



Division of Animal Behavior

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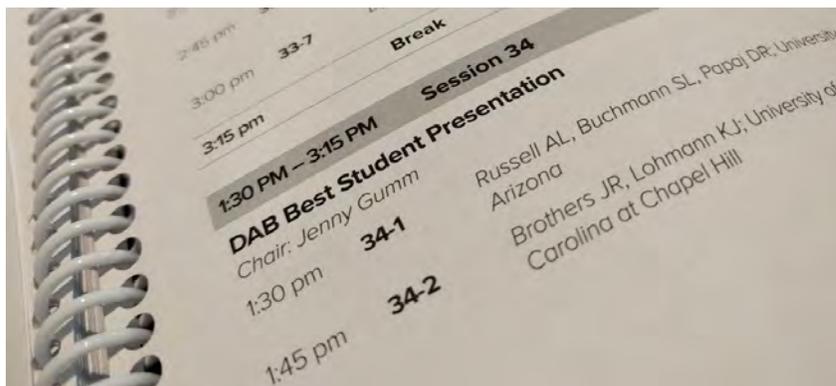
DAB Officers & Representatives

Jennifer Gumm
Chair 2016-2019

Michele Johnson
Secretary 2015-2018

Scott MacDougall-Shackleton
Program Officer 2017-2020

Helen Chmura
*Student/Postdoc Representative
2015-2018*



DAB's Best Student Presentation, Oral Session

Winners of DAB's Best Student Presentation Awards

Thank you to all who participated in the 2017 Best Student Presentation competitions in New Orleans! With 64 student competitors and 55 judges across our oral and poster competitions, most of our division is involved in these competitions in one way or another, and we are proud of this high level of participation in our division.

This year, we had two joint winners of the Best Student Oral Presentation Award. One of these two winners was **Christopher Goodchild**, a graduate student in Sarah DuRant's lab at Oklahoma State University, for his presentation "Animal personality explains among-individual variation in anti-predator strategies." Read more about Chris' work at <http://cggoodchild.wixsite.com/cggoodchild>.

The other Best Student Oral Presentation Award winner was **Rachel Crane**, for her talk "Strategic strikes: how mantis shrimp crack open different prey." Rachel is a graduate student in the lab of Mark Denny at Stanford University, and her presentation described research in collaboration with Sheila Patek at Duke University.



DAB chair Jenny Gumm with BSP Oral Presentation finalists Sarah Guindre-Parker, Roger Brothers, Avery Russell, Jesse Delia, Chris Goodchild, and Rachel Crane. (Not pictured: Lucie Grecias.)



We also had a wonderful group of poster presentations in DAB's poster competition. **Rickesh Patel** won the Best Student Poster Presentation with his poster, "Navigating the benthic reef: orientation in stomatopod crustaceans." Ricky is a graduate student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, working with Thomas Cronin. In addition, **Adriana (Ana) Poole**, an undergraduate in the lab of Mario Muscedere at Hendrix College, was awarded Honorable Mention for her poster "Social resilience and behavioral flexibility in major workers of the ant *Pheidole dentata*."

Interestingly, all four of these awards honored projects on invertebrates!

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!

While the cold temperatures in New Orleans were unexpected, the quality of the science at SICB was excellent, as usual! Thank you to all the members who presented. I want to give a special thanks to those who organized and participated in symposia, which were outstanding.

Students make up a large and vital contingent of the DAB membership. To further serve our students, we have been working to name the Best Student Presentation awards. We hope that by naming the awards, they will grow in prestige, and that they will further reflect the respect and high regard with which we hold our student members. We solicited nominations for names of prominent figures in the field of Animal Behavior at the January 2016 meeting, over social media, and in an email survey sent to the membership. We had a large number of great suggestions ... around 40! This motivated a discussion at the business meeting in New Orleans as to how we should narrow down the field before a vote. You weighed in on whether we should prioritize historical versus contemporary figures, limit the nominations to scientists in our hemisphere, or require active engagement with SICB. It was great to hear your thoughts, and I was incredibly impressed by our shared passion to make it clear that we value diversity, and our desire to select scientists whose legacy makes us proud. At

this particular point in time, prioritizing diversity in the process of naming a prestigious award for students shows who we are and what we value as a society. Based on the feedback throughout this entire process, the divisional officers worked together to select the following prominent animal behaviorists to include for the final vote on the new BSP name.

[Elizabeth Adkins-Regan](#)

Cornell University

http://www.nbb.cornell.edu/adkins_regan.shtml

[Jeanne Altmann](#)

Princeton University

https://www.princeton.edu/eeb/people/display_person.xml?netid=altj

[Peter Marler](#)

University of California, Davis

<http://biosci3.ucdavis.edu/Faculty/Profile/View/321>

[Zuylema Tang-Martinez](#)

University of Missouri, St. Louis

<http://www.umsl.edu/~biology/About%20the%20Department/Faculty/tang.html>

[Marlene Zuk](#)

University of Minnesota

<https://cbs.umn.edu/contacts/marlene-zuk>

We will be holding the final vote in conjunction with the election for our next divisional secretary to be held this Spring. Please make your vote heard and help us move forward with further establishing the DAB Best Student Award competition! As always, if you are interested in getting more involved with the DAB, please contact myself or any of the divisional officers.

Message from the Program Officer

Scott MacDougall-Shackleton, DPO.DAB@sicb.org

As I begin the role of program officer for DAB, I first want to thank our previous divisional program officer, Allison Welch, for her many years of hard work and excellent service to our research community. She did an outstanding job for us over a period with ever-increasing numbers of participants and abstract submissions. Thank you, Allison!

The meeting in New Orleans was another success as the society and our division continues to thrive and generate exciting and important research. DAB co-sponsored six(!) symposia and ran best student oral



and poster presentation competitions. We had over 100 posters and 100 oral presentations by members of the division, in addition to many other behavioral presentations by affiliates of other divisions. Given that behavior is the interaction of an organism with its environment, it is not surprising the animal behavior continues to be at the heart of integrative biology.

The upcoming meeting in San Francisco promises to continue our trajectory as a thriving division. DAB will co-sponsor five symposia:

- **Story and Art in Science Communication (SICB-wide).** Organizers: Sara Elshafie, Stuart Sumida, & Bram Lutton
- **Sensory Feedback and Animal Locomotion: Perspectives from Biology and Biorobotics.** Organizers: Brett Aiello, Jessica Fox, & Gary Gillis
- **Understanding the Evolution of Endocrine System Variation through Large-scale Comparative Analyses.** Organizers: Maren Vitousek, Jerry Husak, & Michele Johnson
- **Science in the Public Eye: Leveraging Partnerships.** Organizers: Martha Merson, Nick Hristov, & Louise Allen
- **Behavioral and Physiological Adaptation to Urban Environments.** Organizers: Jenny Ouyang & Davide Dominoni

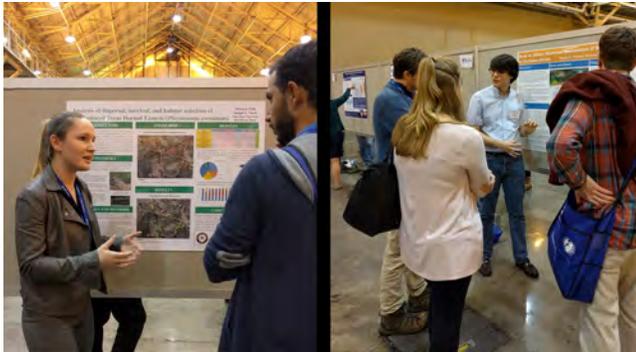
As we look forward to the next meeting, I remind members of our division that SICB has a large number of international members and conference participants, including myself. Many of my colleagues and students are currently unable to travel, or are unsure of travel, to the United States. Indeed, I have uncertainty about traveling to the U.S. myself. I hope that by the time of abstract submission that the current uncertainty regarding travel restrictions for citizens of targeted Muslim-majority nations will be lifted. In the meantime, I urge all of you to contact your government representatives as often as possible to have your voice heard. It is very likely that international participation in SICB will plummet if the threat of travel bans is still present come autumn. Although the SICB newsletter is not a political forum, I believe this issue is of direct relevance to well-being of the society and Division of Animal Behavior.

Message from the Secretary

Michele Johnson, Secretary.DAB@sicb.org

As the secretary of DAB, one of my favorite parts of our annual SICB conference is our Best Student Presentation competitions. One of the responsibilities, and privileges, of my position is to communicate with the candidates for these awards, and to coordinate the judging of the presentations. Because we had such a wonderful response to the call for judges this year, our student posters were each evaluated by a relatively large number of judges, many of whom offered written comments. In previous years, these optional comments were considered in determining the competition winners, but the student participants generally have not received this feedback. Because so many judges offered such high quality feedback this year, after the conference I decided to offer the judges' comments to the students who wanted them. Over half of the participants in our poster competition requested this anonymous feedback, and whether the comments were critical or complimentary, the students were universally grateful for the frank assessments of their presentations. This "pilot" effort was so successful that we have decided to make this official next year – poster judges will have the opportunity to write feedback that we will offer to all student competitors. We believe this will increase the value of the judging experience (for those judges who choose to provide direct feedback to the student participants), and it is clear that our students are eager for the judges' comments. (And if you were a student who competed in this year's poster competition and would like to see the comments on your presentation, it's not too late to request them – just send me an email!)

Our division maintains a growing presence on social media, and we encourage you to follow @SICB_DAB on Twitter, or join the "[SICB Division of Animal Behavior](#)" group on Facebook for year-round information on the activities of the division and our members. You also have the opportunity to participate in SICB's online Researchers Database. 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.



DAB graduate students and undergraduates presented outstanding posters in New Orleans.

Students and Postdocs: Opportunities at SICB
Helen Chmura, Student/Post-Doctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Thanks to all students for a great SICB meeting! Although New Orleans is just a few months past, we're already planning for next year's meeting in San Francisco. If you have an idea for a topic you'd like to see covered in the workshops SICB holds for students next year (e.g., grant writing), please email me (hechmura@ucdavis.edu) and let me know!

Also, DAB is always looking for new ways to reach out to students. Other divisions have hosted special events (such as DCE's "Lunch with a Comparative Endocrinologist" and DEE's "Beers and Brains") that help students network with professors in small group settings. If you would be interested in DAB hosting a similar event at a future SICB, please let me know. If there is sufficient interest, I will work with DAB to pilot such a program at the next meeting. I look forward to hearing from you!



Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Rep Helen Chmura

Minutes of the Business Meeting, Portland, Oregon 2016

[Click here.](#)

Candidate for DAB Secretary

Erica Westerman



Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.

Education: B.S. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University (2003); M.S. Zoology, University of New Hampshire (2007); Ph.D. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University (2012).

Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Researcher, Ecology and Evolution, University of Chicago (2012-2016); Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas (2016-present).

SICB Activities: Meeting Participant (2006-present); Session Chair; Best Student Poster Presentation judge; Best Student Presentation talk competition judge; member of DAB and DIZ.

Other Memberships: Animal Behavior Society, International Society for Behavioral Ecology, Society for the Study of Evolution.

Research Interests: The genetics and neurobiology underlying imprinting-like learning, behavioral plasticity, multi-modal signal integration, and mate choice. Incorporating techniques used in multiple fields, including genomics, behavioral ecology, and neurobiology, to develop a comprehensive understanding of the role of environment in the development, evolution, and diversification of visual learning and visual communication, using butterflies as a model system.

Goals Statement: SICB's focus on integrative biology in an inclusive environment is one of the main reasons it has been my home society throughout my scientific career. SICB was integral to my intellectual development as a graduate student and postdoc, and continues to create an environment that inspires new ideas and motivates creative science. This environment encourages graduate and undergraduate student development, and facilitates collaborations across scientific disciplines and institutions. As DAB Secretary, I would work to continue our division's ef-



forts to encourage and support graduate and undergraduate student research and conference participation, with a particular focus on underrepresented groups. I would work to facilitate increased participation of postdoc members in division activities, and to facilitate communication among DAB members, as well as communication across divisions. The technological advancements of the last decade offer new opportunities for integrative animal behavior research, making this an exciting time to develop inter-division workshops and symposia that incorporate animal behavior. If elected I would work with the other DAB officers to increase the number of society-wide symposia and workshops that highlight animal behavior and expose DAB members to new techniques.

