



## Division of Invertebrate Zoology

### Contents

Message from the Chair .....	1
Message from the Program Officer .....	2
Message from the Secretary .....	3
Message from the Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Representative .....	3
Message from the Student Awards Committee Chair .....	4
Message from the Libbie Hyman Scholarship Selection Committee Chair .....	5
Candidates for Elections .....	6
Proposed Changes to the Best Student Presentation Program .....	7

### DIZ Officers & Representatives

**Kenneth M. Halanych**  
*Chair 2018-2020*

**John Zardus**  
*Past Chair 2015-2018*

**Sarah Berke**  
*Secretary 2016-2019*

**Linda Walters**  
*Program Officer 2017-2020*

**Samantha Smoot**  
*Student Postdoc Representative 2017-2020*

**Jennifer Burnaford**  
*Libbie Hyman Memorial Scholarship  
Committee Chair*

### Message from the Chair

*Ken Halanych, [Chair.DIZ@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DIZ@sicb.org)*

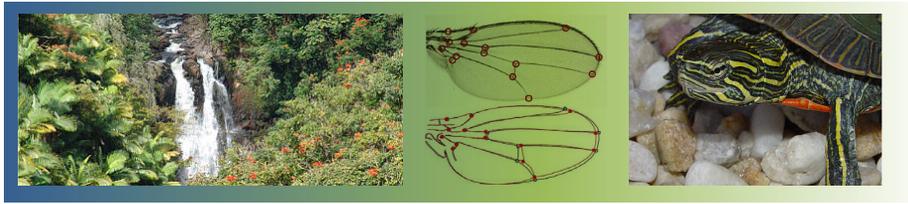
As I am sure many of you know, the SICB meeting in San Francisco was a resounding success, in no small part due to the attendance and efforts of DIZ members. DIZ helped sponsor four excellent symposia that will generate some continued conversation. Also, hats off to the student presenters who, once again, produced outstanding oral and poster presentations.

In addition to being active at the meeting, plenty is happening with DIZ between meetings. First and foremost, a big thank you to John Zardus! John kindly contributed his time to be Chair of DIZ, and steps down leaving DIZ in wonderful shape. So offer him your gratitude (or a beer) at the next meeting. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we will be holding elections for a new Secretary that will start after the next annual meeting in Tampa (3-7 January, 2019). Abby Cahill and Justin McAlister have both kindly agreed to run — more on that below.

IMPORTANT! At the business meeting we discussed a proposal by Bob Podolsky concerning the Best Student Presentation Awards. These awards are



*Invertebrate stamps! How cool!!! The US Postal Service has recently released a run of USA Forever stamps featuring bioluminescent organisms — which of course are mainly invertebrates! #BioluminescentStamps.*



an important function of DIZ, but determining the best mechanism by which to judge the awards is challenging. In particular, for oral contributions, should we have one session which includes prescreened individuals from a pool of candidates? Or should we continue with our current system, with contributions in regular sessions while relying on a large bank of judges? Both approaches have pros and cons. At the business meeting, it was decided that this proposal is at the point where it needs to go to the DIZ membership for a vote. Please think about the proposal and discuss with other DIZ members, as appropriate, before voting.

Also, it is time for another Libbie Hyman auction! This will take place at the Tampa meeting. However, we need items to auction. Please be generous, we need items that are likely to attract attention at the auction. As you know, these funds are used to support the Hyman fund, which means they support our students! Look for more information on the auction in the near future. Don't miss the big reveal below concerning this year's Libbie Hyman scholarship winners.

Symposia, symposia, symposia!! Great symposia are at the heart of SICB and help engage the membership in cutting-edge science. We need great ideas! If you are thinking about submitting a symposium, or just have questions about it, please contact Linda Walters (DIZ Program Officer) or myself. Symposia are a great way for early career individuals to raise the profile of their work.

Parting shot: Lastly, a plea to be engaged in the world around you. Get out of the Ivory Tower every once in a while. As you know, science is being undervalued and basic science is being attacked on a number of fronts. Please do not be shy about letting non-science family and friends know the importance of what you do and why evidence-based science and inquiry is so fundamental to a prosperous society!

Sincerely, Ken

## Message from the Program Officer

Linda Walters, [DPO.DIZ@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DIZ@sicb.org)

I hope the 2018 SICB meeting was as wonderful for you as it was for me! I had an advanced undergraduate student with me, and this was her first international conference. She was a bit overwhelmed by the size and scope of the meeting, but she was equally overwhelmed and appreciative of how thoughtful and genuinely concerned everyone, including luminaries in



*Participants at a community living shoreline event warming up with oyster storytelling yoga, as featured in Linda Walters' talk in the recent "Story and Art in Science Communication" symposium.*

*Photo credit: Linda Walters*

the field, were for her achievements to date, her advancement, and her career aspirations. Neither my student nor I had been to San Francisco previously — what a fun place to hold a conference! In total, there were 1833 presentations and 2497 attendees. With these record numbers, I suggest that my student and I were not the only folks who liked San Francisco as a meeting venue.

There were so many conference highlights! I participated in the society-wide symposium entitled, "Story and Art in Science Communication," led by graduate student Sara Elshafie, Stuart Sumida and Education Council Chair Bram Lutton. Hats off to this team for providing us with something truly unique and important. And if anyone would like a copy of my oyster storytelling yoga routine, please send me an email. Other excellent symposia with DIZ support were: "From small and squishy to big and armored: genomic, ecological and paleontological insights into the early evolution of animals" (organizers: Erik Sperling and Kevin Kocot), "Evolution in the dark: unifying understanding of eye loss" (organizers: Megan Porter and Lauren Sumner-Rooney), and "Measuring biodiversity and extinction: present and past" (organizer: Julia Sigwart).

In January 2019, our meeting venue will be Tampa, Florida. I live about 2 hours away in Orlando, so I can tell you that Tampa is a booming location for conferences, with a new convention center, waterfront access, manatee viewing, and a pub scene in nearby Ybor City. You will be about an hour drive from the famous Florida attractions (Disney, Universal, Sea World, etc.) and about 30 minutes from some of the best beaches in the United States (according to "Dr. Beach").



Highlighted symposia for 2019 will be:

- **Integrative Plant Biology**  
(Organizers: Matt Ogburn, Beth Brainerd, Erika Edwards)
- **Adaptation and Evolution of Biological Materials**  
(Organizers: Rob Campbell, Mason Dean)
- **Beyond the Powerhouse: Integrating Mitonuclear**  
Evolution, Physiology, and Theory in Comparative Biology  
(Organizers: Justin Havird, Geoffrey Hill)
- **Allometry, Scaling and Ontogeny of Form**  
(Organizers: H. Frederik Nijhout, Kenneth McKenna)

Thinking forward, the deadline for SICB workshop ideas for 2019 is June 1, 2018. Symposia proposals for the 2020 meeting in Austin, Texas are due to the SICB office by August 24, 2018. There has been an uptick in number of applications, so the process is quite competitive. Please make sure your applications are complete and well-constructed. The main reasons symposia are not funded include: 1) organizers have not secured a full slate of presenters, 2) diversity of presenters is limited (this includes diversity in academic rank), 3) the topic has recently been the topic of a SICB symposium, or 4) the topic lacks breadth and depth. We like to see DIZ well represented in our symposia offerings; so, if anyone has any ideas for symposia or questions as you go through the application process, please contact me at [linda.walters@ucf.edu](mailto:linda.walters@ucf.edu).

Sincerely, Linda

## Message from the Secretary

Sarah Berke, [secretary.diz@sicb.org](mailto:secretary.diz@sicb.org)

Greetings, DIZ members!

Thanks for another successful SICB meeting in San Francisco. For those who could not make the business meeting this year, there was lively discussion regarding a proposal to change the division's Best Student Presentation program. This spring, we will vote on the proposal put forth by Bob Podolsky. The proposal has three prongs:

1. To enter the BSP for an oral presentation, students must submit an extended abstract. A short list of competitors will be selected from this pool, and their presentations will be given in a single DIZ award session.
2. Introduction of a new mentoring program, in which students can ask to be paired with a DIZ mentor who will give them

feedback on their presentation at the meeting.

3. Naming the DIZ best oral presentation award after Mary Rice, and the DIZ best poster presentation after Alan Kohn.

The items that will appear on the Spring Ballot are at in the Elections section of this newsletter. Please read it, as well as the [minutes](#) of the business meeting for a recap of the main points that were made, both pro and con. We also have an online [discussion board](#) where members have registered comments over the past year; please weigh in and see what others are saying! For those of you with grad students who are members of DIZ, I would encourage you to discuss the proposal with them, as students would be most affected by changes to the BSP program. Be sure to vote on the issue in the upcoming elections, and encourage your students to vote as well!

Finally, don't forget that we have elections this spring for the next DIZ secretary. I would like to heartily thank Justin McAlister and Abby Cahill for accepting their nominations — the division is lucky to have such great choices in this election.

Sincerely, Sarah Berke

## Minutes of the 2018 DIZ Business Meeting, San Francisco, CA



SPDAC rep Sammi Smoot is happy in her Auburn University lab!  
Photo Credit: Sammi Smoot

## Message from the Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Representative

Sammi Smoot, [scsmoot@gmail.com](mailto:scsmoot@gmail.com)

Have you 'Liked' the DIZ [Facebook Page](#)? We're up to 221 Likes and 227 followers, which is almost double the number relative to this time last year! Our goal is to provide a platform broadcast professional development opportunities and highlight research from our fellow DIZ members.

The goal of the Student-Postdoc Affairs Committee (SPDAC) is to improve student and postdoctoral experiences both at the annual meeting and throughout the year by offering workshops and funding information. For more information on available internal grants visit [www.sicb.org/students/awards.php3](http://www.sicb.org/students/awards.php3) and external grant information can be found at [www.sicb.org/grants/externalgrants.php](http://www.sicb.org/grants/externalgrants.php). In San Francisco, the SPDAC hosted



a great brown bag workshop: “Just Publish Papers” vs. Outreach and Advocacy. We’re looking for ideas for next year’s workshop in Tampa!

The SPDAC committee is working to revamp activities during the annual SICB meetings and would love some feedback. We’re particularly interested in ideas to involve post-docs and create resources to pair advisors with future post-docs. What would you like to see? You can email me at [scs0051@auburn.edu](mailto:scs0051@auburn.edu) or message me through the DIZ [Facebook Page](#).

Sincerely, Sammi

## Message from the Student Awards Committee Chair

Anne Böttger

Thank you to everyone who made the Annual SICB Meeting in San Francisco memorable, and a special thank you to all the students who presented! It was a great meeting that included excellent student presentations from the Division of Invertebrate Zoology.

I would also like to take the time and thank the 51 volunteer judges for their commitment to the student presentations and their valued service and their invaluable comments supporting our DIZ students.

In order for students to compete in our division they need to be a member of the DIZ — and this year 45 students competed for best student paper in 21 oral and 24 poster presentations! The winners of the presentation awards and the Adrian M. Wenner Strong Inference Award for the 2018 SICB meeting are:

### Best Oral Presentation

**Winner** – Elizabeth Clark from Yale University for “Insights into the Control Setup underlying the Resilient Decentralized Locomotion of Brittle Stars.”

**Runner-up** – Matthew Birk from the University of South Florida for “Squids do not breathe through their skin.”

### Poster Presentation

**Winner** – Kelsey Nannini from the California State University at Fullerton for “DNA Barcoding of Diverse California Polyclads Has Global Implications for These Hard-To-Identify Flatworms.”



**Best Oral Presentation winner Elizabeth Clark** (pictured with collaborator Daichi Kanauchi) setting up behavioral experiments at the Ishiguro-Kano Lab at Tohoku University in Japan!



**Best Oral Presentation runner-up Matthew Birk**, catching Humboldt squid in the Gulf of California for experiments on squid respiration. Photo credit: Tracy Shaw



**Best Poster winner Kelsey Nannini**, poses with a polyclad flatworm collected in Los Angeles County.



**Best Poster runner-up Kayley You Mak**, collecting water from the Hudson River Estuary. The water will be mixed with varying amounts of fresh crude oil emulsion to test the effects on the autotrophs (i.e. phytoplankton) and heterotrophs (i.e. bacteria).

Photo credit: Elise Myers



**Adrian Wenner Strong Inference Award winner Emily Richardson**, completing *Asterias forbesi* field surveys at Cedar Beach, Harpswell, ME Photo Credit: Jon Allen

**Runner Up** – Kayley You Mak from Barnard College of Columbia University for “Effects of crude oil on the balance of autotrophy and heterotrophy in the Hudson River Estuary.”

### **Adrian M. Wenner Strong Inference Award**

Emily Richardson from College of William & Mary for “The road to stardom: Linking larval food environment with juvenile recruitment success in echinoderms”

Please join me in congratulating these outstanding students for their contributions. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting in Tampa, FL in 2019!

Sincerely, Anne

## **Message from the Libbie Hyman Scholarship Selection Committee Chair**

Jennifer Burnaford

Applications for the 2018 Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship were due on 5 February. We received 20 applications, and were able to award two scholarships of \$1840 this year.

Matthew Boot, a first year Ph.D. student at Ohio State University in the lab of Rachele Adams, will use the scholarship funds to support a residence at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Gamboa Field Station in Panama. His thesis work focuses on the interactions between a tropical fungus farming ant (*Sericomyrmex amabilis*) and two antagonists (*Gnamptogenys hartmani*, a generalist raider, and *Megalomyrmex symmetochus*, a social parasite). This field station experience will allow Matthew to begin colony-mapping and sample collection for genetic analysis.

Andre LaBuda will use the award to support a residence at the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology at Coconut Island. Andre is a first year M.S. student working with Patrick Krug at California State University Los Angeles. Andre's thesis work explores the nutritional benefits of kleptoplasty in sacoglossan molluscs from an ecological and evolutionary perspective. This field station experience will allow Andre to conduct intensive laboratory experiments with species that are not available to him at his home institution, which will deepen the depth and breadth of his MS project.

I'd like to thank my fellow committee members Will Jaeckle and Shanna Hanes and SICB Webmaster Ruedi Birenheide for their excellent teamwork — which makes the application and award process move smoothly.

The Libbie H. Hyman Award provides funding to support the first significant field station experience for advanced undergraduates or early career graduate students pursuing coursework or research on invertebrates. This first field station experience is typically a transformative period in the career and life of a student. We deeply appreciate the donations which allow us to support these experiences. As the costs associated with summer field station experiences continue to rise, we are always happy to accept contributions to the Scholarship Fund so that we can increase the amount of support to these deserving students. To contribute, click on Donate to SICB on the SICB home page ([www.sicb.org](http://www.sicb.org)) or send a check to:



SICB Business Office  
Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Fund  
1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 402  
McLean, VA 22101

Checks should be made payable to SICB and marked as a "Contribution to the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Fund." All contributions are tax deductible. Thanks for your help!

Jennifer Burnaford, Chair, Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Committee

## Candidates for Elections

*Candidates for Divisional Secretary*



### Justin McAlister

**Current position:** Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

**Education:** B.S. Biology, University of Richmond; M.S. Biological Sciences, University of South Carolina, Ph.D. Biology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Alumnus of SEA Semester (C-139), Sea Education Association, Woods Hole, MA.

DIZ Secretary candidate  
Justin McAlister

**Professional Experience:** Marine Biologist II at the Marine Resources Research Institute, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Charleston, SC (between M.S. and Ph.D. degrees). Postdoctoral Fellow at Clemson University, Clemson, SC with extensive fieldwork at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), Panama. Adjunct Faculty, University of New Hampshire, Shoals Marine Laboratory.

**SICB activities:** SICB and DIZ member (since 2001); Routinely serve as Session Chair at Annual Meetings and Judge for Best Student Presentation Awards. Member of Student Support Committee (2017-2020)

**Other memberships:** American Microscopical Society; Sigma Xi; SCUBA Organizations: DAN, PADI, AAUS

**Research interests:** Marine invertebrate ecology and evolution; larval biology, life histories; organism-environment interactions; phenotypic plasticity; energy metabolism; global change biology

Goals statement: I'm running for Secretary of DIZ because I'm interested in promoting the study and dissemination of knowledge about invertebrates, generating and discovering new ways to increase student and public awareness of these fascinating creatures, and better-connecting invertebrate researchers with each other. I want to work with our members to devise new ways to highlight these organisms, the integral roles they play in many ecosystems, and how they can be (and are!) positioned firmly at the forefront of modern biology. I also look forward to building on the momentum generated by previous officers of our Division to encourage greater participation from our current members and to promote new, and active, membership.



DIZ Secretary candidate  
Abby Cahill

### Abigail Cahill

**Current Position:** Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Albion College, Albion, MI.

**Education:** BA Colgate University (2003; Biology & French), PhD Stony Brook University (2014; Ecology & Evolution)

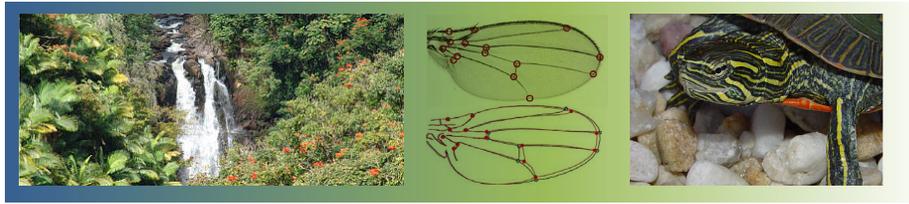
**Professional Experience:** Assistant Professor, Albion College (2016-present); Postdoctoral Scholar, Aix-Marseille Université, Marseille, France (2014-2016)

**SICB Activities:** Member since 2009. Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Committee, DEE representative (2012-2014). Judge for DIZ 2016-2018.

**Other Memberships:** Ecological Society of America, Society for the Study of Evolution

**Research Interests:** Dispersal, larval biology, population genetics

**Goals Statement:** SICB has been my primary scientific society since I joined in 2009, and, within the society, DIZ is my primary affiliation. As a student, I benefited from the society in both tangible and intangible ways, all revolving around the fact that DIZ is one of its most supportive and active divisions. I look forward to giving back to the division through this service position. I am committed to keeping the DIZ newsletter as one of the best in the society, primarily by highlighting the many ways that division members conduct research and teach about invertebrates.



## Proposed Changes to the Best Student Presentation Program

The following proposal has been brought forward by Bob Podolsky, and will be on the upcoming spring ballot. We have discussed this at the previous two business meetings, and an online discussion board has been open since last year. Please visit the board to register your own opinion, and to see what your colleagues have to say! At the top of the discussion board, you will find links to documents summarizing arguments regarding this issue.

The discussion board is here: [sicb.org/divisions/DIZ/bbdiz/index.php3](http://sicb.org/divisions/DIZ/bbdiz/index.php3)

We will be voting on three separate items, as follows. Please note that these are NOT changes to the bylaws.

### 1. Creating a new mentoring program:

- Students would indicate interest in participating in the DIZ Mentoring Program by checking a box on the SICB abstract form.
- All students checking the box would be assigned at least one mentor.
- Mentors would attend their assigned presentation(s) and record detailed feedback.

- Mentor(s) would meet with their student informally soon after the presentation to step through it, deliver the feedback, and talk more generally about the research.
- ### 2. For best student oral presentation, DIZ would move to an extended abstract / single competition session model:
- Students would indicate interest in participating in the DIZ Award by checking a box on the SICB abstract form and submitting an extended abstract.
  - A small panel of judges (4-6) representing different fields in the division would choose up to 8 finalists for each competition based on the abstracts.
  - All students selected to compete would receive special recognition as finalists and would be scheduled to present their talks in a single DIZ Awards Competition Session.
  - The panel of judges would attend all presentations and select a winner and an honorable mention, with winners announced before the end of the meeting.
  - The Poster competition would remain unchanged.
- ### 3. The best oral presentation award will be named after Mary Rice, and the best poster award after Alan Kohn.



DIZ member Emily Richardson searching for the sea star *Asterias forbesi* at the Rockland Breakwater, Rockland, ME. Photo Credit: Jon Allen



DIZ Program Officer Linda Walters and crew sampling oyster reef restoration in Florida. Photo Credit: Linda Walters