

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By D. James Baker

*O*CEANOGRAPHY MAGAZINE is now firmly established as an essential communication channel for a large and diverse group of ocean scientists. This success has been accomplished by the masterful guidance of its founding editor Dave Brooks. He has been and is one of the strong supporters of the Society and its goals. His leadership, scientific guidance, and editorial and design skills have positioned the magazine in its short lifetime as a leader in its field. The magazine fills a niche in the oceanographic literature, and Dave deserves the credit for defining its role and bringing the concept to fruition. With regret I announce that with this issue of the magazine Dave is completing his tenure as editor. A search is now on for his replacement, but his shoes will not be easy to fill. All of TOS offers a hearty "Well done!" and thanks to Dave.

In the last issue of the magazine, I reported on the Congressional Forum that the Society had co-sponsored in March with the Council on Ocean Affairs. At that time, the members of Congress who spoke to us and their staff were pleased to see that the President's budget submitted to Congress included a number of large increases for agencies supporting ocean sciences. We were urged as a community to inform our elected officials, who would be making the final decisions on the budget, about the importance of basic science and applications of oceanography to the nation. Many of you have followed up on that request and your efforts have been noted.

Since that time, the final decisions on the federal budget available have been delayed for a number of reasons that relate to both income (will we have a tax increase?) and expenditures (notably the unexpected savings and loan problem and now the problems in the Middle East). By the time this is published, the budgets may have been settled for

this year. But no matter what transpires, it appears that the budget for science will be more constrained than it was in the spring. All the more reason for us as a community to continue to make our views known to Congress about the need for science support now. Write your letters and call your congressmen and senators. This is especially important for newly elected officials who may not yet be aware of the issues. Help them to recognize the need in general to support science.

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We are all concerned with the budgets for ocean sciences. There are more demands for funds than can be accommodated within the current increases. Moreover, the new interest in global change has spawned a whole new set of programs and needs, but the budgets have not kept pace. New partnerships, particularly with agencies, other than the National Science Foundation, that might play a stronger role in funding the academic community in the future are now being developed to help address this problem. For example, an agreement has been struck with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) about extramural funding for global change research, and discussions have begun about a close interaction between the academic community and NOAA ship planning. With the Office of Naval Research, the new Strategic Environmental Research Ini-

tiative may prove to be helpful to our community. The Department of Energy is proposing a new set of programs on global change that will have important ocean components. Other agencies are following suit.

These emerging partnerships are being further developed and strengthened in a new effort by the Ocean Studies Board of the National Research Council, chaired by John Sclater of the University of Texas. Led by Ed Frieman of Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Craig Dorman of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and with the help of Bob Detrick of the University of Rhode Island, John Orcutt of Scripps, and Arthur Nowell of the University of Washington, the new effort will provide a framework for better links between the community and the agencies. The status of these efforts will be reported at the American Geophysical Union's fall meeting in December in San Francisco and at the Second Scientific Meeting of the Society in March in St. Petersburg. I urge members to contact John Sclater if you are interested in these matters and to attend the relevant sessions at these meetings in order to be up to date on these important funding issues.

To conclude, I am pleased to announce the appointment of our first new Executive Director, Judi Powell, who began work with the Society in April. Judi comes to us with a great deal of experience in non-profit society management and meetings administration. She has taken over administrative responsibility for our meeting in St. Petersburg, organized our office and membership records, and, with the help of Emily Baker, brought us up-to-date on membership renewal. We are all looking forward to a long and mutually beneficial relation with our new Executive Director. Please feel free to drop in to see her at Society headquarters or call or telemail her on any aspect of Society business at the address listed on p. 2. □