Resort and Spa, Orlando Florida. In attendance were President Vicki Pearse, Past-President Clayton Cook, President-Elect Carole Hickman, Treasurer D. Bruce Conn, Secretary Stephen L. Gardiner, Program Officer Kathryn Coates, Chair of the Spencer-Tolles Fund Committee John Clamp, Editor of Invertebrate Biology Patrick Reynolds, Member-at-Large Calhoun Bond, Member-at-Large John Pilger, Co-Editor of Invertebrate Biology Bruno Pernet, newly elected President-Elect for 2006 Judith Winston, newly elected Member-at-Large Michael Hart, and by special invitation Marjorie Spencer of Blackwell Publishing.

Dr. Pearse began the meeting by thanking everyone for coming to the meeting. She next asked the Secretary to provide his report. The Secretary first requested that the minutes of the 2005 Executive Committee meeting be approved as published in the Spring Newsletter. The motion was approved. The election results were given as follows: President-Elect Judith Winston, Secretary Stephen L. Gardiner, and Member-at-Large Michael Hart. The Secretary also thanked John Zardos for standing for election to Member-at-Large. The Secretary indicated that elections would be required in 2006 for President-Elect, Treasurer, Chair, Spencer-Tolles Fund Committee, and Member-at-Large. He also noted that the Executive Committee must address the appointment of the Editor for Invertebrate Biology. He continued by indicating that two Newsletters were published in 2005, both exclusively online and that such practice would continue in the future. The Secretary expressed the hope of continuing to improve the appearance and content of the Newsletters and to examine ways to work with the new web master to increase the ease with which members can vote in elections. One new Emeritus member, Dr. Henry Reiswig, was approved by the Executive Committee in 2005. Unfortunately, the Secretary announced the deaths of two members of the Society in 2005, Dr. Charles Ellis of Northeastern University and Dr. Robert Ogren of Wilkes University. The Secretary next initiated a discussion concerning the extent to which it was necessary to publish lengthy reports from the members of the Executive Committee in the Spring Newsletter. After a lengthy discussion, a consensus developed allowing for summary reports to be published in the Newsletter with the Secretary subsequently archiving the detailed reports presented by the members. This format will be followed in this Newsletter. The minutes of the Business Meeting, however, are not affected by this decision and will remain as detailed as possible for the membership.

The Executive Committee next pursued a discussion centered on the Society’s Constitution. It was agreed that a Constitutional Committee consisting of Dr. Cook, Dr. Clamp, and the Secretary should examine ways of streamlining the Constitution and report back the the Executive Committee at the next Annual Meeting.

Dr. Reynolds continued with the Editor’s report. He first thanked Dr. Susie Balser for the work that she had performed during the previous year, and he then introduced Dr. Bruno Pernet who would be joining the Editorial office as a Co-Editor beginning in January of 2006. He continued with a discussion of the many changes that have occurred with the journal since going to Blackwell Publishing, including the availability of open access publication. He noted that submissions to the journal had more than doubled from the previous year and that the increase was at least 20% greater than in any year of Invertebrate Biology. In addition, the number of international submissions has increased as has the number of international collaborators on manuscripts. Usage of the journal through the Blackwell web site is now substantial, with more than 4,700 requests for full text articles during 2005. The Society distributes approximately 1000 hard copies of the journal so the online availability has dramatically increased the visibility of the journal. Dr. Reynolds...
noted that the impact factor of the journal had gone down over the previous year, but he was not certain what may have caused the decline. He continued by noting that the entire collection of the journal was now available through JSTOR and that the American Philosophical Society would house the collection for the Society. He further indicated that usage statistics for JSTOR were very impressive. He concluded his report by noting the desire to add two additional editors in 2006 to reduce the work load for all involved.

Dr. Pearse next asked Ms. Marjorie Spencer to provide the Committee with the Publisher’s Report. She first indicated that the current subscription total for the journal was 905 and that the institutional renewal rate for the journal was 98.8%, placing Invertebrate Biology at the top of Blackwell’s list of journals. However, the regular member renewal rate was lower than desirable (88.7%) and efforts will be made to address that issue. She continued by discussing the marketing plan developed by Blackwell, indicating in particular the many conferences in which the journal was promoted. She also noted that the number of individuals signing up with Blackwell to be notified when the journal was published increased throughout 2005. She continued with a discussion of other marketing strategies and a discussion of production and publication timing. She noted a desire to increase the number of color pages in the journal in the future, and Dr. Reynolds noted that the journal did have two color pages during the past year. Ms. Spencer continued with an explanation of the finances of the journal, noting that some items in the budget were difficult to estimate because only three of the four issues of the journal had been published. A discussion then began concerning open access publishing in the journal. Ms. Spencer indicated that a $2500 cost from the author was usually required to secure open access and that those funds were placed in the journal’s account, constituting a new source of revenue. Ms. Spencer concluded her report by thanking Dr. Reynolds and Dr. Balser for all of their efforts during the transition to Blackwell Publishing.

Dr. Conn continued the meeting with the Treasurer’s report. He first presented the final report for 2004, indicating that the meeting timing (January) occurred before all of the year-end statements have arrived, thus making it difficult to present accurate numbers. However, the final numbers for the Society for 2004 show a net revenue of almost $6,000 and a net change from June 2002 of slightly more than $14,500. Dr. Conn continued his report with an overview of just what the Treasurer’s report is, i.e., only an indication of the money that has come to the Society and what expenses the Society has incurred. It is not a full accounting of the total assets of the Society. Dr. Conn noted that there was a net deficit of about $19,500 for 2005 but that the cause of the deficit was expenses incurred in publishing the journal with Allen Press in 2004. He assured all that such a deficit was a one-time event now that the transition to Blackwell Publishing was complete. He indicated that if the expenses for the journal in 2004 were excluded from the 2005 budget, the Society would actually show a net revenue of slightly more than $5,000. Dr. Conn continued with a more detailed explanation of income and expenses incurred by the Society in 2005, particularly noting that the interest amount on the Society’s major CD had improved but that it could do even better. He expressed a desire to move funds from certain accounts to accounts where the interest rate was higher. He also indicated that one account no longer in use should be closed. After Dr. Conn had completed his discussion of income and expenses, Dr. Reynolds indicated that in 2005 the Society could expect to receive new income from JSTOR, perhaps a few thousand dollars. The Secretary offered two motions for approval. The first motion authorized the Treasurer to close the South Carolina Bank & Trust checking account and transfer those funds to The Sun Trust Bank checking account. The motion was approved. The second motion authorized the Treasurer to transfer funds from the Douglas County Bank to the Sun Trust checking account to be re-invested in a long-term CD with higher interest rates. The motion was approved. The Committee continue its discussion of the overall financial health of the Society. Dr. Conn noted that over the years the Society has fairly constantly added small amounts to its accounts which has allowed the Society to fund student fellowships and other activities that it had not previously done. Dr. Conn also expressed confidence that the Society would continue to generate a positive income stream in future years if it continues to pursue its current investment strategies. Dr. Pearse pointed out that the Society does have a new budget item to deal with, namely the cost of maintaining the new web site. Overall, Dr. Conn concluded that the Society is fiscally very sound at the present time.

Dr. Clamp continued the meeting with the report of the Spencer-Tolles Fund. He first noted that the fund had made money on all of its various investments. He expressed optimism that the fund would continue to increase in value into the near future. The current value of the fund was approximately $85,000. Dr. Clamp told the Committee that a sound strategy would be to invest a percentage of the Spencer-Tolles Fund in a commodities fund which currently dis-
plays the strongest growth potential. He told the Committee that he would pursue such a strategy when he met with the Merrill Lynch representative in February 2006.

Dr. Kathy Coates continued with the report of the Program Officer. She began her report by noting that the proceedings of the Society’s 2005 symposium were going to be published very soon in volume 46, issue 1 of Integrative and Comparative Biology. She further noted that the Society was co-sponsoring three symposia in 2006. She indicated that 28 presentations were given by Society members at the current meeting. Dr. Clamp said that the number was up significantly over the years when he served as Program Officer. Dr. Coates continued by stating that the Society had agreed to co-sponsor two symposia for 2007 entitled “Key Transitions in Animal Evolution” and “Integrative Biology of Pelagic Invertebrates.” Dr. Coates continued her report with a short history of the Society’s efforts to sponsor a microscopy workshop at the annual meeting in Phoenix in 2007. She indicated that discussions she had with several colleagues led to the decision to elevate the workshop concept into a full symposium, possibly accompanied by a small workshop. This would be proposed for the annual meeting in 2008. Dr. Coates concluded her report by asking those present to always be thinking of ideas for future symposia.

The Secretary next proposed a motion stating that the Society would provide financial support in the amount of $300 for the 2007 symposia entitled “Key Transitions in Animal Evolution” and “Integrative Biology of Pelagic Invertebrates.” The motion was approved.

Dr. John Pilger continued the meeting with a short report on the Photomicrography Contest. He noted that six entries were made and expressed a desire to find ways to increase the number of entries. The prizes for the winners were to be given out at the luncheon following the Business Meeting the next day.

Dr. Carole Hickman next presented a report from the Fellowship Committee. She first thanked Dr. Pearse and Dr. Cook for making the entire process a delight. She noted that the number of submissions was down from previous years but that the quality of the submissions was significantly better. The committee ultimately gave out one fellowship to Adam Reitzel of Boston University but decided to provide small grants ($300) to two additional students, Jenny Shaw of the University of California, Santa Barbara and Anatoly Petrov of the University of Maine. Dr. Hickman expressed a desire for the Fellowship Committee to have the latitude to make additional grants or fellowships in future years and asked the Committee for advice. The Secretary noted that the Fellowship Committee should work with the Treasurer to assure that funds were available and then use their discretion in granting awards. It was not necessary to submit this to a formal motion. A second issue mentioned by Dr. Hickman involved former awardees submitting proposals in subsequent years and should these individuals be allowed to do so. A discussion followed with some members proposing a one or two year time of ineligibility and others proposing full ineligibility after receiving an award. A consensus developed that individuals would be eligible to receive only one award. Wording to that effect would be added to the directions for submittal on the Society’s web site.

The meeting continued with the Secretary leading a discussion of a proposal from Dr. Pearse to establish a Planning and Finance Committee with the charge to focus on business aspects of the journal and the Society. Dr. Pearse offered a compelling argument for establishing such a committee and those present agreed. The following discussion mostly focused on the make-up of the proposed committee. Following a lengthy discussion, the Secretary offered a motion to establish a Planning and Finance Committee consisting of the Treasurer as Chair, Chair of the Spencer-Tolles Fund Committee, President-Elect, Past-Past-President, and the senior Member-at-Large. Following some additional discussion, the motion was approved.

Dr. Reynolds next expressed his intention to expand the editorial staff by two additional co-editors and the Committee agreed with his reasoning for the need to do so. Some discussion with regard to honoraria for the co-editors followed. It was decided that the co-editors would share a slightly increased honoraria pool, whereas the Editor and Co-Editor Susie Balseer would receive slightly reduced honoraria.

Dr. Carole Hickman next provided a report for the Membership Committee. She began by noting that this committee never really met in previous years and that it was unclear exactly what the charge of the committee was. She indicated that it was necessary to develop a charge for the committee and suggested that the most straightforward way to do so would be for her as President in 2006 to work with the members of the Membership Committee, together with advice from members of the Executive Committee, to develop reasonable goals and directions for the Membership
Committee to pursue. A discussion followed that focused on the composition of this committee and it was generally agreed that the Past-President should chair the committee instead of the President-Elect. Also, Dr. Hickman indicated that Ms. Marjorie Spencer of Blackwell had expressed a desire to join the committee as she could provide monthly reports as to the status of membership numbers.

The meeting continued with the Secretary leading a discussion of the new web site being developed for the Society in the coming year. He first thanked Dr. Balser for all of her efforts in bringing in two proposals and for moving the Executive Committee to a final decision. Ron Koziłowski of the University of Maine was retained to develop the Society’s new web site. Dr. Pearse noted that Ron Koziłowski had agreed to have a trial web site running within three months, and she asked all present to visit the site and provide feedback as frequently as possible. Dr. Pearse, the Secretary, and Dr. Bond, in particular, volunteered to make frequent visits to the site and evaluate its appearance and ease of navigation. Dr. Pearse also suggested sending a message to the membership to also visit the web site and provide feedback.

The meeting continued with a discussion, led by Dr. Cook, which focused on the possibility of changing the term of the President from one year to two years. He provided his line of reasoning for considering a change in the term and also suggested sending a message to the membership to ask their opinions. Dr. Bond agreed that bringing the membership into the discussion was proper. The discussion continued focusing on how the web site might facilitate membership input into the discussion of this issue. The pros and cons of such a change were discussed further, and Dr. Clamp suggested that those charged with examining the Constitution for possible amending in the near future should examine this suggestion in the larger context of its impact throughout the Society’s affairs. The discussion concluded with a general consensus that the effects of such a change need to be examined carefully before further action is possible.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

121st Annual Business Meeting

The meeting was convened by President Vicki Pearse at 10:48 a.m. on 7 January 2006 with 20 members in attendance. Dr. Pearse asked the Secretary to announce the results of the elections and introduce the new officers. The Secretary indicated that President-Elect for 2006 was Judith Winston, the Secretary was re-elected to serve for 2006-2008, and Michael Hart was elected to serve as a Member-at-Large for 2006-2008. The Secretary thanked these individuals for agreeing to stand for election as well as John Zardus. The Secretary next stated that elections would be required in 2006 for President-Elect for 2007, Treasurer, Chair, Spencer-Tolles Fund Committee, and Member-at-Large, all to serve from 2007 to 2009. The Secretary also noted that the Executive Committee would need to address the appointment of an Editor for Invertebrate Biology in 2006 to serve a term from 2007 to 2009. The Secretary continued by indicating that two Newsletters were published in 2005, both exclusively online, and noting that such practice would continue in the future. The Secretary expressed hope that the Newsletter would improve in style in the future with an improved web site for the Society, including streamlining voting in elections. The Secretary continued by announcing the deaths of two members of the Society in 2005, Dr. Charles Ellis of Northeastern University and Dr. Robert Ogren of Wilkes University. After a discussion about identifying a possible new life member, Dr. Cook thanked the Secretary for the improved look of the Newsletter. The Secretary completed his report but continued his discussion by noting the several motions that had been approved by the Executive Committee in its meeting of the previous evening. He first, however, requested that the minutes of the 2005 Business Meeting be approved as published in the Newsletter. The motion was approved. The Secretary noted two motions approved by the Executive Committee authorizing the Treasurer to close the South Carolina Bank and Trust checking account and move those funds to the Sun Trust Checking account and also to transfer funds from the Douglas County Bank to the Sun Trust checking account. Funds would then be deposited in higher yielding CDs. Dr. Conn noted that the importance of these transactions stems from the fact that the majority of the Society’s revenue now comes from endowment funds. It is important to invest the Society’s funds in
accounts that provide maximum returns. The Secretary noted the next motion approved support in the amount of $300 for two symposia in 2007 entitled “Key Transitions in Animal Evolution” and “Integrative Biology of Pelagic Invertebrates.” The final motion approved the establishment of a Planning and Finance Committee consisting of the Treasurer as Chair, the Chair, Spencer-Tolles Fund Committee, the Past-Past President, and the senior Member-at-Large. The charge of the Committee is to plan budgets for the Society and to work with financial planning with Blackwell Publishing. Dr. Pearse noted that Dr. Clamp should be recognized for his leadership in suggesting such a committee, having served on a similar committee in another Society.

Dr. Pat Reynolds next delivered the Editor’s report. He noted that the past year had been dominated by activities involving the transition to publishing with Blackwell, especially involving moving to online availability of the journal. He noted that the journal had already had several thousand hits on Blackwell’s web site so the journal was experiencing a new presence in publishing. Dr. Reynolds next discussed the many advantages that authors now have by publishing in the journal, now that it has moved to Blackwell, including no page charges, online submission, open access availability, and no charges for color if approved by the Editor. He continued by noting that the online presence of the journal led to a doubling of manuscript submissions in 2005 which may lead to increased number of published pages, additional issues of the journal, or a change in the acceptance profile of the journal. He continued by thanking Co-Editor Susie Balser for the hard work she had performed through the previous year and by introducing Bruno Pernet as a new Co-Editor who will officially begin in January of 2006.

Dr. Bruce Conn continued with the Treasurer’s report, indicating that the Society remained fiscally strong even in this time of transition and economic downturn. He noted that the Society had experienced a good return of approximately $3,000 on its endowments in the past year and reminded everyone that all of the Society’s activities are funded through returns on the endowment. He also acknowledged the Special Projects fund supported by Blackwell Publishing. He pointed out to the membership that the Society experienced a significant deficit in 2005 because of the transition to Blackwell but assured everyone that such a deficit was a one-time event. The deficit aside, he noted that the Society had a net revenue of $5,000 and that, overall, the Society had approximately $267,000 in funds.

Dr. Reynolds noted that Blackwell archives the previous five years of the journal but the Society had reached an agreement with JSTOR to archive all previous issues. He stated that the journal had already experienced thousands of hits for articles. Dr. Pearse reinforced the significance of having the Society’s entire journal holdings available online.

Dr. Kathy Coates continued with the Program Officer’s report, noting that the Society was co-sponsoring three symposia at the present meeting and that AMS members offered 28 presentations at the meeting. She indicated that the Society was enjoying a very good presence at the meeting. She continued by stating that the Society will provide support for two symposia next year. She continued by indicating that she and others were working on a symposium proposal for 2008 involving microscopy, likely centering on methodology and application. She also said that she was working on a possible symposium or workshop on taxonomy, noting that the decline in taxonomic skills is negatively impacting the scientific community. Dr. Janice Voltzow indicated that it was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain funding for symposia and suggested the possibility of approaching commercial sponsors, especially for a symposium involving microscopy. Dr. Coates agreed. Dr. Voltzow further indicated that the Development Committee of SICB was developing a template to use to seek funding from commercial groups. A discussion continued among several members and Dr. Coates about discovering ways to obtain funding from companies. Dr. Pearse concluded the discussion by indicating just how important it is for the Society to sponsor and support symposia, as such activities increase the presence of the Society and contribute to the overall scientific and educational goals of the Society.

Dr. Pearse continued the meeting by noting the photomicrography contest that the Society sponsors at each meeting. She asked all to encourage their students and colleagues to submit entries at the annual meetings. She asked Dr. John Pilger to report on the results from the current meeting. He first noted that there were fewer entries this year than in previous years and asked the membership to encourage submissions in the future and to provide him with suggestions for ways to improve the submission numbers. Four entries for color and two entries for black and white were submitted this year. Dr. Carole Hickman noted that many posters have great photographs and said they should be encouraged to submit them to the contest. Dr. Judith Winston suggested adding a video category. Dr. John Clamp sug-
gested asking SICB to add a spot on the poster submission form promoting the photomicrography contest. Dr. Sara Lindsay suggested that confocal and other types of color micrography should be separated because of the different skills involved. Dr. Pilger announced that Bruno Pernet was the winner in the black and white category and Sara Lindsay was the winner in the color category. He indicated that about 60 votes had been cast and that additional efforts need to be made to encourage meeting attendees to vote as they pass by the AMS booth.

Dr. Pearse asked Dr. Hickman to provide a report for the Fellowship Committee. Dr. Hickman first noted the high quality of the proposals submitted to the Society. She indicated that the Committee made the major fellowship award to a student whose proposal was clearly at the top but that the Committee also found funds to support portions of proposals for two additional students. She continued by indicating her desire to see the number of awards increased as well as the amount of the awards. Dr. Pearse concluded the discussion with the observation that such an award, although small in amount, gave recognition to students and could enable them to obtain funds from other sources.

Dr. Pearse continued the meeting with a discussion of the upcoming upgrade to the AMS web site. She recognized the substantial efforts of Dr. Seth Tyler as web master for many years and noted that work was already underway to produce a new web site for the Society. She encouraged everyone to provide suggestions pertaining to web site content and appearance. The discussion continued among the members about ways to enhance the web site’s interactive capabilities, as well ways for it to facilitate communication between members of the Society. Dr. Pearse concluded the discussion by thanking Dr. Susie Balser for her efforts in bringing together the proposals from individuals interested in designing the new web site for the Society. The Secretary noted that the Executive Committee appointed three individuals to monitor the development of the Society’s web site, and Dr. Pearse encouraged others to join the effort.

Dr. Pearse continued the meeting by thanking Blackwell Publishing for its efforts in making the transition go very smoothly. She also thanked the members of the Executive Committee for all their hard work throughout the year. Dr. Pearse then asked Dr. Hickman to come to the podium and handed Dr. Hickman the AMS gavel. Dr. Hickman stated that she accepted the position of President with reluctance, stating that Dr. Pearse should be President for life.

There being no further business, Dr. Hickman adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.