

## SOCIETY SOUNDINGS

## THE SOCIETY GETS OFF TO A GOOD START

By D. James Baker  
Interim President

IN July 1988, when I reported on how the Society came to be, the question was whether the broad community would respond. At that point we were organized but were just beginning to receive membership applications. We estimated that we needed between 500 and 1,000 members by the end of the year to survive, hoping to be closer to the larger number. In fact, by the end of October 1988, we had over 1700 members and were adding new members at the rate of about fifty per week. At this rate we could have as many as 2,000 members by the end of the year.

A strong indication of the commitment to the new organization is the number of Life and Sponsoring Charter Members. At the end of October, we had 70 Life Members and 20 Sponsoring Members. The financial support provided by these committed individuals as well as by our five Corporate Members is an important factor in allowing us to proceed with Society organization and activities. The Society has been greatly helped by NASA through Stan Wilson, who arranged for the purchase and distribution of 2,500 copies of the first issue of *Oceanography Magazine*. We look forward to similar support from other agencies as we proceed.

With our current membership we are already comparable in size to the other existing societies relating to marine sciences. If we can continue to grow, we can truly represent the oceanography community. Our goal should be to have all eligible oceanographers as members. If you like what you see, encourage your colleagues to join. We will be happy to mail out sample copies of the magazine to interested sci-

tists and institutions.

Where do we go from here? The next step is that all charter members will vote on Society by-laws and nominate and elect officers and council members. We expect to have officers and a governing council formally in place by late 1989. We are also distributing a questionnaire about Society activities to all charter members to establish our priorities.

With the successful launch of *Oceanography Magazine*, we are now turning our attention to organization of the Society's first annual meeting. A Meetings Committee, co-chaired by Chris Mooers and Stan Wilson, with members Richard Cassin, John Cullen, Rana Fine, John Imbrie, and Bob Spindel, has been established. This group, with the advice of Frank Eden of Joint

Oceanographic Institutions (JOI) and Evelyn Mazur of American Meteorological Society (AMS), has looked at the question of organization, focus, timing and location for the annual meeting. Rana Fine chairs the program committee for the first meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 1989. A brief report from the Meetings Committee follows in this section.

We are also planning to support small topical meetings on subjects of current interest to oceanographers. These would be patterned after the effective and popular Gordon Conferences, but would be open to all disciplines. The support of topical meetings is part of our aim to provide services not already available. We hope to announce further details in the next issue.

Looking beyond meetings, we see a num-

## PLANNING FOR THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE OCEANOGRAPHY SOCIETY

By W. Stanley Wilson & Christopher N.K. Mooers

THE Interim Meetings Committee announces its intention to convene the Inaugural Meeting of The Oceanography Society. The meeting probably will be held during three mid-week days in September or October 1989, in a west coast U.S. city; details are being arranged. Rana Fine serves as the Program Chairperson, and Frank Eden will serve as the Meeting Coordinator. The program is planned to be intellectually exciting, unifying, instructive and synthesizing. A deliberate attempt has been made to design a meeting format that will be unique in our pantheon of professional meetings and not compete with those of other societies. Each day will be dedicated to a single theme of broad and timely inter-

est. In the morning there will be several invited talks in a plenary session, and in the afternoon there will be a corresponding poster session of contributed papers. The themes chosen, to be announced later, are multidisciplinary and provocative. An ample quantity of conference rooms will be available for small research and topical groups to meet. There will be an exhibitors' program, including facilities for films and videos. Interesting social functions highlighting local attractions will be planned for each evening. At the first business meeting of The Oceanography Society, the Society's first elected officers will be installed, and a lecture commemorating a historic oceanographic event will be given. More details will be announced in a flyer to be circulated in January and in subsequent issues of *Oceanography Magazine*. ■

D. James Baker, Interim President, The Oceanography Society, 1755 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20036

Editor's Note: With this issue, we inaugurate "Society Soundings" to highlight activities, progress and general business of The Oceanography Society.

W. Stanley Wilson and Christopher N.K. Mooers, Co-Chairs, TOS Interim Meetings Committee.

ber of other activities for the near future. A series of handbooks, brochures and directories, ranging in coverage from careers in oceanography, to publicity on important new research areas, to lists of oceanographers, both national and international, would be useful. We are negotiating now with potential funding sources, both national and international. We would hope to be able to provide some of the descriptive material in videotape and to have lists in computer-compatible as well as hard copy format in order to distribute these widely.

The Society can also be involved in educational issues. We hope to offer support to the periodic meetings of the "Oceanography Deans," perhaps by publishing and widely distributing the results of those meetings about graduate education of oceanographers.

Education about science in general and oceanography in particular extends also to the general public and decision-makers in state and federal levels. Better publicity for important new research thrusts ranging from individual research programs to proposed large cooperative programs is needed, especially in these days of constrained budgets. This is a message we hear continually in Washington from our friends in Congress, and I was not surprised to hear it again recently in the U.K. from a Member of Parliament who has a long-term interest in science.

Internationally, we all know that oceanographers are growing more dependent on each other. Pooling of resources and facilities to do global programs is becoming commonplace. The Society can help on this broad front by encouraging an international membership and a broader awareness of international programs.

We already have significant membership from outside the U.S., with members from Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Monaco and the U.K. To increase non-U.S. participation, we have in the past two months begun an international mailing.

Because of the rapid increase in membership, we have hired professional help. Martha Cutkosky is now working part time in our Washington office to process membership applications and other related matters, and Therese Samodral is working part time at Texas A&M University as an editorial assistant for David Brooks. We convey our special thanks to the volunteers who have cheerfully and efficiently undertaken all the initial tasks, from stuffing and mail-

ing envelopes, to developing mailing lists, to processing applications. In the Washington office, these people are Carole Andersen, Emily Baker, Leonard Johnson, Sirpa Hakkinen, Jim Rucker and Richard Vetter. Thanks also go to Rebecca Grimes, Doris Rucker and Allison Burns of Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc.; they have provided vital assistance in these early days of the Society. At Texas A&M, we are indebted to Letty Benning, who managed the myriad details of producing the magazine, and to Norman Martin, of the Sea Grant Program, for his exemplary services in artistic design. Without the gracious efforts of these volunteers, the Society and

the magazine would not have flourished.

Our office is conveniently located in downtown Washington at 1755 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, where on the seventh floor we share three offices and a conference room with the American Meteorological Society and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. We are next door to the consortium for Deep Observation and Sampling of the Earth's Continental Crust, and one floor below Joint Oceanographic Institutions Incorporated. The office is just two blocks from the Dupont Circle Metro Stop (Red Line). If you're in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

#### NEWS AND INFORMATION

## STATUS OF SEA-WIFS, TOPEX AND NSCAT: NEWS FROM NASA

By W. Stanley Wilson

**F**OLLOWING the meeting of the EOSAT Board of Directors on October 6, 1988, an agreement-in-principle is being refined by NASA and EOSAT concerning the flight of Sea-WiFS on the Landsat-6 satellite in late 1991, subject of course to success with a pending funding initiative (see list below for definitions of acronyms). The mission specifications are not fully defined at this time, but it is anticipated that the essential requirements of the research community will be met with this mission.

Both TOPEX and NSCAT were cut by Congress during the Fiscal Year 89 budget process. The FY 89 Operating Plan, proposed by NASA in response to the congressionally appropriated budget, shows TOPEX reduced by \$14.8M, which—coming after \$16M and \$15M reductions in FY 87 and FY 88—will result in a delay of some four to six months beyond the previously planned December 1991 launch date. The FY 89 reduction will not affect the level of support for the TOPEX AO investigator team.

With the second (and final) cancellation of NROSS in 1987, NSCAT was proposed for flight on the Japanese ADEOS mission. While NSCAT's prospects look excellent, formal selection will not occur until late October [after press time for this issue - Ed.]. The proposed FY 89 Operating Plan

reinstates \$4.8M of the \$10M congressional cut, to allow development to continue in FY 89 and 90 at a pace that will enable NSCAT to meet the ADEOS schedule, which currently has a launch goal of early 1994. Congressional approval of the proposed Operating Plan is anticipated, but the outcome will not be certain until late in October.

The reduced level of funding has resulted in the reassignment within JPL of 21 members (one-third) of the NSCAT Project Team and a 75% cut in support for its AO investigator team.

#### Acronyms and Abbreviations

**EOSAT:** Earth Observation Satellite Company (the commercial operator of the Landsat series of satellites)

**NASA:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Sea-WiFS:** Compact Wide Field Sensor (an improved version of the Coastal Zone Color Scanner which flew on the Nimbus-7 satellite)

**TOPEX:** Ocean Topography Experiment (a dedicated altimeter mission)

**NSCAT:** NASA Scatterometer (a satellite sensor to measure the global wind field)

**AO:** Announcement of Opportunity (a means to formally solicit proposals; the successful proposers constitute the team of scientists to work with a given satellite mission)

**NROSS:** U.S. Navy Remote Ocean Observing System (a satellite on which NSCAT was originally to have flown)

**ADEOS:** the Japanese Advanced Earth Observation Satellite

**JPL:** Jet Propulsion Laboratory (the institution which is responsible for both the TOPEX and NSCAT missions)

W. Stanley Wilson, *NASA Headquarters, 600 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20546.*