



Division of Vertebrate Morphology

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DVM Officers & Representatives

Callum Ross
Chair 2015-2017

John Hutchinson
Chair-Elect 2015-2017

Alice Gibb
Past-Chair 2015-2017

Andrew Clark
Secretary 2016-2018

Manny Azizi
Program Officer 2015-2017

Brooke Flammang
Program Officer-Elect 2015-2017

Morgan Burnette
Student/Postdoc Affairs 2014-2017

Message from the Secretary

Andrew Clark, Secretary.dvm@sicb.org

Thanks to everyone who attended the 2016 DVM Business Meeting in Portland, Oregon. Indeed we had a very large turnout, and on behalf of the DVM Executive Committee, I thank you all for your enthusiasm and for contributing to a productive business meeting. As with previous years, the oral and poster presentations delivered by DVM members made a strong impression at this year's SICB meetings.

Symposia are effective ways to make our mark on the Society; therefore, I encourage DVM members to submit proposals for future meetings. Please remember that the next Call for Symposia Deadline is August 25, 2016. This deadline pertains to applications for symposia to be delivered in the 2018 SICB meetings in San Francisco. Along with research presentations, you can support DVM's mission and outreach by contributing to the DVM Researcher's Database. If you are interested, please send me the relevant information and photos that I could upload.

No revisions to bylaws were proposed in this year's DVM Business Meeting; however, the Division needs to elect a DVM Chair-Elect and a DVM Secretary-Elect to work with and eventually replace Callum Ross and Andrew Clark. Thanks very much to those who served on the nominating committee! This spring, we have two outstanding candidates for each position. Please be sure to review each candidate's profile, following the 2016 DVM Business Meeting Minutes link, and vote in the upcoming elections!

Message from the Program Officer

Manny Azizi, dpo.dvm@sicb.org

The annual meeting in Portland was by all counts a huge success. DVM participation was outstanding with more than 385 presentations and one of the most well attended (and festive) socials in many years. DVM sponsored three outstanding and well-attended symposia. The Portland meeting was also the first year where students competing for the Dwight Davis best oral presentation award were organized into a special session. This resulted in a well-attended sessions that allowed us to celebrate the great research of our outstanding graduate students. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped organize the scientific sessions, the social, or assisted in judging our student posters and presentation.



As we look ahead to the meeting in New Orleans, DVM will be sponsoring the following two outstanding symposia:

1. **The Ecology of Exercise: Mechanisms Underlying Individual Variation in Movement Behavior, Activity or Performance;** Organizers: Tony Williams, Shaun Killen, & Ryan Calsbeek
2. **Integrative Life-History of Whole-Organism Performance;** Organizers: Simon Lailvaux & Jerry Husak.

It is also time to start putting together symposium ideas and proposals for the 2018 San Francisco meeting. I have already been in contact with several potential organizers and hope that others will take the opportunity put together competitive proposals in order to ensure that DVM continues to be well represented. Please feel free to contact me (dpo.dvm@sicb.org) with questions regarding the evaluation process or for any feedback on specific symposium ideas. Deadlines for proposals will be August 25, 2016.

Message from the Chair

Callum Ross, chair.dvm@sicb.org

Portland

The Portland Meeting was a great success! The DVM podium presentations and posters were excellent. I want to thank Manny Azizi for his diligent work on the Program Committee.

The student submissions for the Liem and Davis awards were of exceptional quality. Please join me in congratulating Crystal Brown, who received the Karel F. Liem Poster Presentation award for her poster entitled "Skeletal Injury Distribution Reflects Hunting Behavior in Extinct Predators: a Novel Application of GIS Technology." Molly Womack won the Dwight D. Davis Oral Presentation award for her podium presentation entitled "Better never than late? Convergent loss of late-forming ears in toads."

Congratulations to both BSP winners, and a big thanks to all the judges who participated in the competitions! Your valuable input and time are greatly appreciated.

DVM Officers

Casey Holliday stepped down as Division Secretary this year. Thank you, Casey, for your service to the Division. Casey continues to contribute to the vertebrate morphology community on Facebook.

We welcome Andrew Clark as our new Divisional Secretary. Thank you for the hard work you are already doing, Drew!

The Divisional Elections are coming up. We have an election for DVM Chair-Elect and DVM Secretary-Elect. Your Divisional Executive Committee represents you and works for you, so please participate by voting! Thank you to the Nominating Committee—Beth Brainerd, Angela Horner and Adam Summers—for putting together the slate.

Money

You will recall that two years ago at the Annual Meeting of the Division in West Palm Beach we voted to reinstate our annual fee for DVM membership (\$10 for full members, \$5 for students and postdocs). The first target of this fund raising is to build up the value of the Davis Fund to \$25K. We also solicited donations from the members and the membership. As of December 23, 2015, our Davis Fund was just over \$17K. It would be great if we could hit that target this year. You can donate to the Davis Fund any time at: <https://ssl4.westserver.net/birenheide/sicbcart/donations.php>

Once this fund reaches the \$25K point, any additional money becomes available for supporting DVM activities such as regional DVM Meetings. These are great venues for local networking and for students (and faculty) to practice presentation skills and get feedback in a small setting. These meetings are important and I would like to see our support for these grow.

At the Portland meeting Chair of DCB Melina Hale and I organized a joint social event at an off-site venue (Star Theater, Portland). The social was well attended and people seemed to be having a good time. We will start planning an off-site event for New Orleans soon. If people have suggestions, comments, critiques or how to make the event better, please email me with ideas and suggestions.

Start thinking about Symposium Proposals for the 2018 meeting in San Francisco and your presentations for New Orleans in 2017!

Be sure to visit the DVM page on Facebook where we have an active community posting jobs, news, workshop announcements and discussions.

Minutes from the 2016 DVM Business Meeting (click [here](#))



Acknowledging DVM members in service

The Divisional Executive Committee acknowledges Casey Holliday for his service as DVM Secretary since 2013. Thank you, Callum Ross (DVM Chair) for representing our division on the SICB Executive Committee, and thanks also to Manny Azizi (DVM Program Officer) for representing our division on the Program Committee. Both Callum and Manny have been serving as Chair and PO since 2015.

Thank you, Lara Ferry for your service on the ICB Editorial Board since 2010. We welcome Sharlene Santana as our new representative on the ICB Editorial Board. Sharlene will be serving on the board through the end of the 2021 meetings.

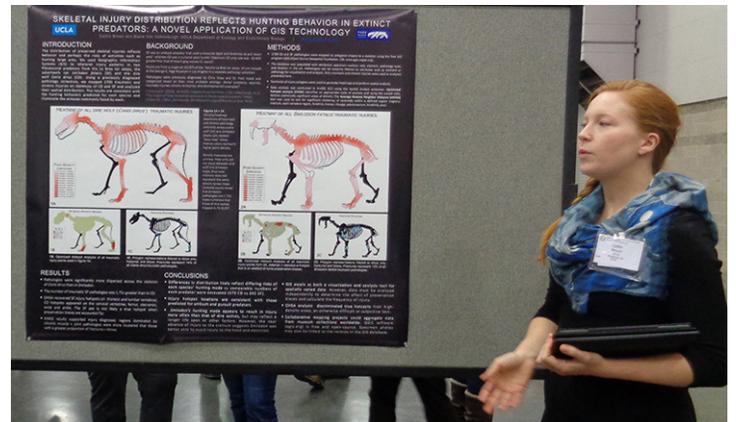
Morgan Burnette has served as our DVM Student/Post-doctoral representative on the SICB Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee since January 2014 and will be rotating from his appointment in January 2017. Thank you for your service, Morgan! Phillip Anderson has volunteered to serve as our next Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee rep, as well as chairing the student award judging.

**DVM awards and honors
This Year's Best Student Papers**

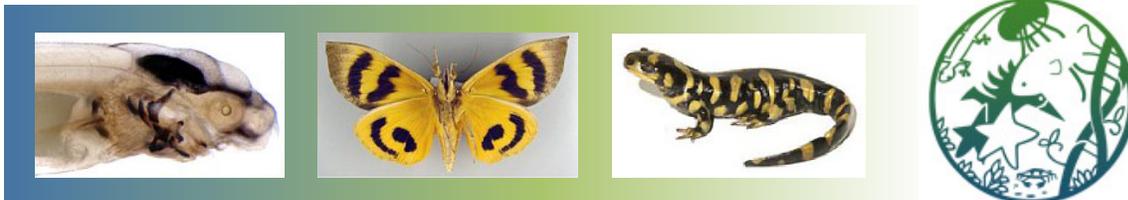


Congratulations to Sharlene Santana (University of Washington) for being honored with the 2016 Carl Gans award! This year's BSP winners from DVM are Molly Womack (Colorado State University) and Crystal Brown (University of California, Los Angeles).

Congratulations to Molly on earning this year's Dwight Davis Award for best oral presentation titled "Better never than late? Convergent loss of late-forming ears in toads."



Crystal's poster titled, "Skeletal Injury Distribution Reflects Hunting Behavior in Extinct Predators: a Novel Application of GIS Technology," was presented with this year's Karel Liem Award!



Candidate Profiles for the Spring 2016 DVM Elections

DVM Chair-Elect



L Patricia Hernandez

Current Position: Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, George Washington University, Washington, DC.

Education: BS Eckerd College (1987); MS University of South Florida (1994); Ph.D. Harvard University (1999); Postdoctoral Fellow Wesleyan University (1999-2002).

Professional Experience: Associate Professor, George Washington University (2009-present); Assistant Professor, George Washington University (2002-2009); Postdoctoral Fellow, Wesleyan University (1999-2002); Visiting Professor, University of Washington Friday Harbor (2001); Visiting Professor, Wesleyan University (1999-2000); Adjunct Instructor, Eckerd College (1992-1993).

SICB Activities: SICB Member-at-Large (2015-present); Program Officer for the Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology (2010-2013); Student Support Committee (2007-2009); Participant in Symposium "Zebrafish in Comparative Context" (2006); Chair, Broadening Participation Committee (2007-2008); Chair of Nominating committee for DEDB (2005); Organized roundtable discussion on increasing minority representation within SICB for the Membership Diversity Committee (2004); Nominating Committee, DEDB

(2003); member of the Membership Diversity Committee (2002-2005); Chair of Nominating committee for DEDB (2001); Participant in Symposium "Molecules, Muscles, and Macroevolution" (2001); Student/Post-doctoral Affairs Committee Representative for DEDB (2000-2002).

Other Memberships: International Society for Vertebrate Morphology; Society for Developmental Biology; American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

Research Interests: vertebrate morphological evolution; evolutionary developmental biology; comparative anatomy; craniofacial development; cypriniform fishes.

Statement of Goals: The strength of SICB is found in both its interdisciplinary emphasis as well as its commitment to excellence within each specific Division. The Division of Vertebrate Morphology has been my home since I first started attending scientific meetings. In this day of powerful molecular tools, some foolishly think that the golden days of morphology are far behind us. Yet I am certain that the best is yet to come. Using both powerful molecular tools as well as a multitude of new visualization techniques, vertebrate morphology is stronger than ever, evidenced by our healthy student population. Having research experience that spans from developmental biology to experimental functional morphology, I believe that I would bring a great breadth of knowledge to the diverse subfields that exist within this Division. The integrative nature of my own work is something that has been nurtured by this Division since I was first a student member. As DVM Chair-Elect I will strive to foster this rich tradition of truly interdisciplinary investigation within our field, allowing for the wonderful cross-fertilization that occurs within such integrative research.





DVM Chair-Elect

Diane A. Kelly



Current Positions: Adjunct Research Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; Research Scholar, Ronin Institute. <http://ronininstitute.org/research-scholars/diane-kelly/>

Education/Training: A.B., Biological Sciences, University of Chicago (1990); Ph.D., Zoology, Duke University (1997); Postdoctoral Research Fellow, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University (1997-2000).

Professional Experience: Adjunct Research Assistant Professor and Lecturer, UMass Amherst (2013-); Lead Writer, Throb, Gawker Media (2015); Senior Research Fellow, UMass Amherst (2010-2013); Research and Development Editor, Sinauer Publishing (2009-2010); Research Associate, Geological Sciences, Amherst College (2006-2009); Lecturer, Biology, UMass Amherst (2003-2004); Visiting Professor, Mount Holyoke College (2000-2002); Freelance science writer since 2003.

SICB Activities: Member of SICB and the Division of Vertebrate Morphology since 1992; Member of Division of Comparative Biomechanics since its inception (2007); Public Affairs Committee (1999-2004); Dwight Davis Student Prize committee chair (2000-2002); DVM Nomination Committee (2012); co-organized "Morphology of Intromittent Organs" symposium and associated "Oddball Science" event at the 2016 meeting; frequent session chair.

Other Memberships: International Society for Vertebrate Morphology; American Association of Anatomists; Society for Neuroscience; National Association of Science Writers.

Research Interests: I'm best known for my work on the functional morphology and biomechanics of the amniote phallus, but I'm also describing sexually dimorphic neural circuits that control reproduction in the mammalian brain and currently collaborate on a descriptive mouse 'connectome' project.

Goals Statement: SICB and DVM have been a critical part of my less-than-traditional career in science – being involved with the Society kept me connected to other vertebrate morphologists, which helped me continue the research I love while I worked in textbook and magazine writing, game design, and teaching. Although much of the next generation of vertebrate morphologists may also wind up in jobs outside of academia, most of our career advice is still geared to landing an assistant professorship. As Chair of DVM, one of my missions would be to broaden how we help our students and postdoctoral researchers navigate job searches outside of academia, so they can learn to find positions that let them use their hard-won expertise. I would also continue (and hopefully expand) John Hutchinson's efforts to strengthen DVM's (and morphology's) profile in the public eye, drawing from my experience in science communication to show the general public that vertebrate morphology is still an active and exciting field filled with as-yet-unsolved mysteries.



DVM Secretary-Elect

Laura J. Ekstrom



Current Position: Assistant Professor of Biology, Wheaton College, Norton, MA.

Education: B.Sc., Hons., McMaster University (2002); Ph.D. Florida Atlantic University (2011); Howard Hughes Medical Institute Postdoctoral Fellow, Mount Holyoke College (2010-2012).

Professional Experience: Assistant Professor of Biology, Wheaton College, MA (2012 - present), HHMI Postdoctoral Fellow, Mount Holyoke College (2010-2012)

SICB Activities: Member of SICB since 2005. Member of DVM and DCB since 2009. Session Chair, multiple meetings. Judge of student posters for DVM and DCB, one meeting each. Presented nine first-author papers and seven co-authored papers; received DVM's Best Poster Presentation Award in 2009 and DAB's Best Poster Presentation Award in 2006. Regular participant in DVM's NE regional meetings.

Other Memberships: American Elasmobranch Society; American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

Research Interests: Biomechanics and control of locomotion; evolution of skeletons; morphological plasticity.

Goals Statement: Like many members, I began attending SICB meetings as an early graduate student. SICB allowed me to expand my intellectual horizons and, equally important, my view of scientists and my-

self. I encountered a diverse group of scientists, including many women who became my unofficial mentors (whether they knew it or not!). As DVM Secretary, I would be honored to perform the role to its fullest to give back a portion of what SICB has provided for me. Using multiple media platforms, I would promote the work of our members while also highlighting accomplishments of women and other underrepresented groups in STEM. Such support could help junior members find inspiration and community within DVM. Similarly, I would increase visibility for the excellent research consistently produced by DVM graduate and undergraduate student members. I would be proud to bring all of these achievements to the attention of the society-wide and divisional secretaries and to also promote DVM outside of the society. It is an honor to be nominated for this position.

DVM Secretary-Elect

Jesse Young



Current Position: Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), Rootstown, OH.

Education: Ph.D., Anthropological Sciences, Stony Brook University (2008); B.A., Anthropology & Psychology, Indiana University (2000).

Professional Experience: Associate Professor (2016-present) and

Assistant Professor (2009-2015), Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, NEOMED; Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology, UT Austin (2007-2009).

SICB Activities: I have attended SICB conferences for over a decade, authoring 16 presentations during that time (9 as first author). I have been a student prize judge several times (for both DVM and DCB) and chaired podium sessions at three different meetings.

Other Memberships: American Association of Physical Anthropologists.



Research Interests: I am broadly interested in the evolutionary biomechanics of the mammalian locomotor system. I investigate the morphological and mechanical factors that constrain locomotor performance in mammals, and how these constraints determine the ecological capabilities of an organism across multiple time scales. Over the past ten years, these research efforts have centered on two broad foci: 1) the evolutionary biomechanics of primate arboreal locomotion and 2) understanding the functional, and possibly adaptive, links between somatic growth and locomotor development (www.younglaboratory.org).

Goals Statement: It is an honor to be nominated for the position of DVM secretary. Ever since my first year of graduate school, when a senior student advised me that SICB was where "the good science gets done," I have found SICB, and DVM in particular, to be a vibrant intellectual community in which I am proud to participate. As a part of this community, my primary goal as DVM Secretary will be to facilitate communication

at multiple levels - within the division, within SICB at large, and in outreach to the wider world. Within the division, I will use the webpage and the semiannual newsletters to alert members about important developments in DVM business, ensuring that we all have a stake in the future of DVM. Within the Society, I will continue to promote the breadth of DVM research by expanding the online Researcher Database and by doing my part to facilitate multi-division and society-wide symposia. Finally, I will work with the SICB Secretary and the Public Affairs Committee to promote the research accomplishments of our DVM members. Most people intuitively grasp the wonder of animal diversity and structure. As vertebrate morphologists, we are well-positioned to use our discipline as a means of communicating the promise of scientific research to the outside world.



From the DVM Researchers Database: Matthias Starck, *Research on Inuit dogs in Greenland* (photo: Nadine Gerth)