

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *by Eric O. Hartwig*

The peaceful transition of position has once again occurred and I am honored to be representing The Oceanography Society, its mission and goals and the needs of our members. I am also thankful that I still have Jim Yoder around to help guide me as the TOS Past-President and Larry Clark to help steer the way for the future as the President-elect. Below I give you a status report of things happening in your Society, indicating the exciting and forward-looking view of the directions I will take with the help of the TOS Council and yourselves.

Rick Spinrad and Tim Stanton, with help from Jenny Ramarui (TOS Executive Director), the local organizing committee and the extensive efforts by Oceanology International (OI) are proceeding for the planning and execution of the TOS/OI exhibition and conference in June 2003 in New Orleans. TOS and OI have established a partnership and agreement for this meeting that emphasizes the strengths of both organizations. Strong representation from industry, universities, agencies, federal laboratories, policy setters, and educators will surely establish this as a premier biennial ocean exhibition and scientific conference. There is no registration fee for this exhibition and conference and the conference will utilize the TOS format with major talks at plenary sessions followed by poster sessions, workshops, smaller meetings and, of course the major exhibition with companies displaying and willing to discuss their state-of-the-art in ocean technology that is on the market. Please pass the news of this major exhibition and conference to your colleagues; they can get more information from our web site at <http://www.tos.org/> and encourage them to join and be full members of TOS. Be sure you have June 4–6, 2003 set aside on your calendars to attend this unique and intellectually stimulating exhibition and conference in the beautiful waterfront heart of New Orleans.

TOS has prestigious awards (the Munk Award and the Jerlov Award) but to date has not had a Fellows Program. This is being rectified with an ad hoc Committee that Ellen Druffel has agreed to form and Chair to develop and document the elements and policy for a prestigious TOS Fellows Program. We are hoping to have the Fellows Program in place in 2003 with first selections being made in 2004. With the addition of TOS Fellows and the already prestigious Munk and Jerlov awards, TOS will be able to give proper recognition to TOS members for outstanding contributions in the variety of ocean areas represented by TOS.

Rick Spinrad has worked diligently and continuously to ensure that the TOS magazine, *Oceanography*, is excellent in all respect (content, format and visual information). I am sure the entire society recognizes the quality of the output and thanks Rick for the effort expended. The TOS Council has expressed its desire

that the magazine be published 4 times a year. This requires the community to submit high quality articles for review and also for TOS to seek sponsored issues to highlight a variety of topics: for example the special issues on "U.S. GLOBEC," "Navy Operational Models—Ten Years Later" and "U.S. JGOFS." These were outstanding volumes that have proved to be useful not only to the broader oceanographic community but also to policy makers, industrial interests, educators, and the general public. If you think there is a topic or institution or subject worthy of special attention in a sponsored issue of the TOS magazine, and there is an interested sponsor please contact Rick Spinrad and he can begin discussions with the sponsor.

Recently the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) approached TOS to jointly sponsor an Ocean Science meeting to be held in Hawaii in 2004, that was previously held jointly between the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and ASLO. The TOS Council approved the idea and John Kindle, the TOS Meetings Committee Chair, and Jenny Ramarui are working with ASLO to develop this meeting. I am working with the TOS Council and ASLO Board to develop an agreement, potentially to make this a biennial meeting. If this occurs TOS will have in place its present biennial TOS/OI meeting and the new TOS/ASLO meeting in alternate years. This would be an exciting benefit to TOS members, giving a broad avenue of stimulating opportunities to both present and hear new findings, new technologies, policy directions, and educational ideas. ASLO and TOS will sign an agreement with respect to this first meeting to make it truly joint and of benefit to both societies' members. In addition, it is our intention to discuss with AGU the idea of a joint ASLO/TOS/AGU biennial meeting beginning in 2006. Personally I feel this is in the best interests of the entire ocean community. Time will tell if that occurs and I will keep the TOS membership posted in this column and/or at the TOS/OI and TOS/ASLO meetings. Put February 15–20, 2004 on your calendars for the first joint ASLO/TOS meeting to be held in Hawaii.

With the past efforts and the present initiatives, TOS is moving forward and maintaining a momentum for its members that is impressive. TOS succeeds if its members support its goals and objectives, actively participate in its activities, and actively enlist new members in order to get new ideas and directions ensuring we are a vibrant and growing society that enlists the synergy of the ocean science and technology community for the future. ☐

