

## Division of Animal Behavior

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### DAB Officers & Representatives

Diana Hews  
*Chair 2013-2016*

Michele Johnson  
*Secretary 2015-2018*

Allison Welch  
*Program Officer 2011-2017*

Helen Chmura  
*Student/Postdoctoral Affairs  
2015-2018*

### Winners of DAB's Best Student Presentation Awards

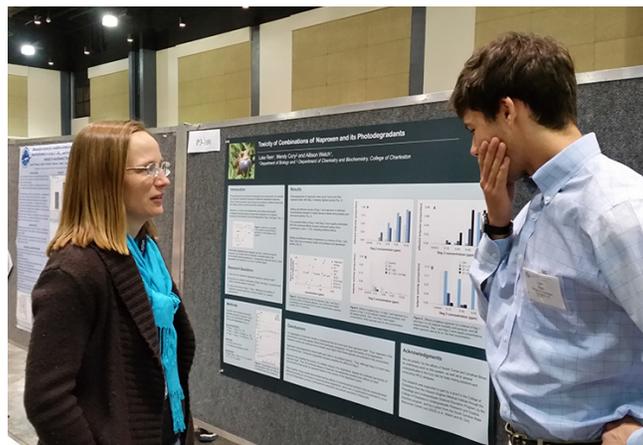
Thank you to all of the students who participated in the 2015 Best Student Presentation competitions! We had an excellent panel of seven speakers in the special session for the DAB Best Student Oral Presentation, and an impressive group of 32 compete for DAB Best Student Poster.

This year's Best Student Oral Presentation Award went to graduate student **Gavin Leighton** for his talk titled, "Genomic relatedness predicts investment in a public good." Gavin is a graduate student at the University of Miami in the lab of William Searcy, and the work he presented at SICB focused on cooperative nests construction in weavers.

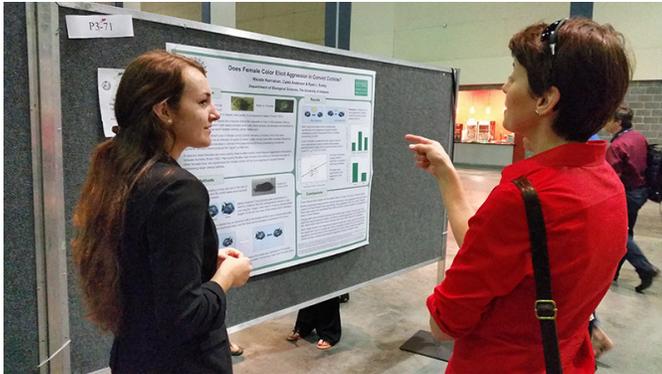
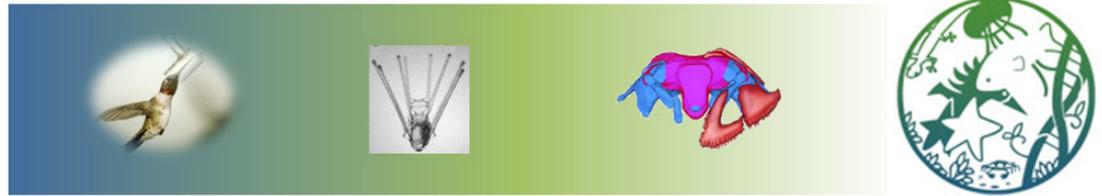
**Robin Costello**, a first-year graduate student from the University of Virginia, won the Best Student Poster Presentation with her poster titled, "Effects of anthropogenic noise on male signaling behavior and female phonotaxis in *Oecanthus* tree crickets." The work Robin presented at SICB reported the results from her undergraduate thesis at Dartmouth College, in collaboration with graduate student Laurel Symes.

DAB is one of the three Divisions that may also choose to award the Adrian Wenner Award for Strong Inference, and this year **Brent Stoffer** was selected for this honor for his talk, "Experience matters: the effects of the social environment on mate choice plasticity in a wolf spider." Brent is a graduate student in George Uetz's lab at the University of Cincinnati.

Congratulations to each of these winners, and a big thanks to all of the judges for your hard work in evaluating student talks and posters! We couldn't offer these awards without your help!



*Luke Rein presents his poster to Sarah Conditt Humfeld in West Palm Beach*



Jodie Jawor learns about Nicole Kernahan's work on cichlid behavior in West Palm Beach

## Message from the Chair

Diana Hews, [Chair.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DAB@sicb.org)

Greetings to the DAB Membership! As of this writing, I am digging out from a half foot of snow; this is nothing in comparison to some areas in the northeast, but nonetheless exciting for the child in me. Birds at a platform feeder are scarfing down our black sunflower seeds and providing lots of entertainment - and of course interesting animal behavior to observe!

Please join me in extending many thanks and best wishes to our outgoing and hardworking Secretary, Melissa Bowlin. Melissa reliably provided Allison Welch (DAB Program Officer) and me a great deal of support and wisdom, and she made sure the DAB's business was done in a timely manner. In concert with Allison, Melissa also orchestrated significant changes in the format of the talks in our Best Student Paper competition, which now involves a single session for the oral presentations, selected from a roster of extended abstracts submitted along with the regular (SICB) abstract. We still are interested in learning your thoughts about the format change, which I suspect we may continue to tweak.

Welcome to our incoming Secretary Michele Johnson who already has made an impact, rolling out the new SICB DAB Facebook Page (see Message from the Secretary). Please "Like" us, in addition to joining! I also extend a welcome to Helen Chmura, from UC Davis, who is the new DAB representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC). One of two standing committees for SICB serving student and postdoctoral members, SPDAC aims to provide programs at the annual meeting of special interest to

these members. Plans also are in the works to collect materials from the SPDAC-sponsored special programs (e.g., this year's Grant Writing Workshop) and make them available on the SICB website. Please send your thoughts and suggestions along to Helen ([hechmura@ucdavis.edu](mailto:hechmura@ucdavis.edu)).

Many thanks to the members who signed up on the list that we posted in West Palm Beach, asking for volunteers to get involved in DAB business. As the year progresses, be on the lookout for an email from the DAB, or from one of the officers, as we may be reaching out for feedback or other forms of assistance. And, as always, feel free to contact any of the officers with your suggestions and comments about how DAB may change and improve.

## Message from the Program Officer

Allison Welch, [DPO.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DAB@sicb.org)

**2015 Meeting Recap** – Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2015 annual meeting in West Palm Beach! Animal Behavior had a very strong presence at the meeting, with over 30% of meeting attendees listing Animal Behavior as an area of interest. The meeting featured five symposia co-sponsored by DAB, as well as ten sessions and many posters on behavioral topics.

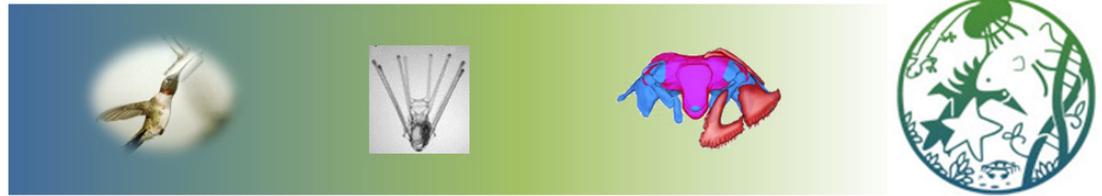
**2016 Meeting Preview** – Mark your calendar for our next annual meeting, to be held January 3-7, 2016, in Portland, OR. We are looking forward to another great meeting. In addition to contributed talks and posters, the Portland meeting will feature another exciting set of [symposia](#), including five co-sponsored by DAB:

*New Frontiers in the Integrative Study of Animal Behavior: Nothing in Neuroscience Makes Sense Except in the Light of Behavior* – organized by Suzy Renn, Hans Hofmann and Dustin Rubenstein

*Neuroecology: Neural Mechanisms of Sensory and Motor Processes that Mediate Ecologically Relevant Behaviors* – organized by Jeff Riffell and Ashlee Rowe

*Are Migratory Animals Superspreaders of Infection?* – organized by Alexa Fritzsche and Bethany Hoye

*Evolutionary Endocrinology: Hormones as Mediators of Evolutionary Phenomena* – organized by Robert Cox, Joel McGlothlin and Frances Bonier



*Beyond the Mean: Biological Impacts of Changing Patterns of Temperature Variation* – organized by Michael Dillon, Art Woods and Michael Sears

Although abstract submission is still several months away, please keep in mind the following tips and suggestions. Your choice of “topic” is the primary determinant of where your presentation is ultimately placed. If you hope to be placed in a behaviorally-themed session, please select one of the topics in group A (Behavior and Neurobiology) as your first choice. Also, if you are in a position to give either an oral or poster presentation, please consider selecting “Either” for your presentation format. Those of you kind enough to do so give the program committee the flexibility to craft better sessions – thank you!

**Call for Symposia** – Are there exciting themes that you’d like to see highlighted at SICB? Emerging ideas you’d like to explore? Then please consider proposing a symposium for an upcoming meeting! Symposium proposals for the 2017 meeting in New Orleans, LA will be due August 24, so now is the time to start planning. The call for symposia can be found at <http://sicb.org/meetings/2017/callsymp.php>, which includes a link to detailed guidelines. Symposium proposers are strongly encouraged to contact relevant program officers before submitting proposals. I would love to discuss your symposium ideas with you and provide tips for a successful proposal; please contact your Divisional Program Officer at [DPO.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DAB@sicb.org).

### Message from the Secretary

Michele Johnson, [Secretary.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DAB@sicb.org)

As the new DAB Secretary, I’m excited to begin this three-year term as a member of our Division’s leadership. DAB is composed of a dynamic group of outstanding scientists, and I’m honored to be part of the team. As I take on these new duties, I want to recognize my predecessor, Melissa Bowlin, for all of her hard work on behalf of the Division. In particular, Melissa oversaw the transition to our current system of DAB Best Student Presentation awards, a change that has increased the profile of our awards within the Society and standardized our judging practices. Thank you, Melissa!

The SICB website offers us many ways to network with other members, but few of us in Animal Behavior have yet taken advantage of the opportunity to participate in the Researchers Database. We would

love to have a robust collection showcasing the research of our membership! If you would like to include your information in this database, please send a Word document with your name and a brief description of your work, along with a high-resolution .jpg photograph, to [Secretary.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DAB@sicb.org).

Another way we have recently begun to communicate with the members of our Division is through a DAB Facebook group page. If you use Facebook, look for the “[SICB Division of Animal Behavior](#)” group, and join us to receive updated information about the activities of our division and our membership.

### SICB Highlights for Students and Postdocs – Meet Your Representative

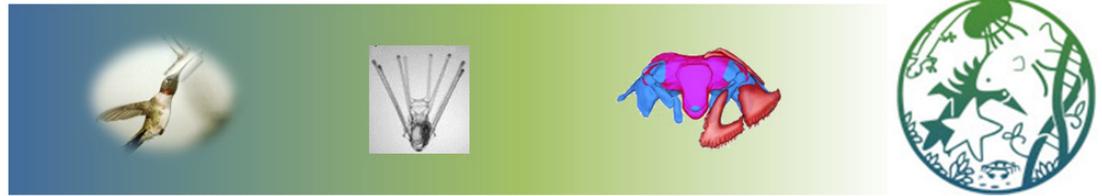


*Helen Chmura, Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative*

Helen Chmura, a graduate student at University of California, Davis in the Animal Behavior Graduate Group, has agreed to serve as the DAB representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee. She will serve from 2015 to 2018. Helen

has been a member of SICB since 2008. Her current research focuses on behavioral scheduling with an emphasis on how understanding timing mechanisms helps explain avian response to global climate change. She is advised by Drs. John Wingfield and Tom Hahn.

[Minutes of the 2015 DAB Business Meeting, West Palm Beach, FL.](#)



## Candidate Biographies: Election for the DAB Chair



### Jennifer Gumm

**Current Position:** Assistant Professor of Biology, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX.

**Education:** B.S., Biology, Millikin University (2002); M.S., Biology, Texas State University (2004); Ph.D. Integrative Biology, Lehigh University (2009).

**Professional Experience:** Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (2009-2010); Assistant Research Scientist, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (2010-2012).

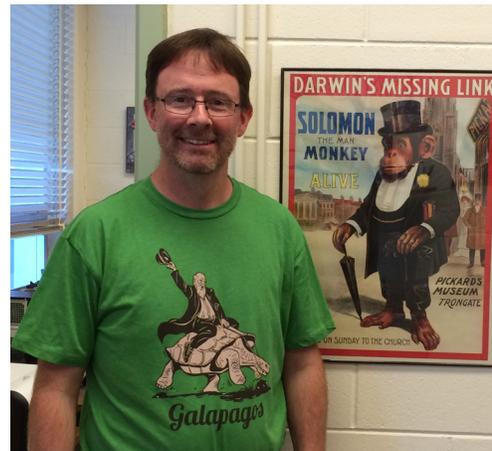
**SICB Activities:** Meeting Participant and Session Chair, Member of DAB and DEE.

**Other Memberships:** Animal Behavior Society; Society for the Study of Evolution; International Society for Neuroethology; American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

**Research Interests:** causes and consequences of diversity in reproductive behaviors and animal communication systems, in particular the visual ecology of colorful freshwater fishes; evolutionary patterns of coloration, physiology and genetics of visual systems and testing the behavioral function of coloration; how community and population composition influence reproductive behaviors, applying animal behavior to conservation aims. We are currently testing how population demographics and sexual selection may facilitate hybridization between endemic and invasive fishes.

**Goals Statement:** As a scientist interested in proximate and ultimate aspects of behaviors, I was drawn to SICB by the exciting breadth of research across the divisions at SICB. If elected as Chair, I will encourage and solicit symposia that highlight the central role animal behavior plays in bridging integrative and comparative approaches and symposia that

focus on innovative approaches to animal behavior. SICB is a very student-friendly meeting and offers fantastic opportunities for students in animal behavior to join the scientific community and to push their own boundaries through interactions with scientists in diverse disciplines. Another goal as chair will be to continue DAB's commitment to students and post-docs. This includes pursuing funding opportunities for young scientists. Additionally, I aim to increase DAB participation and support in workshops and events that provide opportunities for engagement between students and faculty. Finally, I will work to further the division's involvement in public and educational outreach. Greater involvement in social media can strengthen the community as well as reach a broader public audience. I aim to facilitate innovative teaching of animal behavior through integration of research and teaching, and to build resources for DAB members.

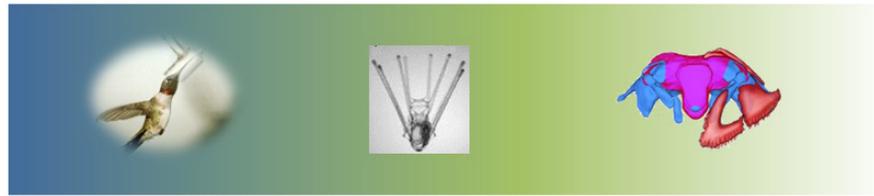


### Matthew B. Lovern

**Current Position:** Associate Professor, Department of Integrative Biology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

**Education:** B.S., Biology, Duke University (1993); Ph.D., Biology, Virginia Tech (2000).

**Professional Experience:** Postdoctoral Fellow, Neuroscience Program, Michigan State University (2000-2003); Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Oklahoma State University (2003-2009); Associate Professor, Department of Integrative Biology (formerly Zoology), Oklahoma State University (2009-present).



**SICB Activities:** Member of SICB since 1999; affiliated with DAB, DCE, and DCPB; co-organized symposium, "Consequences of Maternally-Derived Yolk Hormones for Offspring: Current Status, Challenges, and Opportunities," in 2008; Best Student Paper or Poster judge (DCE) in multiple years; member of the Student Support Committee (2015-present).

**Other Memberships:** Animal Behavior Society; Oklahoma Academy of Science; Sigma Xi; Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology; Society for the Study of Evolution.

**Research Interests:** interaction between hormones and behavior, particularly as applied to sex differences in development, in reproductive behavior, and during physiological stress; how these hormone-behavior interactions differ among closely related species. Most of my work has utilized *Anolis* lizards as research models in both field and laboratory settings.

**Goals Statement:** Ever since my first meeting in 1999, I have considered SICB to be my primary Society home. The breadth and depth of the meetings stimulates interdisciplinary thinking and collaborative approaches to research, much of which is reflected in our journal *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. These facts are a testament to the quality and dedication of the individuals who comprise our Society. I personally owe much to SICB for serving as the starting point for several successful collaborations. SICB meetings serve an important function for students, post-docs, faculty, and indeed the scientific community at large. My goals as chair of DAB would be to continue to stimulate integrative approaches to the study of behavior through facilitation of symposia and workshops of society-wide interest, to promote a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for students and post-docs, and to liaise effectively with the other SICB Divisions, the Animal Behavior Society, and scientific and funding agencies with whom we share goals. I would strive to be an active listener and a strong advocate for DAB in communicating and promoting our interests.



Lauren Davis with her poster on invasive lizard behavior in West Palm Beach



