Greetings, AMS members! I want to begin by thanking the executive committee for their fine work in support of the American Microscopical Society, with particular thanks to Past-President Kathy Coates and Treasurer John Pilger, for their many contributions and advice, Web Coordinator Amy Johnson for her work with Ruediger Birenheide in maintaining our web presence, and our Secretary Megan Schwartz for putting together this newsletter among her many other responsibilities. On behalf of the Executive Committee and all AMS membership, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Liz Walsh, who competes a three-year term as Member-at-Large. Liz has been an energetic and engaged member of the executive committee, and we will miss her contributions.
I was pleased to review, with our other committee members, our applications and accompanying research proposals for the AMS Student Research Fellowships this past year.

My congratulations to the two winners, Nikia Rice (M.Sc. candidate, Florida Institute of Technology) (Photoreceptor distribution of the Green sea turtle throughout developmental stages) and Des Ramirez (Ph.D. candidate, University of California, Santa Barbara) (Quantifying dispersion of dermal opsin-expressing sensory neurons in two Octopus species). My best wishes for their research and further studies.

The third International Congress on Invertebrate Morphology is being held in Berlin, 3–7 August, 2014. As for the second congress, AMS will sponsor ICIM3 and offer a number of student travel awards to attend the congress. Invitations to apply for the latter will appear in an upcoming issue of Invertebrate Biology and the ICIM3 and AMS websites. My thanks to the organizing team chair Gerhard Scholtz for welcoming our participation.

I am delighted that we have two superb candidates for the executive committee positions of Member-at-Large and President-elect. Shanna Hanes has served as graduate student representative and thus brings experience of the executive committee and commitment to AMS. John Clamp has been a long and committed servant to the Society, and I am very pleased that he has agreed to join the executive committee and succeed me as president. He brings intimate knowledge of the AMS through his service in a variety of AMS positions over the years. Among other strengths, his recent term as president of the International Society of Protistologists, during which he led them through a strategic planning process in response to the membership and mission challenges facing many small academic societies, will be extremely valuable to our society at this time.

I want to particularly mention the fine work that the Invertebrate Biology editorial team, led by Bruno Pernet, continues to do in producing our journal. The quality of the production and the rich, engaging range of contributions is impressive and sustaining to the society. Naturally, I have particular appreciation for the commitment, hard work, and long hours required of the editors and especially the Editor-in-Chief. All members of the American Microscopical Society and indeed invertebrate biologists beyond owe Bruno and the editors our gratitude and congratulations for their commitment to excellence.

I look forward to seeing you all in Austin, Texas, in January, and I hope everyone plans to submit entries for the Buchsbaum Photomicrography contest and every student to apply for travel funding! In the meantime, I wish you a warm and relaxing holiday period.

Best wishes,
Pat Reynolds
Hamilton College
Clinton, NY
Another busy year is almost over at Invertebrate Biology! Though I write this in late September, with still a few months left in 2013, I’m currently assembling the final issue of the year, and doing the final edits on articles that are slated to be printed in the first issue of 2014. Putting these issues together depends critically on two sets of people – our authors (more on those below), and the journal’s six editors, who do the bulk of the work at the journal. Mike Hart, Amy Moran, Louise Page, Heather Proctor, Greg Rouse, and Bob Thacker are constantly processing incoming new manuscripts, revisions, and reviews, and turning out thoughtful and prompt decisions. Thanks to both authors and editors for your contributions!

Overall, 2013 has been a good year for the journal. Our 2012 impact factor was released in July; it is 1.113, which is lower than the that of the few previous years, but quite respectable for our discipline. More generally, impact factors seem to have declined slightly from 2011 to 2012 at most journals similar to IB in terms of content. We are also doing well in terms of submissions, with an average (so far) of about 10 new manuscripts submitted each month. We would love more, though, so I strongly encourage AMS members to support the journal either directly, by submitting their own best work to IB, or indirectly, by encouraging their colleagues to do the same. Besides being an obvious place to publish work on invertebrate biology, IB has lots of other selling points, among them efficient manuscript handling and thorough peer-review, high-quality image reproduction (including color), and no page charges. I’m happy to discuss advantages of publishing in the journal with any potential author, so please contact me if you have questions!

Cheers,

Bruno Pernet
Department of Biological Sciences
California State University, Long Beach
Please plan to attend to the annual meeting with SICB, January 3-7, 2014 in Austin, TX. Over 1400 abstracts were submitted, with 10 symposia and a multitude of contributed sessions. The meeting will be held in the Hilton Austin hotel, located on 4th Street in downtown Austin. It is easy to access the hotel from the Austin airport by Super Shuttle ($13; http://www.supershuttle.com/Locations/AUSAirportShuttleAustin.aspx) or taxi ($30). There is also a MetroAirport bus that stops at the Hilton ($1; http://www.capmetro.org/airport/).

There are many dining and entertainment choices within a short walk of the hotel, but food options within the hotel are limited. When you register for the meeting, you may choose to order a box lunch for the AMS Luncheon and Business Meeting (Monday, January 6, from Noon to 1:30 pm) or you can bring your own brown-bag lunch. Look for information on dining options in a “Notes from the Underground” post on the SICB meeting website (http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2014/).

AMS will have a booth in the exhibit hall, featuring entries for the Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Prize for Excellence in Photomicrography, information for students, and other society materials. I look forward to seeing many AMS members at the meeting and invite you all to drop by our booth, vote for your favorite photomicrograph, renew acquaintances and Society memberships, and participate in our events.

For members attending the meeting who plan on bringing children, please fill out the child care form (on the registration form) when you register.

AMS will co-sponsor three symposia at the 2014 meeting:

The cell’s view of animal body plan evolution  
Organizers: Deirdre Lyons, Mansi Srivastava and Mark Martindale  
Saturday, January 4

Parasitic manipulation of host phenotype, or how to make a zombie  
Organizers: Kelly Weinermith, Zen Faulkes  
Monday, January 6

Shaking, dripping and drinking: surface-tension phenomena in organismal biology  
Organizers: David Hu, Rachel Levy, Lydia Bourouiba  
Tuesday January 7
AMS will join The Crustacean Society and SICB Divisions of Invertebrate Zoology and Ecology & Evolution for a joint social on Sunday evening, January 5. Please note that there are two important changes to the program schedule this year:

- Contributed talks are now 15 minutes in length.
- A longer lunch break, from Noon to 1:30 pm.

These changes will allow more participants to give oral presentations; hopefully, you will also have more time for meeting with colleagues over lunches. Please let me know if you have any feedback, positive or negative, about these changes.

Best regards,
Bob Thacker
Department of Biology
University of Alabama at Birmingham

The AMS Best Student oral presentation with Microscopy competition will be run at SICB 2014. We will soon have a full list of our entrants, a schedule of their presentations and we will be organizing judges. If you would like to be a judge for these presentations, please contact Patrick Reynolds. It is preferable for each judge to attend several of the presentations, so please consider that when you offer to help and do indicate how much time you think you could commit.

The recipients of the AMS Summer Student Research Fellowships of 2013 Nikia Rice, M.Sc. candidate, Florida Institute of Technology and Des Ramirez, Ph.D. candidate, University of California, Santa Barbara. Congratulations to both these students. There will be brief reports on their projects displayed at the AMS booth during the SICB/AMS annual meetings and these will also be on the AMS website.

**AMS annual business meeting 2014**

Including among items for discussion at the annual business meeting will be the matter of moving to primarily online publishing of IB. If you would like to review the background of this discussion or have an opinion to air, please do come to the business meeting. If you have a matter you would like discussed, please send it as an agenda item to Megan Schwartz, Secretary.

Don’t forget to enter your favorite microphotograph in the Buchsbaum photo contest. Details of entry instructions for 2014 will be posted on the AMS website and a reminder will be sent closer to the meeting.
AMS Student Travel Awards

The American Microscopical Society is offering awards to student members who will be presenting at the annual SICB 2014 meeting in Austin, TX. Each award will be $150 USD!

Applicants must:
• Be a member of AMS
• Be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program
• Be the presenter of an oral or poster presentation at the next AMS/SICB annual meeting
• Use microscopy in the research presented at that annual meeting
• Demonstrate financial need for AMS support of travel to the annual meeting

Applications should include:
• Applicant’s name and academic affiliation
• Applicant’s contact information (email, telephone, mailing address)
• Title and authors of SICB presentation
• Statement of membership in AMS
• Paragraph describing the use of microscopy in the research to be presented at the annual meeting (≤ 200 words)
• Statement of financial need, including a budget where appropriate (≤200 words)

**Applicants should not send full CVs, letters of recommendation, reprints, or other documents.

Applications should be submitted by email to Dr. Patrick Reynolds, President AMS, preynold@hamilton.edu, by December 20, 2013. Award notifications will be made in mid-December. The awards will be payable at the AMS Luncheon.