

## 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 scien-

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.*

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-

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

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*. ■