



THE AMERICAN
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A Place of Our Own The ASCB Arises, 1961

In truth, Chicago's once-glamorous Edgewater Beach Hotel was already slipping—"courting conventions" sniffed one Chicago architectural historian—in 1961. That's when a fledgling scientific organization booked the dates November 2-4, 1961. Whether cause or effect, the Edgewater closed in 1967 and was torn down three years later. The scientific organization, the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB), is still going strong, convening this year in Philadelphia for its 50th Annual Meeting.

Officially there were 844 scientists in attendance at the first meeting, not including Gary Borisy. "You won't find my name in the list of attendees because I crashed." Borisy confesses. Borisy, who served as ASCB president in 2002, is now director of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. But on that cold November day in 1961, Borisy was a University of Chicago undergraduate. He was thrilled to be riding with his biology professor, Frank Child, in Child's sporty VW Kharman Ghia, heading for the Edgewater. Child sailed into the Edgewater lobby, warmly greeting friends, pointing out scientific celebrities, and quickly settling into an intense discussion with a colleague. Still talking excitedly, Child headed for the first session, dragging along an unregistered Borisy. There were no stick-on nametags or computer-printed badges. No one gave the undergraduate a second glance.

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Commemorative T-shirts, Mugs for Sale



Official ASCB Special Edition 50th Anniversary T-Shirt and 50th Anniversary Coffee Mugs are now available for purchase. The ASCB Booth, located

in the Exhibit Hall at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, will have a limited supply of t-shirts and coffee mugs available for sale.

Or, to purchase online anytime, visit www.Printfection.com/ASCB. ■

We Have a Winner!



David Sept

The science of life, the life of science. Like the phrase? We do! The ASCB Council and staff agreed that it will make a terrific tagline for the Society. We think that David Sept's tagline captures the importance of

our science *and* what brings our special community together.

Sept, a longtime ASCB member based at the University of Michigan, created the winning phrase at the Boston airport. His tagline speaks to the Society's commitment to advancing and showcasing discovery related to the fundamental unit of life: the cell. At the same time, the tagline points to

Winner!, continued on page 10