



## Division of Neurobiology

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### **DNB Officers & Representatives**

**James A. Murray**  
Chair 2007-2012

**Thomas J Pirtle**  
Secretary 2007-2012

**Duane McPherson**  
Program Officer 2007-2012

**Darcy Kato Ernst**  
Student/Postdoc Representative  
2010-2013

**Roger Croll**  
ICB Editorial Board Representative  
2008-2013

### **Message from the Chair**

*James Murray*

The SLC meeting was invigorating as usual. Thanks to Duane McPherson for support of the program, and to our numerous volunteer judges for helping with the Best Student Presentations. If you took any nice photos of the meeting participants, please forward those along for the website. I hope to see you all in Charleston and San Francisco in the coming years. Please contact Program Officer Duane if you would like to help out in planning a symposium for 2013 (yes, the due date for that is this summer – August 19, 2011!). We usually submit symposium proposals to NSF for funding, so this would be an excellent opportunity for a young faculty member to get their foot in the NSF “door.”

Please let us know if there are any neuro-related meetings that might be interesting to members of SICB and we can advertise these on the SICB website. I think it would be helpful if DNB could have additional meetings outside of the annual SICB meeting.

We have elections for DNB officers now and we need you all to vote (and consider running for an office next year as well). Please also recruit colleagues to join SICB and show them what a great society we are.

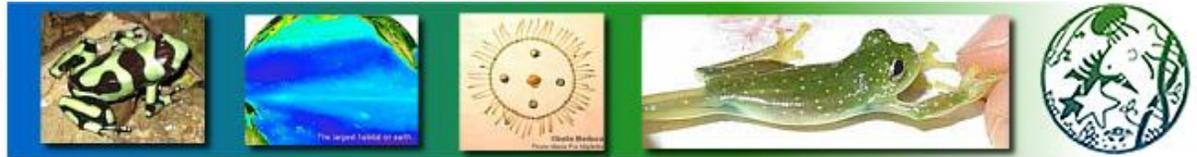
The Society enacted \$5 dues increase for all members and these funds will go to the divisions. So now DNB will have some funds that we can use at our discretion. Please send me input about how these can be best spent to advance DNB’s needs. For instance, they could be used to provide a student travel award, or to increase the number or amount of best student paper awards. The more members DNB has, the larger this fund will get.

The SICB Executive Committee is also discussing the possibility of having mini-symposia with 5 min talks. Basically 1-2 slides per speaker and 4-5 speakers to quickly review new data and stimulate discussion.

We could also improve the DNB website by adding some Researchers Database entries. These are short descriptions of your research focus with an accompanying image.

I created a facebook group for DNB. Spread the word:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=42744755545>



## Message from the Program Officer

Duane McPherson

### Salt Lake City 2011

The meeting in Salt Lake City, January 3-7, 2011, had almost 1,100 presentations and ranks as the third largest for SICB. The Division of Neurobiology was well-represented, with more than 15 oral presentations and more than 30 posters by DNB members. There were two symposia with a neurobiology theme. **I've Got Rhythm: Neuronal Mechanisms of Central Pattern Generators** was organized by Duane McPherson and sponsored by DNB along with several other divisions within SICB. In addition, DNB co-sponsored the **Neuroecology** symposium, organized by Charles Derby and Richard Zimmer. The symposium was reviewed in an article in the New Scientist "The hunt for life's communication links," (pages 14-15, January 22, 2011). DNB also co-sponsored the symposium, **Synthesis of Physiologic Data from the Mammalian Feeding Apparatus using FEED, the Feeding Experiments End-User Database**, which was organized by Susan Williams, Christopher Vinyard, Rebecca German, and Chris Wall.

### Charleston, S.C. 2012

The next SICB meeting will be in Charleston, S.C., January 3-7, 2012. Although there are no symposia scheduled that are directly neurobiological, DNB is co-sponsoring two locomotion-related symposia that will interest many DNB members. One is **Combining Experiments with Modeling and Computational Methods to Study Animal Locomotion**, organized by Laura Miller. The other is **Novel Methods for the Analysis of Animal Movement: Spatial and Temporal Structure**

**across Scales**, organized by Douglas Altshuler and Michael Dickinson.

### San Francisco, CA 2013

After Charleston, the next SICB meeting will be in San Francisco, CA, January 3-7, 2013. Please consider proposing a neuro symposium for that meeting. Symposia are the backbone of SICB meetings and we need regular neurobiology symposia to keep the DNB presence strong. The deadline for symposium proposals is August 19, 2011. I will be happy to discuss the proposal process with anyone interested; contact me by e-mail at

[mcpherso@geneseo.edu](mailto:mcpherso@geneseo.edu).

### Other meetings of interest on the horizon

#### 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Neuroethology

The International Society for Neuroethology will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress in College Park, MD, August 5-10, 2011. For more information visit the society website: [www.neuroethology.org](http://www.neuroethology.org).

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## Message from the Secretary

Thomas Pirtle

### Salt Lake City, 2011 Best Student Presentation Awards

Congratulations to the winners of DNB's Best Student Presentation Award! Ashli Moore was awarded the award for best oral presentation for her work titled "Photosensitivity of the circadian clock is correlated with photic niche in *Anolis* lizards" and Matthew Valdez was awarded the award



Ashli Moore



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Matthew Valdez

for best poster presentation for his work titled "Vasopressin and Pituitary Adenylate Cyclase-Activating Polypeptide (PACAP) participate cooperatively in behavioral and neuroendocrine responses to environmental demands." To learn about more about their presentations please visit <http://www.sicb.org/students/bsp2011.php>.

We thank Wiley-Blackwell Publishers for the cash awards and for providing DNB best student presentation award winners with a one year subscription to the journal *Developmental Neurobiology* ([http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1932-846X](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1932-846X)).

### Minutes of the Business Meeting 2011, January 5, 2011

-introduce Duane and Darcy Kato (student post-doc rep)

-Duane report # papers?

-officers: read descriptions for each position

-We have three names for secretary (Shaun Cain, Lisa Mangiamele, Jim Newcomb), one extra for program officer (Mike Baltzley) and no one interested in running for chair.

-The SICB Executive Committee will soon vote on \$5 divisional dues, allows division to help pay for symposia, student presentation and/or travel awards?

-DNB usually gives two BSP awards, oral and poster. The new \$5 divisional dues could be used for student awards, or anything really.

-may need to update bylaws to relate to BSP

-We still could improve website with materials from our members.

-ADI has offered to loan equipment, I just need to send out RFP.

-new biz: what can DNB do to help? Activi-

ties at other times?

-Symposia? I propose to continue the chemical ecology symposium from 2011 and do something similar in 2013 (SF, CA) with a focus on how toxins affect the nervous system.

-NSF rep visited us to answer questions and to let us know about their presentation about funding opportunities.

-SICB ExComm visited to ask if DNB wanted to ask questions.

-Maybe better to only claim DNB when declaring our divisional affiliation within SICB, since that if we declare another division they get some more support from the \$5 dues.

-SICB meeting is Thur afternoon (awards, budget)

-need symp 2013, deadline mid-Aug (send ideas)

-people ok with letting us use student rep to help organize BSP along with secretary

-have program office go 2 yr, have me continue 1 yr, new secretary this year!

-Karen Mesce is Neural Systems Cluster at NSF (talked with us)

-symposia ideas (modulation of circuits; neuromodulation of muscle function (neuromechanics))

-DNB gets \$2000 from SICB for proposal, but \$8000 possible from NSF

-\$100 award after symposium for your paper if you were invited speaker

-proteomics for symposium from Russell Easy (BioRad proved support?)

-submit symposium proposal to multiple divisions of NSF

-please send me info about other events and meeting for DNB folks

-announcements about other meetings can go on SICB DNB web site.

-put facebook site in newsletter [<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=42744755545>]



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### Candidates for Elections

#### Chair

In the interest of staggering elections for each of the three offices, we are postponing the election of a new chair by one year. Please contact James Murray if you are interested in running for Chair. We really need someone to step up to keep our division a vital part of SICB.

#### Program Officer

The two candidates for Program Officer are Duane McPherson and Michael J. Baltzley. Please refer to each candidate's statement below:

#### Michael J. Baltzley



**Current Position:** Visiting Assistant Professor, St. Mary's College of Maryland

**Education:** B. S. Biology, Pennsylvania State University, 1997; Ph.D. Biology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2006

**Professional Experience:** 2006-08, Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. William B. Kristan, Jr., Univer-

sity of California, San Diego

**SICB Activities:** First presented at annual meeting in Toronto in 2003. Presented at annual meetings in 2004, 2006, 2009, and 2010. Served as judge for Best Student Paper for DNB in 2010.

**Other Memberships:** Society for Neuro-

science; International Society of Neuroethology

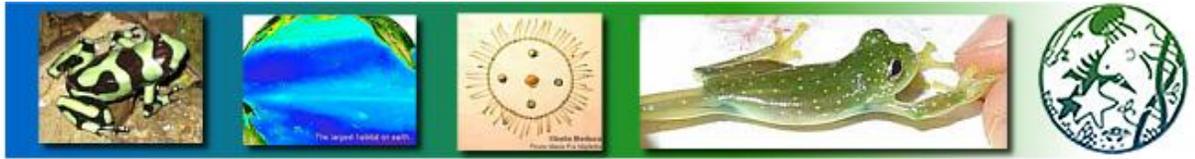
**Research Interests:** My ultimate interest is how neural circuitry changes as species-specific behaviors evolve. My lab uses leeches as a model system to examine behavioral differences between species and investigates the neural circuitry underlying those behavioral differences. We have been focusing on reflexive behaviors in several leech species. The sensory neurons, interneurons, and motor neurons that mediate reflexive behaviors have been well-characterized in the European medicinal leech, *Hirudo medicinalis*. We use this species as a template and study the physiology of homologous neurons in other species.

**Goals Statement:** My primary goal as DNB Program Officer would be to have an annual DNB symposium. I would work to encourage DNB members to propose symposia and would contact members of other divisions to explore ideas for jointly-sponsored symposia. In an effort to foster student participation at SICB, I would contact DNB student members and invite them to propose symposia, either alone or with a faculty co-sponsor. Another goal as Program Officer would be to increase participation and membership in the division. I think regularly sponsoring symposia and involving students as organizers would increase interest in the division and lead to greater participation.

#### Duane McPherson

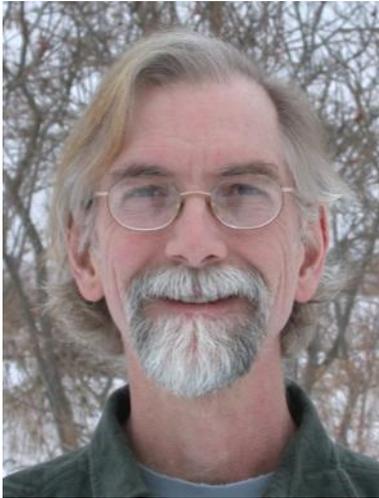
**Current Position:** Associate Professor, Dept. of Biology, SUNY at Geneseo

**Education:** B.A., Biology, Brown University, 1976; M.S., Zoology, University of Georgia, 1985; Ph.D., Neuroscience, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 1990



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**Professional Experience:** Associate Professor, Biology, SUNY at Geneseo, 2001-present; Assistant Professor, Biology, SUNY at Geneseo, 1993-2000; Postdoctoral Fellow, Dept. of Biology, Marquette University, 1990-1993

**SICB Activities:** DNB Program Officer, 2007-present; Symposium organizer (2011); Regular participant and presenter at SICB meetings since 2000.

**Other memberships:** Society for Neuroscience; American Physiological Society; The Crustacean Society; American Microscopical Society

**Research Interests:** Neural control of locomotion in *Aplysia* and other gastropods; synaptic organization of the serotonergic system; serotonergic mechanisms that contribute to initiating locomotion and that modulate muscle function; identification and comparative mapping of serotonin receptors in gastropods; organization of the central pattern generator for swimming in lampreys; ethology of nest-making in turtles.

**Goals Statement:** By serving as Program Officer for the past four years, I have learned a considerable amount about the process of organizing the annual SICB program, and also about the process by which a symposium moves from an idea to a proposal to final inclusion in the program. The experience I have gained led to developing a successful proposal for a symposium on central pattern generators and submitting a grant proposal to NSF to help fund the symposium. The symposium took place at the 2011 SICB Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City and the NSF grant proposal was approved as well. I would like to use my experience to

build on those successes. My first goal will be to assist in the development and approval of at least one neuro-focused symposium for each of the meetings in San Francisco and Austin. Along the way I will seek to develop symposium ideas that strengthen the links between DNB and the other divisions of SICB. My second goal, which has a longer time-range, is to continue the growth of SICB as a major nexus for comparative neurobiology. Neurobiologists with a comparative approach have few options for a meeting-place in the U.S. I will seek to attract more comparative neurobiologists to SICB, for example by allowing members of the International Society for Neuroethology (ISN) to register for SICB meetings at the member rate (with reciprocity for SICB members to register similarly at ISN meetings). I will actively solicit suggestions from DNB membership for other ways to strengthen our relatively young but growing division. And after the coming two-year term, I will happily hand the baton to someone else to serve as your Program Officer!

### Secretary

The two candidates for Program Officer are Shaun Cain and Lisa Mangiamele. Please refer to each candidate's statement below:

### Lisa A. Mangiamele

**Current Position:** Postdoctoral Fellow in Neuroscience, Bowdoin College

**Education:** University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC. Doctor of Philosophy, 2010; Colgate University, Hamilton, NY. Bachelor of Arts, 2001.





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Major Concentration: Neuroscience.

**Professional Experience:** Postdoctoral Fellow in Neuroscience, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME. April 2010 – present; Visiting Student, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Gamboa, Panama. Fall 2007; Research Technician, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA; Center for Behavioral Development. September 2001 – June 2003; Research Assistant, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA. Summer 2000, 2001.

**SICB Activities:** Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, member, 2006, 2007; Oral Presentation: Mangiamele, L.A. and Burmeister, S.S. 2007. Acoustically-evoked immediate-early gene expression in the pallium of the túngara frog. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ.

**Other Memberships:** Animal Behavior Society; J.B. Johnston Club; Society for Neuroscience; Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience, member

**Research Interests:** I am a behavioral neurobiologist interested in the sensory and neuroendocrine mechanisms underlying animal communication. My doctoral work at UNC Chapel Hill focused on characterizing neural responses to male acoustic signals to understand the mechanisms by which female túngara frogs choose their mates. In my postdoctoral position at Bowdoin College, I have expanded upon this work to investigate how sex hormones rapidly influence the sensory processes that underlie visual communication in male goldfish.

**Goals Statement:** I enjoy attending the SICB meeting because it allows me the opportunity to communicate with scientists both inside and outside of my discipline, which often helps me to see my own work in a different context. My main goal as DNB Secretary is to facilitate ways for other members to connect and interact. One way I will do this is via the biannual newsletter.

For instance, the newsletter will serve as a place for members to share ideas for symposia and workshops for the annual meeting. The newsletter could also facilitate more regular interactions between DNB members outside of the annual meeting by advertising and supporting the development of regional networking events, particularly ones that promote undergraduate and graduate student research. I will work to make this happen. By enhancing communication between members, I hope to increase participation in SICB and promote interdisciplinary and integrative research among the Division's members.

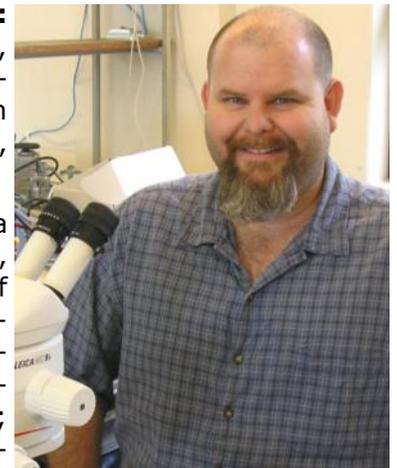
**Thomas J. Pirtle**

**Current Position:** Associate Professor, College of Health Science, Grand Canyon University Phoenix, Arizona

**Education:** Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. Doctor of Philosophy, 2003; Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX. Master of Science, 1992; Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX. Bachelor of Science, 1990.

**Professional Experience:** Associate Professor, College of Health Science, Grand Canyon University. Phoenix, AZ January 2010 – present; Assistant Professor, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX August 2003-August 2009

**SICB Activities:** Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, member, 1999-present; Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Division of Neurobiology





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Secretary, 2007-present; Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Best Student Presentation Poster, Division of Neurobiology, 2001

**Other Memberships:** Society for Neuroscience; Human Anatomy and Physiology Society

**Research Interests:** My research interest is in the cellular mechanisms that underlie locomotor behavior. I use the marine pteropod mollusk, *Clione limacina*, as a model system. Most of my research has taken place at Friday Harbor Laboratories, Friday Harbor, Washington.

**Goals Statement:** In recent years I have not been able to attend the SICB meetings because of conflicting overlaps with my University's semester schedule. Regrettably, I have not been able to attend the SICB meeting since 2008. This has made it difficult to keep up with responsibilities of the position of secretary. However, I would like to run again for this position. As secretary I would continue to keep up with communication with the Division Chair and Program Officer to stay current with what is happening in DNB and will continue to put together the newsletter for our division.