



Division of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology

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DSEB Officers & Representatives

Patrick O'Connor
Chair 2010-2012

Anne M. Maglia
Past Chair 2010-2012

Todd H. Oakley
Secretary 2010-2013

Michael E. Alfaro
Program Officer 2009-2012

Nicole Cox
Student/Postdoc Representative
2009-2012

Richard Mooi
ICB Editorial Board Representative
2008-2014

Message from the Chair

Patrick O'Connor

Hello to the members of the SICB Division of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology. First off, I would like to extend a thank you to the SICB and DSEB program committees for a great meeting in Seattle. We had good attendance at our co-sponsored symposia and at the Phylogenetics for Dummies workshop, with approximately 60 people attending the latter event.

The conference this year featured a number of exciting talks and posters from both student and professional members of our division. In particular, we would like to thank all of the students who participated in the 2010 DSEB 'Best Student' presentation competition in Seattle. The 2010 meetings provided a great opportunity for us to see a remarkable range of research being presented by students.

Winner(s) of the Best Poster Presentation: (we have two co-winners this year who will share the award):

Nicole Cox [with co-authors S.A. EMME, N. I. ZASLAVSKAYA, and P. B. MARKO] of Clemson University. Poster Title: **Going all the way: Phylogeography and trans-Pacific divergence genetics of two rocky-shore snails.**

and

Allessandra Lopez [with co-authors T. M. GOSLINER and R. F. JOHNSON] of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Poster Title: **Slugs with an identity crisis: Phylogenetic analysis of the *Hypselodoris bullocki* /complex.**

And the winner of the Best Platform Presentation:

Nathaniel Evans [with co-author P. CARTWRIGHT] of the University of Kansas. Talk Title: **Phylogenetic placement of Myxozoa: An exploration of conflict between phylogenomic and rDNA molecular data.**

Congratulations to our 2010 winners and thanks once again to all participants for making the effort to put your work out there for everyone to see.

Here are a couple of announcements for you to consider in the upcoming months.

Our division is looking to elect a new program officer this spring...have a look at the candidate biographies and be sure to



vote in the spring election.

Please see the ever growing DSEB Researchers Database at (<http://www.sicb.org/divisions/DSEB/researchers.php3>) and feel free to contribute to this effort. This applies to student members too! Contact me (oconnorp "at" ohio.edu) or our division secretary Todd Oakley (oakley "at" lifesci.ucsb.edu) if you would like to provide a researcher profile to the database.

On a final note, here are the dates and places for a few of our sister organizations during the upcoming year:

Evolution 2010
Portland, OR
25 – 29 June 2010

International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology
Punta del Este, Uruguay
26 – 31 July 2010

Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE)
Lyon, France
July 4-8, 2010

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
Pittsburgh, PA
10 – 13 October 2010

And we look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City for SICB 2011.

Message from the Program Officer

Mike Alfaro

DSEB contributed in diverse ways to the success of the SICB meetings in Seattle. Congratulations to Nathaniel Evans (UFL) for winning best oral and the co-winners for best poster presentation, Nicole Cox (Clemson) and Alessandra Lopez (Cal Poly Pomona). Also many thanks to all of the volunteer judges!!!

DSEB co-sponsored two symposia: Assembling the Cnidarian Tree of Life and Evolutionary Paths among Developmental Possibilities: A Symposium Marking the Contributions and Influence of Richard Strathmann. We also DSEB co-sponsored a divisional social with DIZ, DEE and the Crustacean Society.

For the second year in a row, DSEB hosted a mini-workshop on using R for comparative analyses. This time around, Luke Harmon (University of Idaho) and I introduced roughly 60 participants to the R programming environment, covering topics like basic tree manipulation, phylogenetic comparative analyses, ancestral state reconstruction, and diversification analyses. If you are interested in attending future workshops like this at SICB, please send me an email.

Finally, we are looking for exciting symposia ideas for the 2012 meetings. Prospective organizers should get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Thanks again to you all for making the 2010 meetings a huge success!



Message from the Secretary

Todd Oakley

First, a special note of recognition and thanks go to Marta deMaintenon for her outstanding service as secretary of DSEB. Thanks Marta! I have big shoes to fill.

An ongoing challenge for me is to encourage members to submit their biographies and pictures for the researcher database. I'll start trying to ask people in person, but if you're reading this, why not take a few minutes right now and send me a photo and a bio.

I would also like to encourage students to participate in the "best student presentation" competition. I will be trolling the Evolution meeting in Portland for outstanding student talks to encourage those presenters to come to SICB. If you know (or happen to be) an outstanding student, encourage her or him to compete in the competition.

Finally, we will be electing a new Program Officer. Please consider serving, and make sure to vote when the time comes.

Minutes of the DIVISION OF SYSTEMATIC AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY business meeting, January 4, 2010, Seattle, WA

Anne Maglia (DSEB chair) opened the meeting with introductions of the 11 attendees.

Bill Zamer (National Science Foundation) announced that NSF will no longer accept 2 page updates prior to proposal review to help with the workload of program officers. The NSF money from the stimulus package has been spent, leading to a bit higher funding rate for 2009. NSF will be increasing the climate change research portfolio; people can sign up for NSF alerts/updates if desired.

Officers Reports – Mike Alfaro (Program Officer). Next SICB meeting is in Salt Lake City, UT. 'Phylogenetics for Dummies' will convene again in 2010 (with food). Alfaro thinks these workshops are important for DSEB's presence at SICB, and he may be willing to do a few more, given that he has grant support for similar workshops. Alfaro also suggests we consider a name change for DSEB to better define the divisions role. Patrick and Mike will discuss.

For the 'Grand Challenges' call, our division was seen as not offering much, not producing a paper. Mike is thinking of some issues that he could write up as an officer.

Four students were entered in the best talk and 10 for best poster. Everyone should encourage students to enter.

Nicole Cox (Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee representative) – This year, student housing and support was rather problematic; work assignments were confused, with some students not getting their due.

Marta deMaintenon (Secretary) – We continually need information for the researcher's database, which could help spice up the newsletter. She noticed that DIZ created a poster of last year's student winners, which is a good idea that we could replicate.

Ann Maglia (Chair) – Urges us to be proactive on the 'Grand Challenges' call. Some of the society funds are low (money for



awards, etc), so donate if you can.

Patrick O'Connor (Chair-elect) – Stated need for a nominating committee for a PO-elect this spring. Graham Slater said he will do this.

- Need to support SICB funds. Suggests sending out an email of info about 'phylogenetics for dummies' and other important things.
- Should make sure meetings don't overlap with other things – suggested all organismal type division meetings one day, concept divisions another. 4-day meeting?
- Reiterated need to donate to awards.
- PO elect wants to encourage high quality symposia for Charleston 2012.

Discussion

Rachel Collin – Indicated some problems with choosing session chairs – the PO had to do this manually – the internet check box didn't work. She suggested considering changing the policy disallowing students from acting as session chairs. Some sessions are all students, requiring a fully separate moderator. Other societies allow this – we could try it in a subset of talks.

Ann Maglia suggested we diversify sessions to allow 1 student 1 faculty as co-chairs.

Patrick O'Connor indicated that DSEB needs more people, one route could be through a name change (e.g., Systematic and Comparative Biology).

'Phylogenetics for dummies' had close to 100 people last year. This year is part 2. Ann Maglia suggests we look at affiliating the workshop with the flagship symposium again, and perhaps look at selecting sym-

posia for this. This could dovetail with the proposed name change.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.