

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By D. James Baker

As you can see from the masthead, we have a new editor, Chuck Nittrouer, from the Marine Sciences Research Center at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Chuck has been the Associate Editor for geology/geophysics and now moves to take on full responsibility for the Magazine. We all look forward to his tenure and leadership in these formative years of the Society. Please feel free to write or call him with your suggestions and ideas about the content or style of the Magazine. One proposal that Chuck will be implementing is the appointment of Associate Editors from outside the U.S. in order to broaden the representation of the international community. As I have emphasized in previous columns, the Oceanography Society can only succeed in its goal of providing communication among oceanographers if it is fully international. The new Associate Editors will help us do that.

I would like again to recognize the enormous contribution of Dave Brooks as our founding editor. It was Dave's vision that led to the style and format of the Magazine that has proved so successful. His guidance, particularly in emphasizing interdisciplinary studies, will be followed in future issues.

Other changes in Society officers include the election of two new council members: Kevin Leaman of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami (representing applied technology) and Rick Jahnke of the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography at the University of Georgia (representing chemistry). Kevin and Rick replace Tom Rossby and Cindy Lee who served with distinction as members of the inaugural Council. We all thank Tom and Cindy for their contributions and hard work for the Society and look

forward to working with Kevin and Rick. Dave Evans (ONR) has agreed to take on the responsibility of Treasurer—thanks also to him and to Neil Anderson who provided this help at the beginning.

As I write this, we have completed the Second Scientific Meeting in St. Petersburg. The very positive and enthusiastic response to our first meeting in Monterey encouraged our Meetings Committee chaired by Stan Wilson to continue the same format. Stan and Tom Dickey, the Program Chairman for the meeting, put together what proved to be an exciting review of the current state of the field (including a "phantom of the opera" who warned against the seductive attraction of adding iron to the ocean!). The attendance was over 500 and arrangements by Judi Powell and local host Peter Betzer provided pleasant surroundings for lively interactions and discussions. On another aspect of meetings, we are now discussing with SCOR how we might jointly promote international meetings. A series of regional or topical workshops is under consideration.

As you know, we carried out a survey of our membership a few months ago to help focus our activities. The response was excellent, with close to one-quarter of our members providing thoughtful responses to the questions. Because of this large response, the full details will be provided in a later issue of the Magazine, but I can provide here a summary of the highest priorities indicated. Many thanks to Connie Sancetta for collating and summarizing the results. The highest priority noted was to represent consensus views to governments, underscoring the importance of federal funding and policy decisions for science. At the same time, several members noted that the method of arrival at consensus opinions was not at all clear. Second in priority was the establishment of the monthly newsletter

that I have discussed earlier in this column. The Council is now discussing how to move ahead with the newsletter, which would be done with full international input. Third and fourth on the priority list was the issuance of public statements on ocean science and the production of an international directory of ocean scientists. We are also discussing these items in the Council and will report back to you soon with proposals for action.

This is a good time for some comments on the U.S. federal budget for the coming year. As you are all painfully aware, the funding for our science is critically dependent on federal decisions. In the past two years, the creation of the U.S. Global Change Program has led to a cooperative effort among agencies that has helped to focus the program and to support major new budget initiatives. NSF's Bob Corell has led the charge as chairman of the Working Group on Global Change of the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences. As a result of the work of Bob and his colleagues, the budget request for the global change research is substantially up for the coming year at NSF, DOE, and NASA. But note that these are *requests* from the administration to Congress. Congress, from its side, is faced with the more cosmic restraints of reducing the national deficit, bailing out the savings and loan associations, and paying for the gulf war. Moreover, the budget agreement from last year makes it harder to move funds from one budget category to another—an additional constraint on budget compromises. We, as the ocean community, must recognize that we represent only a small part of the federal budget—thus it is essential that we be heard as these decisions and compromises are being made. We should try as hard as possible to preserve the increases requested for NSF, DOE and NASA and

to support the budget requests for ONR and USGS and other relevant agencies.

The bottom line is that you, as an individual concerned with the health of oceanography must let your elected officials know that science and oceanography are important to the future health of our country and that the budget requests should be supported. I have learned from experience that elected officials, on the whole, do not hear from oceanographers. With the new budget requests, there has never been a better time to write or call. Do it now!

I can end on a note of optimism relating to international cooperation. After many years of discussion at many levels

between scientists and governmental officials, and thanks to very hard work by NSF and the President's Science Advisor D. Allan Bromley, the U.S. has finally agreed to allow the U.S.S.R. to join the Ocean Drilling Program. The Soviets had been a member of the International Phase of Ocean Drilling of the Deep Sea Drilling Project, but the U.S. vetoed their continuing involvement in 1981. With the Soviet return to ocean drilling, the program truly represents the relevant international community. Given the importance of full international cooperation for the success of such large programs, the recent decision is a good omen for the future. □

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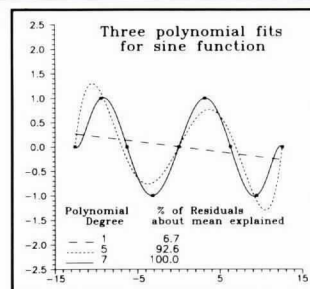


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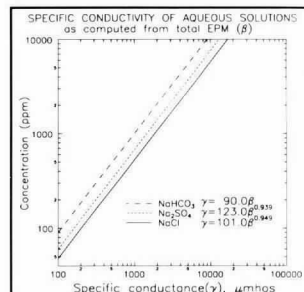
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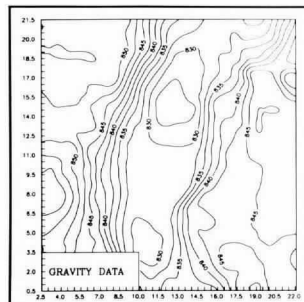
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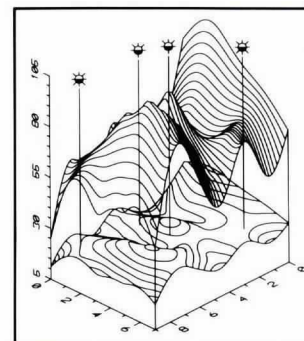
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