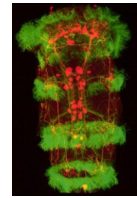




Newsletter



Biannual Newsletter

Editor: John D. Zardus

Spring 2010

Contents:

List of Executive Officers	page 1
Message from the President	page 1
Message from the Editor-in-Chief	page 3
Message from the Program Officer	page 4
News and Announcements	page 5
Minutes of the AMS Executive Committee Meeting 2010	page 9
Minutes of the AMS Business Meeting 2010	page 16

Members of the Executive Committee

President: Vicki Martin	martinvj@appstate.edu
President-Elect: Kathy Coates	kcoates@transact.bm
Past-President: Jon Norenburg	norenburgj@si.edu
Secretary: John Zardus	john.zardus@citadel.edu
Editor-in-Chief of <i>IB</i> : Bruno Pernet	bpernet@csulb.edu
Program Officer: Sara Lindsay	slindsay@maine.edu
Treasurer: Bruce Conn	bconn@berry.edu
Member-at-Large: Mike Hart	mike_hart@sfu.ca
Member-at-Large: Rick Hochberg	rick_hochberg@uml.edu
Member-at-Large: Sally Leys	sleys@ualberta.ca
Student Representative: Shanna Hanes	hanessd@auburn.edu

Message from the President — Vicki Martin



Greetings from the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina where it has finally stopped snowing. In a few weeks, I will be in the field along the Outer Banks of North Carolina tracking my beloved jellies. Before I go, I want to update you on some AMS activities. I am happy to report that our 2010 annual meeting with SICB in Seattle was enormously successful. Highlights of the meeting included our co-sponsorship of three symposia, a luncheon honoring Patrick Reynolds for his long-time service as Editor in Chief of *Invertebrate Biology*, the dazzling Keynote Address by Judith Winston on "Life in the Colonies", and the Buchsbaum Photomicrography Contest. Special thanks to Sara Lindsay for supervising the AMS booth in the exhibit area and for arranging the numerous AMS events. She did a magnificent job.

Already plans are underway for the 2011 meetings in Salt Lake City. AMS will co-sponsor four symposia: Population dynamics of crustaceans; Neuroecology: neural determinants of ecological processes from individuals to ecosystems; Speciation of marine organisms; and I've got rhythm: neuronal mechanisms of central pattern generators. In addition to our fabulous luncheon and AMS Keynote Address, a few surprises are planned to celebrate our Society. Please make plans to attend the meetings and submit your abstracts in September.

Several new faces make up the Executive Committee for 2010. Bruno Pernet, the new Editor in Chief of *Invertebrate Biology*, hit the journal running, identifying a new Editor, Heather Proctor, and making changes to the Editorial Board. His first contribution to the Newsletter is enclosed, and I encourage all AMS members to get to know Bruno (he is a terrific intertidal guy) and submit your articles to the journal. I am pleased to report that Sally Leys is the newest Member-at-Large, and Shanna Hanes is the new Graduate Student representative to the Committee. Amy Johnson was appointed for a three year term as Website Coordinator; she will serve as the liaison between the Executive Committee, Website Committee, and Webmaster (Reudi Birenheide).

There are several officer openings on the Executive Committee that need to be filled this year. We must elect a President-Elect for a one year term beginning in 2012; this individual will assume the duties of President for two years starting in 2013. We also need to elect a Member-at-Large for a three year term and a Program Officer for a three year term; the Program Officer will assume duties after the Charleston 2012 meeting. If you are interested in any of these positions and/or have nominations for these slots, please communicate with Jon Norenburg, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Serving on the Executive Committee is a wonderful way to become more involved with the Society, and I encourage you to do so. We are a fun group!

Congratulations to Shanna Hanes of Auburn University and Joey Pakes of the University of California at Berkeley, our 2010 student research fellowship winners. Shanna is investigating bleaching mechanisms in sea anemones, and Joey is examining chemosymbionts in cave crustaceans. We look forward to hearing about their research at the Salt Lake City meetings. This year the Fellowship Committee (Kathy Coates, Jon Norenburg, and myself) received a large number of highly meritorious student applications; unfortunately, we only had funds to support two awards. The Executive Committee is continuously investigating ways to increase funding for these fellowships, and I encourage all student members to apply for these awards in the future. Based on the quality of applications that I read, the future of the Society looks very bright. In addition to the student research fellowships, I am happy to report that the Society is sponsoring student travel awards for the annual meeting in Salt Lake City. The application procedure is presented elsewhere in the Newsletter, and any questions about these awards should be directed to Michael Hart.

Please encourage your students to become members of AMS, as they are essential for the growth and vitality of our Society. Likewise, I ask you to consider making a small donation to the AMS Student Travel Fund to support the travel of student members presenting original research employing microscopy at the annual AMS meetings in January. Contributions, payable to AMS, can

be sent to Dr. Bruce Conn, School of Mathematical & Natural Sciences, Berry College, 2277 Martha Berry Hwy, Mount Berry, Georgia 30149-5036.

My thanks are extended to the entire Executive Committee for their outstanding work this past year. A special “Hip Hip Hooray” is due to John Clamp for his tedious and time-consuming efforts in drafting the numerous proposed changes to the AMS Constitution that you approved last December. My right-hand man John Zardus has done a remarkable job as Secretary. I am very fortunate to be surrounded by a cast of superb scientists and conscientious professionals.

I appreciate your loyalty and support of the Society. If you have suggestions for ways to improve AMS and/or activities you would like to see us engage in, please let me know. Enjoy your summer and happy research.

Cheers,
Vicki Martin
President

Message from the Editor-in-Chief of *IB* — Bruno Pernet



Greetings from southern California, where we’re nearing the end of our damp El Niño winter. This is my first newsletter message as Editor-in-Chief. I started in this position in January of this year, taking over from the extremely able Pat Reynolds who stepped down after six years as EIC. I would like to thank Pat for working hard to make the transition go smoothly. Don’t worry, Pat, the panicked calls will probably decrease in frequency sometime in the next year, or two, or three... The journal’s Editors – Mike Hart, Louise Page, Heather Proctor, Greg Rouse, Nora Terwilliger, and Bob Thacker – have also helped greatly, in part by simply carrying on with their very professional handling and careful reviews of submitted manuscripts, but also by not complaining (at least publicly) when I ask them all yet another question. The production team at Wiley-Blackwell has also been quite long-suffering as I start to learn the ropes of that process, and I thank them for that.

One of my first actions as EIC was to make changes to the Editorial Board, whose members were at the end of their terms. Please take a quick look at the new composition of the board at the AMS website, the IB website, or in the front cover of the first issue of 2010. It’s a great group of scientists, and I look forward to working with them (and seeing their submissions!) over the next three years.

Pat reported on 2009 journal activities to the AMS Executive Committee meeting in Seattle, January 2010. To recap and update, in 2009 we had the second highest number of submissions in IB’s history (126 for the year). Pat reported that we had an acceptance rate of 24.8% for 2009, but that decisions on some 2009 manuscripts were still pending. Final decisions have been reached

on nearly all of those, and the 2009 acceptance rate currently stands at 19%, which I believe is the lowest ever for IB. 2009 is the second year in a row that acceptance rate has been $\leq 20\%$.

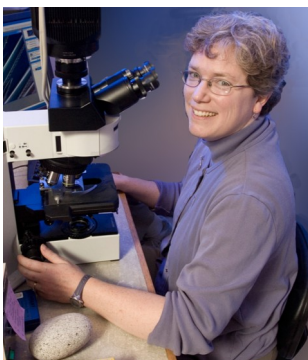
So far in 2010, submissions are coming in at about the same rate as 2009, which is great. However, the editorial team can absorb more work, so I'd like to encourage all AMS members to consider submitting their own best work to the journal, and to encourage their colleagues to do the same. One of my main goals for my term as EIC is to be active in soliciting high-quality manuscripts from the community... and where better to start than within AMS! So if you know of someone who is doing excellent work in the discipline, please encourage them to submit it to IB. I'm happy to discuss advantages of publishing in the journal with any potential author, so please have them contact me.

You'll see that IB's first issue of 2010, which will be out by the time you read this, is devoted to a symposium on "Neurophylogeny" from the 1st International Congress on Invertebrate Morphology. Thanks to Pat for shepherding this through to publication, and to the organizers and authors for getting all the manuscripts to us in a timely fashion. This is the first time that IB has published papers from a symposium, and we will spend some time over the coming year thinking about whether or not this should be a regular practice at the journal.

I have two main aims for my term as EIC (besides the obvious goal of averting disastrous mistakes, of course). One I've already mentioned – actively soliciting excellent manuscripts from members of the scientific community in the continuing effort to build the journal's reputation and stature. The Editors and Editorial Board are helping greatly with this. We're also planning a variety of advertising efforts with the team at Wiley-Blackwell over the next year or so, so look out for those. Second, I'm trying to continue in Pat's footsteps of streamlining the manuscript submission, review, and production process so as to improve our already enviable stats on time to first decision, time from acceptance to online publication, etc. I have ideas on how to do these things myself, of course, but I'd be delighted to receive suggestions from any AMS member or IB author on how to improve these processes. So if you have ideas, please let me know!

Best wishes,
Bruno

Message from the Program Officer — Sara Lindsay

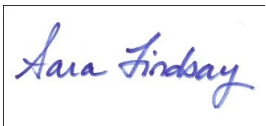


AMS had a great meeting in Seattle this January! The Society co-sponsored three symposia: Animal Regeneration: Integrating Development, Ecology and Evolution, Evolutionary Paths among Developmental Possibilities: A symposium marking the influence of Richard Strathmann, and Marine Ecosystem Engineers in a Changing World. In addition, there were at least 25 contributed presentations by AMS members. Past-president Judith Winston delivered the AMS Keynote address: "Life in the colonies: learning the foreign ways of colonial organisms", to a full house, and her cinematic talents were much appreciated.

We had many visitors at the AMS booth, which featured the Buchsbaum Photomicrography Contest, drawings for membership and an invertebrate microscopic mandala print (see picture), and highlighted research by Jessica Budke, and Bill McLamb who were 2009 winners of the AMS Student Research award. The drawing for the mandala print raised \$121 for the AMS Student Research fund, and Dianna Padilla was the lucky winner. Thanks to all who staffed the booth, especially while I was at the Regeneration symposium. At our annual luncheon, we took a new approach and kept the menu simple with box lunches, subsidizing the cost for students to help keep their expenses down. The approach was popular and we will use it again next year. Also at the luncheon, we celebrated Patrick Reynold's service and achievements as the Editor in Chief for *Invertebrate Biology* with a delicious cake (the leftovers were an added attraction at the AMS booth!).

Looking ahead to the **Salt Lake City meeting in 2011 (Jan 3-7)**, AMS will probably co-sponsor one or two symposia, pending approval by the executive committee. Likely candidates are a symposium on neuroecology, and another on speciation in marine organisms. AMS plans to support the 2nd International Congress on Invertebrate Morphology which will be hosted at Harvard University in Boston, MA also in 2011. Look for more information about both meetings in October. Remember that Abstracts will be due in early September!

Call for Symposium proposals for 2012 (Charleston SC): I think many of us would agree that the Symposia play an important role in shaping our experience at the annual meeting. Please help us keep the meeting vital, diverse and engaging by submitting a symposium proposal for the 2012 meeting. The call for proposals is now open, and the deadline is August 16, 2010 (<http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2012/callsymp.php3>). If you have questions or want to discuss ideas for a symposium, please don't hesitate to contact me. Also if you have ideas for activities or displays at the booth, please share them with me. Have a great spring!



Sara Lindsay
Program Officer

News and Announcements

Nominations

Two offices on the AMS Executive Committee come open in 2011 when new terms begin at the convening of the annual meeting in Salt Lake City:

- President-Elect (one-year term of office, beginning 2012)
- Member-at-Large (three-year term of office)

Nominations Continued

We are seeking nominations for a Program Officer for a three-year term that would start at the conclusion of the annual meeting in Charleston. Early determination of the new Program Officer will allow for an effective transition between the 2012 and 2013 meetings.

Please send all nominations to Chair of the Nominating Committee, Jon Norenburg:
norenburgj@si.edu

Constitutional Amendments

Amendments to formalize two positions on the Executive Committee will be included on the fall election ballot to be voted on by the general membership:

1. Graduate Student Representative—a student member has participated with the Executive Committee for some years now but the AMS Constitution as currently worded does not explicitly incorporate the student representative as a position on the Executive Committee. The amendment would make the Graduate Student Representative a full member of the Executive Committee with full voting privileges.
2. Website Coordinator— until this past year the AMS website has been managed by a paid webmaster and an *ad hoc* website committee. Recently Vicki Martin appointed Amy Johnson as our first Website Coordinator to work with the webmaster in improving and developing the website. The amendment would establish the Website Coordinator as an official position on the Executive Committee with full voting privileges.

AMS Student Research Fellowships Awarded

Two fellowships of \$700 each have been awarded in 2010 to the following individuals

Shanna Hanes

Department of Biology, Auburn University

Project title: Elevated autophagic activity during hyperthermic stress in the tropical sea anemone, *Aiptasia pallida*: a novel bleaching mechanism

Joey Pakes

Department of Integrative Biology, UC-Berkeley

Project title: Investigation of chemosymbionts in the anchialine cave crustaceans *Speleonectes c.f. tulumensis* (Remipedia) and *Typhlatya sp.* (Eumalacostraca).

Congratulations to our awardees and we look forward to learning more about your work in the coming year.

Student Travel Awards SICB 2011, Salt Lake City

The American Microscopical Society is offering awards to student members who will be presenting at the annual meeting.

Applicants must

- Be a member of AMS
- Be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program
- Give either an oral or poster presentation at the next AMS/SICB annual meeting
- Use microscopy in the research presented at that annual meeting
- Demonstrate financial need for AMS support of travel to the annual meeting

Amount of individual award: \$100.00 US.

Applications should include (and be limited to):

- Applicant's name and academic affiliation
- Applicant's contact information (email, telephone, mailing address)
- Title and authors of SICB presentation
- Statement of membership in AMS
- Paragraph describing the use of microscopy in the research to be presented at the annual meeting (≤ 200 words)
- Statement of financial need, including a budget where appropriate (≤ 200 words)

Applicants should not send full CVs, letters of recommendation, reprints, or other documents.

Send electronic applications by email no later than Nov. 15, 2010 to: Dr. Michael Hart
mike_hart@sfu.ca

Award winners will be selected on the basis of financial need from among those applicants who fulfill the criteria above.

Recruiting New Members

If you know individuals who would benefit by having access to the society's journal, *Invertebrate Biology*, or by being a member of the Society consider inviting them to join. As our membership ages we are particularly interested in recruiting new student members. Student members also benefit from travel awards and research fellowships available from the AMS.

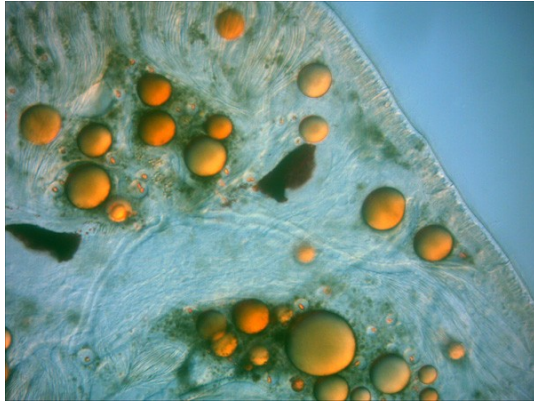
Membership in the AMS is managed through subscription to the society's journal. Interested persons can join at <http://amicros.org> by selecting the membership tab which links to the Wiley-Blackwell subscription page for *Invertebrate Biology*.

Regular membership is \$50/year and student membership is \$25/year .

2010 Winners of the Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Photomicrography Contest

Color Division

Christopher Laumer, Department of Organismic & Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University



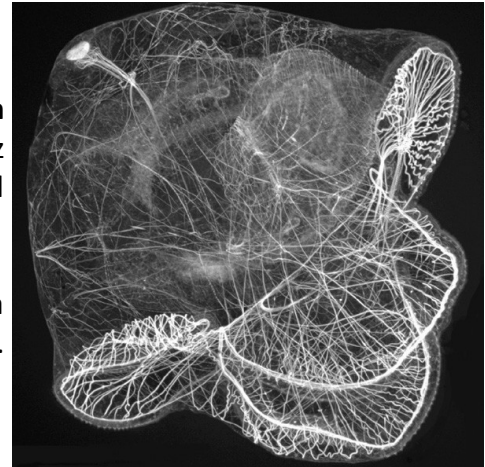
The freshwater turbellarian *Strongylostoma* sp. - head, showing eye pigmentation, adenal rhabdites, and orange lipid bodies surrounding the gastrodermis. Differential interference contrast optics. Scale, 25 microns.

Black & White Division

Megan Schwartz

Department of Biology, University of Puget Sound

A nemertean pilidium larva. Confocal projection of a phalloidin labelled larva. Scale, 200 microns.



Honored at AMS Luncheon



President Vicki Martin honored Patrick Reynolds at the AMS luncheon in Seattle for his transformative service to the Society as Editor-in-chief of *Invertebrate Biology* for the past six years and as an Associate Editor of the journal for the six years previous. During Pat's tenure the journal moved to an on-line work flow, increased in selectivity, and decreased in time to decision and publication.

Thank you Patrick!

Minutes of the AMS Executive Committee Meeting—Seattle 2010

The annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Microscopical Society was opened by President Vicki Martin at approximately 8:00pm, January 4, 2010 at the Sheraton Hotel in Seattle, Washington.

Members of the Executive Committee attending were: President Vicki Martin, President Elect Kathryn Coates, Past President Jon Norenburg, Past Past-President Judith Winston, Secretary John Zardus, Treasurer Bruce Conn, Spencer-Tolles Chair John Clamp, Program Officer Sara Lindsay, Member-at-Large Michael Hart, Member-at-Large Rick Hochberg, Member-at-Large Amy Johnson, and outgoing Graduate Student Representative Jann Vendetti and incoming Graduate Student Representative Jessica Budke.

President Vicki Martin began by noting that appointments for the coming year (2010) had been filled: Amy Johnson agreed to serve as the new website coordinator and Sara Lindsay as Program Officer. A review of the minutes from the 2009 meeting was then presented by John Z. These had previously been published in the fall newsletter and a motion was made to approve them and was unanimously accepted with no discussion.

Secretary's Report

John Zardus reported results of the fall election. A total of 51 ballots were cast (mostly by email) and Bruce Conn was re-elected Treasurer, and Sally Leys was elected Member-at-Large. Eighteen amendments to the AMS constitution, as presented to the Society in the fall newsletter, were each approved by the membership. John Clamp agreed to send a PDF version of the finalized constitution changes by email to the Executive Committee. Noteworthy changes included a two-year term for President, a one-year term for President Elect and a one-year term for Past President. The office of Past Past-President was abolished. This will result in the Executive Committee lacking a President-Elect one year and a Past President the next year. Two newsletters were published online in 2009. Membership totaled 386 members at the time of mailing the fall newsletter and 90.2% of the membership received the newsletter by email. There were no reports of emeritus members for 2009 nor any member deaths. No contributions were made to the Spencer-Tolles fund.

Editor-in-Chief's Report

Patrick Reynolds presented the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) report. In 2009 the editorial team included: Nora Terwilliger, Bob Thacker, Mike Hart, Greg Rouse, Louise Page, and Bruno Pernet. Bruno Pernet has accepted the appointment to serve as the new EIC and Heather Proctor has agreed to serve on the editorial team in Bruno's place. Pat noted that it has come time to rotate some members off the editorial board and will leave that for Bruno to discuss. The journal *IB* has moved to the option of producing color images for authors online for material that does not need to be in color in the print version. Wiley-Blackwell helped clear a backlog of papers slated for publication by gifting 80 extra pages in 2009. This reduced the print que to a more appropriate size of about six months (or two issues). *IB* is moving towards a continuous online publication schedule rather than a quarterly print schedule. Increased selectivity has increased quality in the journal

and submission rates in 2009 were up 10% to 126 manuscripts, the second highest rate since 148 submissions in 2007. Submissions came from about 30 countries with the U.S. accounting for about one quarter. Europe and the U.S. had the highest acceptance rates. Time to first decision was also reduced in 2009 to 23 days. Five weeks was the typical time manuscripts were out for review. The acceptance rate in 2009 was about 25%, up a little over 2008 which was at 20%. This differs substantially from 2004 when 80% of manuscripts were accepted. The print version continues on a quarterly schedule but papers can appear online as soon as accepted. The impact factor for the journal remains a bit lower than desired and for 2009 is estimated at 1.2. It can be seen that a fairly small number of papers have had a large affect on the impact factor. Whether it should be the case or not, review papers and phylogeny papers tend to influence the impact factor most strongly. The scope of submissions remains weighted towards mollusks and crustaceans, but ranges across the disciplines of reproduction and development, ecology, and morphology. Access to older *IB* articles has increased now that the complete collection is online with Jstor, 60 to 70% of the available articles have been accessed. A list of the top accessed articles is available from the EIC. When Vicki Pearse was the EIC the journal made the transition from *TAMS* to *IB*, then in Pat's six years the journal has moved from print to an online work-flow and publication process. This has been critical and essential for the survival of the journal. With this transition, submission and acceptance rates have changed the nature of journal. For instance, in 2009 a special issue was devoted to the first Congress on Invertebrate Morphology. There were no questions for Pat. Vicki Martin thanked him officially for his invaluable service to the Society.

Wiley-Blackwell Report

The report from Wiley-Blackwell was prepared by Jennifer Lynch and presented by Trina Cody (Marketing Manager at W-B) and Swapta Padhye (Executive Editor at W-B). Swapta dealt with items regarding circulation and reported a trend of increased subscribership for journals converting from print to online. This is expected only to accelerate due to increasing cuts to library budgets. W-B offers cap pricing to help institutions keep the subscriptions they currently have and the company is cautiously optimistic this will succeed for the foreseeable future but certainly 2010 will not be as favorable as 2009. *IB* is offered in bundles tailored to individual institutions. Production has become more efficient and publication times for early view online are averaging 88 days, down from 148 in 2008. In 2009 the total pages published for *IB* was 402. Trina covered marketing concerns. In March, an email campaign was begun in the areas of invertebrate biology and developmental biology listing the top five cited articles from 2008 as part of the campaign. After the email went out downloads went up 42%. A follow-up email in May, offering access to the journal for a three-month trial period, resulted in 116 individuals accepting the trial and on follow-up 12% recommended the journal to their institution. As a promotion for the Year of Darwin, W-B also created a virtual issue of previously published articles. This went to 23,000 contacts and was tweeted about. A graph of full-text downloads for 2009 showed a big spike after the email campaign. The focus in 2010 will be on keeping usage up. A listing of conferences that the journal went to in 2009 is available. In early 2009 a survey was sent to current and lapsed members and 118 of the former and 202 of the latter responded. The basic findings of the survey are that the member base is aging. They are willing to support younger members but don't know how to do so. Pat was curious about the 42% spike and wondered if *IB* is not well enough known? Trina said

it was hard to say why the spike was so large or how exactly to tap into it. Sara Lindsay wondered if we could do an email campaign through the AMS website? A society listserv is a good place run a society campaign but Pat pointed out our constituency is so broad-based it would be hard to support a listserv. The idea of virtual issues in different subject areas was suggested. The number of people signing up for Table of Content alerts was not known but the information could be obtained. John Clamp voiced concern about membership for the future and sparked a discussion about student members. What can we do to pull in students? How do we reach them? What benefits are they looking for? It was Trina's impression that students join societies less now in general. We need to know why students do and do not join. What is the draw for them? Receiving a print version of journal cannot be the appeal. Maybe offers on downloads for joining would provide incentive? Sara Lindsay suggested we may be able to add other value through the website somehow. Jann Vendetti felt a microscopical workshop to learn techniques sponsored by AMS could inspire students to join. John C. noted that the Guild of Scientific Illustrators offer techniques and a handbook on line and their members get a reduced rate. Their website could be a model. Sara L. pointed out we could look beyond the ivory tower for members too, EM technicians, high school teachers, AP biology teachers, and citizen scientists. Those people may not be interested in the journal but they still may want to be members. Jon Norenburg pointed out that confocal microscopists are already organized into their own group. Rick Hochberg wondered about offering teaching resources, videos, or images for download. Sarah L. noted that a biology image library already exists by subscription and a person can receive royalties for submissions. Legal issues would need to be worked out for copyright. Sara L. suggested thinking away from journal to recruit members, perhaps ways to make the website more central. Amy Johnson felt graduate students would be interested in contributing and John Zardus mentioned citizen scientists as a group that might be interested too. Perhaps a competition could be run online or maybe on the website honor a graduate student of the quarter or present student highlights. Sara L. relayed a question from Ann Boetiger (West Chester Univ., PA) wondering if AMS would be interested in funding a 50\$ prize for a competition in her microscopy class. John Z. wondered how many such classes exist around the country and whether this could become a national competition? Jann V. suggested a pilot program could be tried with some, not all microscopy courses in the nation. Judging would not be trivial unless you were to make it a people's choice award where they could vote on the website. And we could produce a calendar of the top 12 images. To replenish the society how many members do we need? Vicki M. noted that we need to modernize and make sure our purpose is clear. The AMS mission statement says we promote microscopy. All agreed that people get excited about images and Amy J. pointed out we need more beautiful images on the website. Sara L. raised the point that we need to develop loyalty by knowing who our students are. Kathy C. felt AMS has a visibility problem (for instance AMS doesn't even show up on SICB badges). Rick H. wondered if we could sponsor an AMS student talk competition with an award, identified in the program? The current number of student member is about 23. However, Wiley-Blackwell needs to check, students are hard to identify. Four new student members joined since last year. There was some uncertainty if there is a limit to the length of time someone can be a student member. Bruce Conn pointed out that membership rates are slashed for students and does cut into revenues. John C., wondered about post-doc members as well. They too are hard to identify and are a transitional member. Bruce C. asked if we are advertising to

European markets and Swapta said they do send information internationally. Bruno P. suggested some of this could be the work of the membership committee (initiated and steered by past-president Carole H. in 2009).

Treasurer's Report

Bruce Conn reminded the Committee that he had previously distributed a preliminary report to committee. There was good news for operations in 2009 in that there was a net revenue of \$19,307.79. The society maintains a checking account for basic operations with Douglas County Bank in Georgia. Assets are distributed a number of places including a money market account in Kansas, six certificates of deposit at various banks and which are moved around frequently. Dividends are received from the Darbaker and Spencer Tolles Funds. These usually come in June and for 2009 totaled \$1,742. Next year will not include all of the Darbaker, only about \$1,100. Revenue from John Wiley was just under \$2,000, and JSTOR revenue was almost \$6,000 (about 1/3 of that is due to the age of the society and the amount of back issues available). From a certificate of deposit with South Carolina Bank and Trust over \$4,000 of interest was generated and from Sun Trust in Georgia about \$1,500. Interest rates for 2010 have declined so these returns cannot be expected in the coming year. Operating expenses totaled about \$12,000, so the net was \$6877.28. Most of the expenses incurred are for the annual meeting. Expenses included 2 photomicrography awards, 2 summer research awards, 6 student presentation awards, website development, administration, and \$3,000 to SICB for co-sponsorship of symposia. In Bruce's last six years as Treasurer, the Society has not spent any principal. At present the operating account has over \$9,000. C/D deposits amount to a little over \$200,000. The bad news for 2009 is with the endowment, the Spencer-Tolles and Darbaker funds These are invested in mutual funds (Darbaker dividends are from trust that we do not manage) and net assets are down about \$11,197. At the end of 2009 there was \$74,261 in the Spencer-Tolles fund (John C. reported it has recovered a bit and as of the meeting is now up about \$6,500 more).

Spencer-Tolles Chair's Report

John Clamp noted this would be his last report as Chair of the Spencer-Tolles Fund since the position has been eliminated with the latest amendments to the constitution. The Fund is managed by Merrill-Lynch. The account advisor, Robert Morrow in Durham NC, has kept a cash balance of about \$35,000 recently because no investments looked promising. His advice is to move this to a Mutual Fund advisory account. Currently the Society account is advised quarterly, but with an advisory account it would be set up so that it is managed monthly. This would cost \$80/yr and requires approval of the Executive Committee to shift to the MFA account with Robert as advisor. He would maintain a mix of 60% moderate risk, 40% low risk and 0% high risk. The chair's report constitutes a motion and the motion was passed unanimously by the committee.

Program Officer's Report

Sara Lindsay sent a copy of her report to the committee earlier by email. The highlights are that AMS is well represented at three symposia at the current SICB meeting. No symposia underwriting is designated for Salt Lake City in 2011. The plan is to save for the second Congress of Invertebrate Morphology for later in 2011. However, Sara recommended co-sponsorship of a late-

breaking symposium centered on women studying crustacea to retain some visibility for AMS at the Salt Lake City meeting. This generated some discussion about wanting to support symposia that include microscopy and increase awareness that many papers involve microscopy even when not explicitly stated. Jann V. wondered about supporting a microscopy workshop instead of a symposium? John C. thought an image analysis workshop might be very achievable for the 2012 meeting in Charleston, possibly partnering with a vendor. Jann V. suggested that to encourage interest we could tag posters with good examples of microscopy and spontaneously judge and give cash awards to recipients. It was reported that of 1,300 submitted abstracts, only 25 could be identified as AMS members. This is concerning if it is accurate. A motion was made to support the late-breaking symposium. After some discussion about how much money AMS could provide and which of all the symposia involved microscopy, the motion was re-stated to provide support to one of the proposed symposia – exactly which symposium and at what amount would be decided by email after Sara learned more information. The motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: John Zardus reported that no nominations were brought forward for Member-at-Large and the task fell to Vicki M. in consultation with others to identify candidates.

Planning & Finance: Bruce Conn reported the major item was consolidating management of the Spencer-Tolles fund with duties of the Treasurer. John C. reminded everyone that there is a charge for the committee to plan strategically for the future and to recommend changes to the constitution. John C. is willing to stay on as an *ad hoc* keeper of the by-laws. His recommendation is to not view the constitution as just a set of rules but as a strategic plan. We need to keep it updated and see it as a manual to running the society. Perhaps there is a need for a handbook for Executive Committee responsibilities though we currently do have list of responsibilities for each office. However, this needs to be updated and expanded.

Photomicrography Contest: Rick H. reported there were 15 submissions this year, down considerably from last year. The problem may have been with advertising. We definitely need to advertise on the SICB website by asking Reudi to post it. AMS representation at SICB meetings seems lacking somewhat. For instance, the President does not attend the SICB Executive Meeting and has no vote. Perhaps this should change as we are a stakeholder. Vicki M. will pursue this question which is probably more of an oversight than deliberate.

Student Fellowships: Kathy C. raised the issue that we need to get more applications and to do that we need to get more student members. For instance, there were zero undergraduate applications this year. Vicki M. thought she might be able to raise awareness with National Undergraduate Research Council.

John C. noted that we need an addendum to the constitution stating a Graduate Student Representative will be appointed by the President through consultation with the Executive Committee. John C. will draft this up.

Membership Committee: Judith Winston stated results from the membership survey results were posted in the spring newsletter. To re-cap, 55% of the membership is over age 50, only 9% is between ages 21 and 30, and no-one is younger than 20. Most members think *IB* is most the important benefit and everyone supports involving students more. Young members regard networking as an important benefit of membership. Overall there may be a sense that the Society lacks clear focus, the journal is clearly invertebrate focused but microscopy covers much more than this. Since some institutions already have a subscription to *IB*, to draw students it will probably require focusing on additional values that the Society can offer.

Graduate Student Representative: Newly appointed Jessica Budke (Univ. Conn) introduced herself. Her research the morphological development and systematics of mosses. A winner of the student research grant, she found out about the grant from a colleague who had won before.

Website Committee: Amy Johnson reported that the website has now moved to a new webmaster (Reudi Berenheid). She expressed the need for a list of deadlines when things should go up on the website and that she is confused how payments should be handled. It was determined that Reudi should send invoices to the Treasurer. The Program Officer and Website Coordinator need to coordinate so that materials about meeting are posted before the deadlines. The question was raised if images from *IB* can be used on the AMS website. It was determined that they could but Amy would need to correspond with Wiley-Blackwell, authors hold the copyright to their images but AMS has compilation rights. This should be confirmed with Jennifer Lynch. Amy would like to get the complete run of photo contest winning images along with their full descriptions. These should all be available from W-B through Rosemary Farmer.

Amy has agreed to the appointment from Vicki M. to be website coordinator for a term of three years. A motion was made and unanimously approved to make the Website Coordinator part of the Executive Committee. A motion was also unanimously approved to make amendments to the constitution stating that the positions of Website Coordinator and Graduate Student Representative are appointments made by the President through consultation with the Executive Committee, for a term of 3 years for the WC and a term of two years for the GSR.

Editorial Board: Bruno Pernet reported that there were 14 members of the board each with a three year terms and all are on the same schedule. So, most will be finishing their term at the same time and Bruno proposes that some be retired and some be reappointed. He sent a list to the committee previously outlining his plan. A motion was made regarding his list for retirement and reappointment and unanimously approved. Pat R. gave a summary of \$3,000 special projects fund from Wiley-Blackwell which has been part of the AMS annual income since 2004. We need to think of ways to use the money – perhaps lump into general society funds or use it specifically to fund students and development (the editor also can request to use it). It is not clear how W-B intends the money to be used. Bruno will follow up on this with W-B.

Student Travel Awards: Kathy C. initiated this program last year to support students in presenting at the annual meeting. Six awards of \$100 each were made this year. Discussion focused on how

the awards will be decided when we have more applicants than money and that we need to advertise better. Last year awards were determined by a simple draw. The various criteria suggested included: 1. member of AMS with an accepted presentation, 2. project uses microscopy, 3. the awardee must be the primary presenter, and 4. financial need could be a part of the decision. Perhaps an on-line application could be placed on the website. Amy J. thought she could get Reudi to do that. It was agreed that one Member-at-Large could be designated to administer the application and award process. Kathy C. agreed to revise the award statement and send it to the Executive Committee for approval and to establish link for the application with the SICB website student award section.

Ancillary Items

2nd Congress of Invertebrate Morphology

Bruce C. suggested AMS could be involved by providing some sponsorship for the meeting and/or money for students to attend and present. The congress plans to meet every three years. The primary focus is invertebrates and a majority of the presentations will involve microscopy. The 1st Congress was held in 2008 in Copenhagen and the 2nd will be in Cambridge, MA on June 20-23, 2011. The objective is to bring together international morphologists. It will be an expensive endeavor. Gonzalo Giribet (Harvard) will be organizing the event and is promised a commitment of \$10,000 from Harvard. Bruce C. thinks AMS could get good international exposure and recommended a contribution for general sponsorship of \$1,000. AMS could also provide student travel grant. There will also be a separate allocation from SICB. At present this would be a one-time allocation for this particular conference. Gonzalo is also looking into running an imaging workshop at the conference that NSF might be willing to fund. It was pointed out that people need to know not just how to generate an image but how to generate data from images – quantitative testing. With museums becoming increasingly digital there could be a real need. A motion was unanimously approved to provide support to the conference in some way. Bruce C. will email the Executive Committee with specific ideas for the committee to approve.

Family Memberships

John Zardus forwarded a question from a member regarding family memberships in the Society. An old proposal was to offer one print copy and two memberships for a reduced cost but was never acted on. Through discussion it was determined it would be complicated. John C. agreed to check the by-laws and to bring it up for discussion in the Business Meeting.

Newsletter and AMS History

The possibility of making the newsletter more of a venue for addressing microscopical techniques was briefly raised. This led to a concern about the lack of historical documentation of the Society. It was thought that Julian Smith III was in possession of some physical documentation. It was noted that John Corliss published an article on the Society in the 1990's but there has been a large gap since then.

At approximately 11:30pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved.

Minutes of the AMS Business Meeting—Seattle 2010

The 124th annual Business Meeting of the American Microscopical Society was opened by President Vicki Martin at approximately 11:00am January 6, 2010 at the Sheraton Hotel in Seattle, Washington.

The first item of business was a report on the outcome of the elections held in the fall. Bruce Conn was re-elected as Treasurer and Sally Leys was elected as Member-at-Large. All proposed amendments to the constitution were approved by a vote of the general membership. President Martin then summarized the eight motions put forward at the Executive Committee Meeting two days previous:

1. the minutes from the 2009 meetings were accepted and approved,
2. with the elimination of the Spencer-Tolles Chair a motion was approved to move the funds to a Mutual Fund Advisory account which will be overseen by the Treasurer,
3. a motion by the Program Officer to provide support for a symposium in Salt Lake City in 2012 was approved,
4. the appointment of Amy Johnson as Website Coordinator was approved (an amendment to the Constitution for this position now needs to be voted on),
5. no previous protocol existed for filling the position of Graduate Student Representative and the President's request that she be allowed to appoint the representative was approved, Jessica Budke accepted this appointment (an amendment to the Constitution for this position will also need to be voted on),
6. a motion was approved to let Bruno Pernet retire people from the editorial board pending review by the Executive Committee of a list he will submit,
7. it was agreed that AMS will partly sponsor in some form the 2nd Congress on Invertebrate Morphology to be hosted at Harvard in 2011,
8. at 11:39pm a motion was approved to adjourn the meeting.

Secretary's Report

John Zardus reported on the fall elections. Fifty-one ballots were cast in the elections, 46 by email, five by regular mail. Bruce Conn was re-elected unanimously. For the position of Member-at-Large 37 votes were cast in favor of Sally Leys and 14 in favor of Liz Walsh. Eighteen amendments to the Constitution were proposed and between 44 and 49 ballots cast for each proposed change depending on the amendment. Differences in number of ballots cast for the amendments were due to a late-breaking revision of the ballot and a misunderstanding of how to mark the ballot by some members. In any event, approval of the amendments was by a landslide. In 2010 upcoming elections will need to be held for President-Elect (Vicki Martin's term will expire at the end of this year) and for Member-at-Large (Mike Hart's continuation of John Zardus' term expires this year). Sara Lindsay accepted the appointment to serve as Program Officer through the 2012 meeting in Salt Lake City. Sara has been continuing Kathy Coates' term which is set to expire 2011.

Two newsletters were published online in 2009, one in July and the other in December. It was also sent by email to the membership. At the time of posting there were 386 members of record.

No emeritus members were reported for 2009 and no member deaths. No contributions to the Spencer-Tolles fund were made in 2009.

One item of discussion was brought forward concerning joint or family memberships in the Society. There was some uncertainty if this category of membership had existed in the past but it is not currently provided for in the Constitution or By-Laws. Through discussion it was determined that it would be of very limited use and that difficulties of implementing it abound and no motion was made to adopt it. However, the question was raised if there was a mechanism for financial need-based memberships. The consensus was for the Executive Committee to decide on a case-by-case basis.

The need for a nominating committee was noted and will be organized by President Vicki Martin. Minutes of the 2009 Business Meeting were published in the fall newsletter and no corrections or additions were brought forward. Vicki called for approval of the minutes and unanimous consent was given.

Treasurer's Report

Bruce Conn reported that there was both good and bad news for 2009. The good news was that there was a \$19,307.79 income against \$12,430.51 in expenses resulting in a net revenue or operating budget of \$6,877.28. Expenditures for the year included sponsoring the photomicrography award, two student research awards, student travel funds, and revision of the website. The Society has been active with its finances and is operating in the black. The bad news is there was a drop in total assets. Assets two years ago totaled about \$294,000 which dropped to \$291,000 in 2008, but this past year they have dropped about \$11,000 to \$280,181.28 (balance of all accounts). Most of the loss was in the Spencer-Tolles Fund which is invested in mutual funds. It dropped to about \$74,000 this past year but has rebounded recently to about \$80,500. Bruce is working to maximum yields in interest rates but it is a struggle to find more than 1%. Although, he did open a C/D at 2.5% with Regent's Bank in TN. A large portion of operating revenue came from almost \$6,000 from JSTOR for back issues of *TAMS* and *IB* and from \$3,000 from a special project fund from Wiley-Blackwell. Considering the economic times the Society is in quite good fiscal shape.

Editor-in-Chief's Report

The journal had a strong increase in submissions in the past year. These came from 29 countries with approximately ¼ from the U.S. 2009 also saw the 2nd highest rate of submissions. Acceptance rates are just about at 25% which is similar to the last three years. Time to first decision has been reduced to just over 23 days and time publication averages about five weeks. Patrick, at the end of his 2nd three-year term, is stepping down and Bruno Pernet will take his place as the Editor-in-Chief. Heather Procter will take Bruno's place on the editorial board. Reflecting back over his last six years as Editor-in-Chief and on his six years on the editorial board before that, Pat has seen the online revolution that has occurred. *IB* has now gone to an online work flow and the entire 125 years of the Societies journal articles have been uploaded on JSTOR. Coming up is a spe-

cial issue on a neurophylogeny symposium from the 1st Congress of Invertebrate Morphology held in Copenhagen, 2008.

Program Officer's Report

Sara Lindsay reported that AMS is sponsoring several symposia at the current SICB meeting: Mike Hart's development symposium honoring Richard Strathmann, an animal regeneration symposium, and an ecosystem engineers symposium. Visitation to the AMS booth has been good and Wiley-Blackwell has donated free gifts for handout. The sale of raffle tickets for a microscopic art print has raised \$160 in two days to support summer student research. The drawing for the print will be held at the luncheon today. Some glitches in communication between AMS and SICB have resulted in name tags not indicating AMS membership. Feedback to Sara is desired about what did and didn't work well at the meeting. Also it is time to start thinking of symposia ideas in Charleston, SC in 2011. Proposals for the Charleston meeting will be due in August.

John Clamp introduced some needed changes to the constitution regarding positions on the Executive Committee. The position of Graduate Student Representative has not been officially recognized and the position of Website Coordinator needs to be created. The proposed amendment would give each of these positions official status and voting rights on the Executive Committee. It was put to a vote whether these changes should advance to the balloting stage amongst the general membership in the fall and all present voted in favor. Pat Reynolds raised the point that the constitution refers to the "Editor" as opposed to "Editor-in-Chief" and wondered if this could be misconstrued to refer to Associate Editors on the board? John Clamp felt it was not an issue of concern as the title is used consistently throughout the document and is taken to mean the Editor-in-Chief.

Membership Committee

Judith Winston presented the membership report. Carole Hickman had previously conducted a membership survey and posted the results in spring newsletter. The survey had 118 respondents from a membership of 671 (including 202 lapsed members). It was found that more than 55% of AMS members are over age 50 and no one is younger than 20. Older members maintain membership for print access to the journal. The majority rate *IB* as the most important membership benefit. A key concern is dwindling number of student members and members indicated a willingness to support initiatives to reach student. Various ideas were discussed in the Executive Committee meeting to boost student awareness of the Society including: tagging posters involving microscopy and giving prizes of AMS membership for a year, college courses that require students to subscribe to AMS, adding discussions of techniques to the website, providing materials for citizen scientists (e.g. master naturalist programs), developing an image bank with downloads available to members, and putting the photomicrography contest online and opening a category for undergraduate entries. It was agreed that we need ways to better identify student members now, increase the time limit for student membership, and charge an intermediate member rate for post-docs. No additional comments were provided by the audience present.

Student Research Fellowships

As President-Elect, Kathy Coates chairs the committee on student fellowships. Eleven proposals were submitted for 2009 and two were funded. The committee emphasized microscopy over invertebrates and this year Jessica Budke and Bill McLamb were the awardees studying mosses and snakes respectively. Overviews of their research were posted in the fall newsletter and are available on the website. Kathy pointed out that we need to encourage students to apply. The pool of student members is small and only four signed up last year.

Kathy also administered the travel awards in 2009 but that assignment will move to a Member-at-Large for 2010. Two students were awarded funding for the current meeting but four more could be accommodated if they can be identified or join at this meeting. The consensus of the group was that we need to increase visibility and be creative in our approach to attracting students. We need to mentor students at the meeting and develop relationships with them.

Website Committee

Amy Johnson reported the big achievement of the website committee was moving to Reudi Berenheide as our webmaster. For posting material to the website the protocol will be to send it to Amy and anything she is not able to handle she will ask for help from Reudi. Amy felt the Society needs to be interactive and have real ownership in the website. Future plans are to automate student fellowship applications and travel awards through the website. Clicks can be tracked to see where traffic to the site is coming from and links to all student related funding will be linked in with the SICB website. Improvements to the appearance of the website include adding rotating images of past winning photomicrographs and perhaps covers of *IB*. Copyright details are being worked out now. In the future the website may also be to host an image library as a teaching resource for AMS members.

Photomicrography contest

Rick Hochberg reported there were 14 entries in the contest, eight color images and six black & white images. The winner in the B&W BW category was Megan Schwartz and Chris Laumer won in the color category. There is a need to increase the visibility of the contest. Rick is creating a banner to be hung for future contests. Pat Reynolds suggested the possibility of submitting contest entries online. Rick suggested a printer could be set up at the booth and participants could print their entries from a small USB drive. Ideas of selling images from previous years or selling a calendar of winning images were presented but the logistics of handling money at the booth and dealing with state sales tax mitigates against them. It might be possible to make the images available to Wiley-Blackwell to advertise for us.

Announcements from NSF

Clay Cook reported that the budget at NSF is not yet decided so it is unknown when FY10 funds will become available. New venture funds, specified pots of money, at NSF have been set up support research on Life in Transition (how organisms adapt to changing environments, how organisms cause change in environments, and origin of life questions). The five-year old Microbial Observatory program is phasing out but NIH is looking at possible initiatives in Microbial Ecology. A new initiative is beginning in Environmental Biology, "Dimensions in Biodiversity".

Job Announcement

Bruce Conn announced that a new tenure-track, entry level position is open at Harvard in Marine Biology in the Department of Organismal and Evolutionary Biology with a joint curatorial appointment in Invertebrate Biology.

Appreciations

Vicki Martin thanked the Executive Committee for their work during the year and felt there was good momentum in the society. She thanked Sara Lindsay for agreeing to stay on as Program Officer for a time and thanked Amy Johnson for her work on the website. John Clamp put a tremendous amount of work into revising the Constitution and John Zardus was thanked for publishing the newsletter. Steve Gardiner retired last year as Secretary of the Society and Vicki acknowledged his long and valuable service. Final thanks were given to Patrick Reynolds for his transformative service to the journal, the crown jewel of the society, and the luncheon today will be in honor of Patrick.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and was approved.