



Division of Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology

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Message from the Chair

Patrick O'Connor

Here is a spring 2012 greeting to the SICB Division of Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology. We have just completed the first conference under our new name (we were formerly known the SICB Division of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology for those of you who might be new to the division) and have some exciting things in development for the next couple of years.

First, I would like to extend a thank you to the SICB and DPCB program committees for a fantastic conference in Charleston. We had a good turnout at the conference in general, at our co-hosted symposia, and even the annual divisional business meeting, with several new faces there to offer their support and brainstorming skills (see minutes from the division business meeting below).

The conference this year featured a number of exciting talks and posters from both student and full members of our division. In particular we would like to thank the students who participated in the 2012 DPCB 'Best Student Presentation' competition in Charleston. We are continually impressed by the remarkable range of research being presented by students.

Winner(s) of the Best Poster Presentation:

Kelly Markello (San Francisco State University): Small wonders: The phylogenetics of highly modified micro-echinoids in the genus *Echinocyamus*. (*Authors Markello, K. and R. Mooi*)

Best Oral Presentation:

Christopher Laumer (Harvard University) for the talk entitled: A single, stepwise origin of ectolecithality in Platyhelminthes? (*Authors Laumer C.E. and G. Giribet*)

Runner-up Best Oral Presentation:

Prashant Sharma (Harvard University): Upstream colonization of Australia by Neotropical Opiliones (Arachnida) (*Authors Sharma, P.P. and G. Giribet*)

Congratulations to our 2012 winners and thanks again to all of the participants for making the effort to put your work out there



for everyone to appreciate.

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

For the first time in quite a few years, we do not actually have any division officer elections. And since we voted on a number of bylaws changes and the division name change last year, our division will have a low profile during the normal spring election cycle. However, please note that we do have society-wide considerations—so please keep your eyes open and participate in the process.

After a flurry of activity about 1 ½ years ago, we have seen SICB DPCB researcher database additions come to a screeching halt. Have a look at the current roster (<http://www.sicb.org/divisions/DPCB/researchers.php3>) and feel free to contribute to this effort. This applies to student members too! Please contact our divisional secretary Todd Oakley (Secretary.DPCB@sicb.org) if you would like to provide a researcher profile for the database.

Among other topics at the business meeting, we once again turned our attention to the development of cross-society symposia aimed at broadly integrating quantitative comparative approaches through Recent and deep time. Immediately following SICB 2012, a core group of DPCB members drafted a symposium proposal for the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. The symposium, entitled 'Comparative Paleobiology—New Quantitative Approaches to the Study of Vertebrate Macroevolution' was recently approved and will be one of the featured symposia at SVP 2012 (see note about dates below*).

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

Evolution 2012
Ottawa, Ontario--Canada
6 – 10 June 2012
http://www.evolutionarysociety.org/meeting_s.asp

International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology
Barcelona, Spain
8 – 12 July 2013
(Note: although the conference will not take place until 2013, the symposium proposal deadline is 15 April 2012)
<http://icvm2013.com/>

*Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
Raleigh, NC
17 – 20 October 2012
<http://www.vertpaleo.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home1>

Have a good year and see you in San Francisco for SICB 2013.

Message from the Past Program Officer

Mike Alfaro

Charleston was fantastic! I was impressed with the talks and posters in this year's Student Competition. Congratulations to Christopher Laumer and Kelly Markello on winning Best Presentation Awards. At the business meeting we discussed several ways to increase participation and membership in DPCB and I hope you will see the results of these decisions in the next year. We will be bringing back a phylogenetics workshop and coordinating with other societies like the Society for Vertebrate Paleontology (see message from DPCB Chair Patrick O'Connor) to encourage new mem-



bers to attend SICB and recruit current SICBers to DPCB. San Francisco is shaping up to be a fantastic conference, so mark your calendars now!

Message from the Secretary

Todd Oakley

Hello DPCB,

I am finally getting used to the new name, and I hope it will help attract a larger number of participants to our division. I just have a few announcements as secretary this year.

Unlike last year, when we had three, we have no new elections this year. If you haven't heard yet, the winners of last year's elections are listed below in the minutes of the business meeting.

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 graduate students to participate in the "Best Student Presentation" competition. I will be trolling upcoming meetings 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 (or yourself) to compete in the competition.

I'd like to echo Patrick, and give my congratulations to our student award winners.

If you are a DPCB member 'in the news,' please let us know, by sending an email to
D P C B s e c r e t a r y

(Secretary.DPCB@sicb.org). We'd love to feature your work in our newsletter.

Chris' award-winning oral presentation concerned the evolution of Platyhelminthes, like this species *Microstomum lineare*



Microstomum lineare



DPCB Business Meeting Minutes – Charleston 2012

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