Director-at-large for Publications Report
July 2013

Activities this year have included planning for the Centennial issue of AJB (see report from the Managing Editor), a variety of discussions among members of the Publications Committee concerning current issues in scientific publishing (see report from Publications Committee), and the search for a new Editor-in-Chief of AJB (see report below).

Editor-in-Chief Search
Following an initial planning conference call in December 2012 that included Carol Goodwillie (DAL for Publications), Toby Kellogg (BSA President), Steve Weller (BSA Past-President), Pam Diggle (BSA President-Elect), Amy McPherson (AJB Managing Editor) and Jenny Xiang (Chair of Publications Committee), a search committee was formed:

Carol Goodwillie, Steve Weller, Jenny Xiang, Cindi Jones, Toby Kellogg, Ned Friedman, Amy McPherson

A call for nominations was distributed in mid January and again in early March, with a due date of March 15, 2013, requesting submission of a nomination letter and CV. Two members of the committee nominated Pam Diggle, and Ned Friedman then recused himself from further service. Several candidates were suggested and three were officially nominated. Of these, Pam Diggle and Mike Dunn accepted their nominations.

Toby Kellogg and Cindi Jones then recused themselves from further deliberations because they had nominated Pam Diggle and were replaced by new committee members Sean Graham, Mitch Cruzan, and Scott Russell.

Nominees submitted application statements by late April, and phone interviews were conducted by the committee on May 15 and 16.

Members of the committee were unanimous in enthusiastically recommending Pam Diggle for the position. Her record of publication, experience as an Associate Editor for other journals, and previous position at NSF were viewed as excellent preparation for the position. In the phone interview, she demonstrated familiarity with and interest in the publication process and a strong commitment to maintaining and improving the quality and success of AJB.

Mike Dunn communicated enthusiasm for the position, particularly in his interests in outreach, and a commitment to AJB and the society. The committee felt that he could make important contributions to the journal in other capacities.