

# American Society for ybernetics

October 25, 2008

Dear Members and Fellows,

There have been many developments in the ASC, though many are not very visible. Nevertheless, they merit reporting back.

## **Trustees and other nominations**

In terms of member action, the society's most important business is the election of Trustees. You will be aware that the society has a board of trustees. However, when we took over, our trustees' periods of office had expired. President Lou Kauffman asked the old trustees to stay on, while we sorted the matter out. Pille Bunnell, along with other members of the nominations committee, have now compiled a list of outstanding nominees which they will send you around mid November. We invite you to vote for these candidates. As incoming president, I would ask that you keep in mind our wish to have active trustees who will bring connections and outreach to the society, to help us grow. It may be that those candidates less known to the membership will be the more helpful.

Following the Trustee elections, Pille Bunnell ([pille@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:pille@interchange.ubc.ca)), as chair of the Nominations Committee, will be seeking nominations for our two awards, The Wiener and McCulloch awards, and also for Fellows of the society. More about this at a later date.

## **Web services**

Our web services have undergone big changes, Randy Whitaker found a new service provider giving us a vastly better service at a much cheaper price and ported our web site over. That no one noticed is a reflection on Randy's professionalism. We were also informed that sporg would cease trading at the end of September, so Rebecca Hibit and Philip Guddemi have found us a new membership services provider (Acteva) and we have now moved our business there. This may be a temporary arrangement while we decide on whether we need further services. If you have any problems with membership issues, please contact Philip Guddemi, VP Membership (see end of message).

## **Membership charges**

As announced in my previous letter, membership fees will go up on 1 January. However, you can rejoin now for next year, saving the cost of the increase. This applies for all types of membership, including life membership, so you may want to take advantage now.

## **Conference 2009**

The next conference has been booked for the period of March 12 to 15 and is being organised by Arun Chandra of Evergreen College, Olympia, Washington, and will be held in Olympia. The theme is “Cybernetics Dance Talk Anticommunication”.

Arun has sent this poetic call:

now to link all these  
and generate a temporary web that holds our  
multi-various-many-sided-eyes-and-ears-and-fingers together

where your eye notices and winks  
while mine is just bleary and blinks

and so the need of one for the other came about

and one brain saw a bird and fled  
and the other saw the stain and laughed

and the two inhabited different worlds at the same time and in the  
same place

seeing each other as each wanted to see  
and avoiding the glance that might have suggested something else

and this cybernetic, dragged down by talk and raised up by talking  
sought shelter in a dance

that kept moving out of reach

as the dancer knew what she could not say  
and talker said what she did not know

and so a partnership was born --- the papers signed, the notary  
notarized the incorporation incorporealized

and what was two was lost to one, and the alternatives dwindled

until at last and long last past they had a disagreement, and needed each other again,

so long as the next agreement threatens,  
the need of anticommunication remains.

come to the conference!

### **Future Conferences**

Meanwhile, I am in negotiation for a fully funded workshop conference on Art, Cybernetics, Design, Maths to take place in January 2010, with a big international conference to take place in New England in August 2010.

The workshop will be an ASC conference, but, will have very limited places that will be awarded in competition. The idea is to raise some important questions and develop new answers and approaches. We hope to publish an outcome (which will include time based material) somewhat in the style of Mary Catherine Bateson's "Our Own Metaphor", which will provide inspiration for the international conference and be an important document in its own right.

The international conference will be an ASC conference in collaboration with a major university, but we will also schedule time for a more homely ASC event for those who are less interested in the theme.

The Cybernetic Coalition that the ASC helped found will be holding a small workshop in Vienna, November 14 to 16, to work on how to do second order cybernetics in a second order cybernetic manner. Attendance has been kept small so each member society can feel it has a significant place in the event. The theme was originated by the Slovenian society, Autopoiesis.

### **Publications**

Barbara Vogl come to the ASC some years ago with her news journal, Patterns. Gradually, this has become our in house society news journal. Barbara has indicated that she wishes to retire from editing Patterns. She will edit 2 more issues with other ASC members. We are unsure what will happen after that, and would welcome suggestions. Please send any you have to Lou Kauffman (asc-president@asc-cybernetics.org)

A number of interested people will meet in Stockholm (during the Cyber 2008 conference, November 10 to 11) to discuss Jason Jixuan Hu's Cybernetics 101 suggestion. I can imagine all sorts of possibilities coming out of this.

Our other publishing ventures and associations remain unchanged,

### **Hand over and contact**

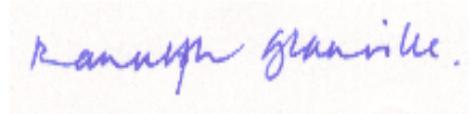
The new administration you elected at the start of the year will take officially over on January 1, 2009. I say that, but many officers are already in place, filling roles that have been vacated or left empty.

Randy has made emails available for the offices of the society. You can contact officers through the following email addresses:

role	current	elect	email
president	Lou Kauffman	Ranulph Glanville	asc-president@asc-cybernetics.org
vice president	Ranulph Glanville	Elizabeth Simpson	asc-vice-president@asc-cybernetics.org
secretary	Thomas Fischer	Thomas Fischer	secretary@asc-cybernetics.org
treasurer	Rebecca Hibit	Rebecca Hibit	treasurer@asc-cybernetics.org
membership vp	Philip Guddemi	Philip Guddemi	membership@asc-cybernetics.org
e-publishing vp	Randall Whitaker	Randall Whitaker	webmaster@asc-cybernetics.org
nominations	Pille Bunnell	Pille Bunnell	nominations@asc-cybernetics.org

Your officers are are working hard both to get the society functioning properly again (for instance, in our hunt for trustees) and to generate ways forward. We hope that slowly, things improve. Your suggestions (preferably with suggestions for how to effect them) are always sought and welcomed. This is a challenging time, but we also believe it is a time of opportunity.

Best Wishes,



Ranulph Glanville, ASCF  
Vice President