



Division of Animal Behavior

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DAB Officers & Representatives

Jennifer Gumm
Chair 2016-2019

Michele Johnson
Secretary 2015-2018

Allison Welch
Program Officer 2011-2017

Helen Chmura
*Student/Postdoctoral Affairs
2015-2018*

DAB Divisional Newsletter Spring 2016

Winners of DAB's Best Student Presentation Awards

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2016 Best Student Presentation competitions in Portland! We had an impressive group of six speakers in the special session for the DAB Best Student Oral Presentation, and more than 30 presenters competed for the DAB Best Student Poster.

This year's Best Student Oral Presentation Award was awarded to graduate student **Nick Keiser** for his talk, "Variation in host behavioral type and body condition produce heterogeneity in the transmission of cuticular bacteria among group-mates." Nick is a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh in the lab of Jonathan Pruitt, and his presentation at SICB described a highly integrative study of spider behavior. Check out Nick's website for more info on his work: <http://cnkeiser.wix.com/stegodyphus>.

DAB is one of the three Divisions that may also choose to award the Adrian Wenner Award for Strong Inference, and this year **Alexandra Bentz** received this award for her talk, "Species-specific traits shape patterns of yolk testosterone allocation in response to competition: a meta-analysis." Alexandra is a graduate student in Kristen Navara's lab at the University of Georgia. Learn more about her work at: <http://alexandrabentz.wix.com/alexandrabentz>.



Members of the BSP talk competition, from left to right: Avery Russell, Alexandra Bentz, DAB Chair Diana Hews, Yuxiang Liu, and Nick Keiser. Missing from photo: Isaac Ligocki and Jennifer Hellman.



There was also a great deal of exciting science presented in DAB's poster competition! **Sydney Hope** won the Best Student Poster Presentation with her poster titled, "The effect of incubation temperature on wood duck duckling behavior." Sydney is a Master's student in the lab of Bill Hopkins at Virginia Tech. **Madeleine Naylor** was awarded an Honorable Mention in the Best Student Poster Competition for her poster, "Environmentally relevant Levels of 17 and alpha-ethinylestradiol influence male zebra finch courtship behaviors, pair bond formation and reproductive success." Madeleine is a graduate student at Oklahoma State University, working with Jennifer Grindstaff.

Congratulations to each of these winners, and a BIG thank you to each of the judges who helped to evaluate the student talks and posters!

Message from the Chair

Jennifer Gumm, Chair.DAB@sicb.org

Greetings to the DAB Membership!

It was great to see such a strong representation of DAB at the meeting in Portland, despite the snow and ice! We had fantastic student presentations and posters, and excellent symposia. Thank you to all who organized and participated in symposia and to all of the students who presented their work. To further build the student competitions, we are planning to name the awards after influential figures in SICB or in the field of Animal Behavior. We are currently taking nominations so if you have suggestions, please contact me or the other divisional officers! There will be a vote on the award names coming up later in the year. We also have two excellent candidates for the position of Program Officer (Scott MacDougall-Shackleton and Nate Morehouse) and I also urge you to take part in our upcoming election.

We also owe many thanks to our outgoing Chair, Diana Hews, for her excellent leadership over the past few years. During her term there has been an increased presence of DAB on the web and social media, as well as an increase in prestige of the student talk competition due to its re-structuring. I am happy to report that Diana will continue to serve the Division as a member-at-large and look forward to working with, and learning, from her.

It is an honor to greet you as the new DAB Chair. After attending my first SICB meeting, it quickly became my "home" meeting. I am excited to serve this organization, and this community. I hope to continue to foster the exciting science, and scientists, for which DAB is known.

Message from the Program Officer

Allison Welch, DPO.DAB@sicb.org

2016 Meeting Recap – Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2016 annual meeting in Portland! Animal behavior had an excellent presence at the meeting, with over 250 presentations on behavioral themes or by behavioral biologists, and 30% of meeting attendees listing animal behavior as an area of interest. The meeting featured five symposia co-sponsored by DAB, as well as fifteen sessions and many posters on behavioral topics.

2017 Meeting Preview – Mark your calendar for our next annual meeting to be held January 4-8, 2017, in New Orleans. We are looking forward to another great meeting. In addition to contributed talks and posters, the New Orleans meeting will feature another great set of symposia (see <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2017/symposia/index.php>), including six co-sponsored by DAB:

- *The Development and Mechanisms Underlying Inter-individual Variation in Pro-social Behavior* – organized by Ben Dantzer and Dustin Rubenstein
- *Integrating Cognitive, Motivational and Sensory Biases Underlying Acoustic and Multimodal Mate Choice* – organized by Kathleen Lynch and Scott MacDougall-Shackleton
- *Indirect Effects of Global Change: From Physiological and Behavioral Mechanisms to Ecological Consequences* – organized by Alex Gunderson, Jonathon Stillman, and Brian Tsukimura
- *The Ecology of Exercise: Mechanisms Underlying Individual Variation in Movement Behavior, Activity or Performance* – organized by Tony Williams, Shaun Killen, and Ryan Calsbeek
- *Integrative Life-History of Whole-Organism Performance* – organized by Simon Lailvaux and Jerry Husak



- *Molecular and Neuroendocrine Approaches to the Study of Evolutionary Tradeoffs: Food, Sex, Stress, and Longevity* – organized by Jill Schneider

Although abstract submission for talks and posters at the New Orleans meeting is still several months off, 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 a 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 2018 meeting in San Francisco will be due August 25, 2016, so now is the time to start planning. The call for symposia can be found at <http://sicb.org/meetings/2018/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 me at DPO.DAB@sicb.org.

Message from the Secretary

Michele Johnson, Secretary.DAB@sicb.org

Many of us are now starting to gear up for our field seasons, when we’ll focus our efforts on observing, manipulating, and measuring animal behaviors. This is such invigorating work, but we can’t do it without the networks of students and collaborators that make it possible. SICB is committed to strengthening this network through the online Researchers Database, but DAB has not yet had much of a presence in this database. We’re going to make a concerted effort to make the work of our DAB members more visible this year! We’ll be emailing you with requests for info, but you don’t have to wait on our message – if you’d 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. This invitation is open to any member – students, postdocs, faculty, and others - who is interested in making their work known to the SICB community.

In addition to the biannual newsletters, DAB communicates with our members through Twitter (@SICB_DAB) and our divisional Facebook page. Please follow us on Twitter or look for the “[SICB Division of Animal Behavior](#)” Facebook group to receive updated information about the activities of our division and our membership.

And as always, if you have other suggestions for how DAB can more effectively communicate with you, please let us know!



A group of lizard behavioral biologists enjoying the poster session in Portland.

Student and Postdoc Opportunities at SICB

Helen Chmura, Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Thanks everyone for great participation at the SICB conference in Portland this year. As the DAB student representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee, one of my jobs is to help plan student workshops and opportunities for future SICB meetings. For example, past SICB student workshops have focused on grant writing, developing a web presence, and navigating career transitions. If you have a great idea for a future student workshop at the annual meeting, please drop me an email at hechmura@ucdavis.edu and tell me about it.

Additionally, the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee is reminding students that we have a great new resource to help you find funding for your re-



search. We've compiled a list of external grant opportunities which can be reached by logging in with your SICB member id at <http://www.sicb.org/grants/externalgrants.php>. Good luck and happy grant writing!

Minutes of the Business Meeting, Portland, Oregon 2016: [click here](#)

Candidate Biographies: Election for the DAB Program Officer

Scott MacDougall-Shackleton



Scott MacDougall-Shackleton

Current Position: Professor, Departments of Psychology and Biology, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada.

Education: B.Sc. Biology, Queen's University (1990); M.Sc. Biology, Queen's University (1991); M.A. Psychology, Johns Hopkins University (1994); Ph.D. Psychology, Johns Hopkins University (1997).

Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Fellow, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (1997-1999); Assistant Professor, Psychology, University of Toronto at Mississauga (1999-2001); Assistant Professor (2002-2005), Associate Professor (2005-2012), University of Western Ontario.

SICB Activities: Meeting participant; Symposium organizer; Symposium participant; DAB Chair (2004-2007); DAB Secretary (2007-2009); Best Student Presentation judge.

Other Memberships: Animal Behavior Society; International Society for Behavioural Ecology; Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology; JB Johnston Club for Evolutionary Neuroscience; Society for Neuroscience.

Research Interests: Neural and endocrine mechanisms of bird behaviour, from an ecological and evolutionary perspective. This research integrates across levels of analysis, and research topics have included bird song learning and perception, sex differences in the brain, photoperiodism and seasonality, neural plasticity, and migration.

Goals Statement: I discovered SICB as a postdoc and it quickly became my favourite annual meeting. I believe that integration is the mother of innovation, and that the field of animal behaviour is an inherently integrative field. Having served as both Chair and Secretary for DAB in the past, I am familiar with many aspects of SICB, and view the organizing of symposia and the scientific program as the primary core mission of our society. If elected I would seek to continue the excellent track record of our current and previous program officers in this mission. I also work to encourage symposia organization and participation by younger researchers and those from under-represented backgrounds.

Nathan Morehouse



Nathan Morehouse

Current Position: Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

Education: B.S. Cornell University (2000); Ph.D. Arizona State University (2009).

Professional Experience: EU Marie Curie International Incoming Fellow, Universite de Tours, France (2009-2011); Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh (2011-present).

SICB Activities: SICB member (DAB, DEE, DIZ), meeting attendee (2007-present).



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Other Memberships: American Society of Naturalists; Animal Behavior Society; International Society for Behavioral Ecology; Lepidopterists' Society; Sigma Xi; Society for Science & the Public; Society for the Study of Evolution.

Research Interests: Coevolutionary dynamics of reproductive traits; visual and behavioral ecology; optical physics of animal coloration; nutritional ecology and physiology; life history evolution; sexual selection theory.

Goals Statement: Over the past several years, SICB has come to be my research group's home society and annual meeting. SICB's strong emphases on interdisciplinary research, the mechanistic basis of macro- and microevolutionary change, and organism-centered approaches to biological complexity all resonate with me and members of my research team. As DAB Program Officer, I would be excited to contribute to the society's vitality through efforts to support diversity, professional development, public engagement, and scientific leadership. **Diversity:** The vibrancy of our scientific culture relies on diverse perspectives, inclusiveness, and an openness to new and challenging ideas. Building on my longstanding, active commitment to inclusiveness, I would work to increase diversity in membership, meeting attendance, and recognition of scientific achievement. **Professional Development:** A scientific society should

work to encourage the long term development of its members. I would advocate for social and financial support of society members across career stages. These efforts could include the development of peer and mentor networks through social media and/or conference app interfaces, expanded programming on issues of career advancement, and support for meeting attendance. **Public Engagement:** SICB has a valuable opportunity to connect with the public in host cities. I would work to encourage public programming, art-science collaborations, and other community-facing events associated with the annual meeting. **Scientific Leadership:** As a society focused on research at the highly integrative level of the whole organism, SICB has a unique position to influence research agendas across a wide range of scientific sub-disciplines. I would work to encourage symposia that emphasize forward-thinking topics, cross disciplinary boundaries and promote new perspectives. The recent increase in the number of SICB symposia with multiple divisional affiliations is a promising move in this direction, and I would continue to support SICB's scientific leadership in this area.

