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Experiences in Integrative and Comparative Biology

This installment of "Experiences" features an essay of Dr. John Vernberg who was the president of our society, then the American Society of Zoologists, in 1982.

[**\[Read more\]**](#)

Message from the President

- The impact factor for *ICB* rose to 2.232 in 2006 so the journal is now ranked 8th out of 114 in the Zoology category on ISI.
- Our Society continues to thrive: it is fiscally sound, has vibrant Divisions, and is moving toward broadening its scope.
- Position openings for Society-wide officers include President-Elect, Program Officer-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, one Member-at-Large, and Chair of the Educational Council.

[**\[Read more\]**](#)

Message from the Treasurer

- Transition to new fiscal year complete
- Fiscal year finishes with a very positive position
- New financial management team
- Fiscal restraint for Annual Meetings
- Revenue from the new endowment fund for symposia

[**\[Read more\]**](#)

Message from the Program Officer

- The upcoming 2008 SICB meeting will have eleven concurrent oral presentation sessions each day plus 375 poster submissions that will be displayed in groups of 125 on each of the three full meeting days. There will be eight regular symposia covering a wide and wonderful range of topics.

[**\[Read more\]**](#)

Message from the Secretary

- We are happy to have our new face to the world as the new SICB web site launched a few months ago.

[**\[Read more\]**](#)

Comparative Physiology and
Biochemistry (DCPB)

Developmental and Cell
Biology (DDCB)

Evolutionary Developmental
Biology (DEDB)

Ecology and Evolution (DEE)

Invertebrate Zoology (DIZ)

Neurobiology (DNB)

Systematic and Evolutionary
Biology (DSEB)

Vertebrate Morphology (DVM)

Experiences in Integrative and Comparative Biology

This installment of "Experiences" is a special one for me. We show here an essay from Dr. John Vernberg, who was the president of our society, then the American Society of Zoologists, in 1982. I first met John when I was a graduate student in the newly formed Marine Science Program at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Winona B. Vernberg was my major advisor and it was this remarkable husband and wife team that inspired all of us to embrace our passion for science and do it with good humor and healthy collaborations. And yes, I came to know and "love" the Gilson Respirometer pictured with the essay.

Lou Burnett, SICB Secretary

John Vernberg

To highlight specific research experiences from a database of 49 years of pre- and post-doctoral research endeavor is a daunting task. The research path leading from submitting a dissertation to retirement was far from being a straight line! However, there is a common thread which links the apparent deviations in the direction of the path represented by my different research projects. A fundamental question originally stimulated my scientific efforts and it continued throughout my career: What mechanisms enable an organism to live in an environment consisting of a complex of interacting abiotic and biotic factors? My research was not restricted to the study of a given species but was problem directed. This proved to be an adaptive opportunistic response by me because outside factors, such as job location and family, dictated to a degree a new environment to study with a new set of experimental animals. For example, my graduate work was done at Purdue University studying the physiological ecology of salamanders associated with the Ross Biological Reserve. My first post-graduate "job" was at Duke University which also had a forested reserve area. However, the allure of the ocean with a high diversity of organisms and habitats exerted an overpowering force pulling a Midwesterner to the shore where the Duke Marine Laboratory is located.



F. John Vernberg in the salt marsh

At first I studied the comparative tissue metabolism of several fish species in relationship to their locomotor behavior. Perhaps, because I enjoyed the beach, I took an interest in the intertidal zone. Not only was there an appealing fauna assemblage, ranging from mammals to micro fauna, but the rhythmic tidal action exposed organisms to daily aerial and submerged environmental changes as well as marked seasonal changes.



Winona B. Vernberg and F. John Vernberg in the laboratory using the Gilson Respirometer.

One way of studying how animals respond to their environment is to compare the physiological responses of various species and/or different populations of one species to various physical and biological factors. A few examples of the comparative approach will briefly demonstrate this approach. Dr. Richard Tashian and I began a study on the ecology and physiology of latitudinally separated species of fiddler crabs, genus *Uca* which Dr. Winona Vernberg and I continued. Studies ranged from determining and comparing functional responses of adults and developmental stages at both the organismic and tissue/cellular levels of various species from tropical and temperate zones. In addition, interspecific competition of species at

the area of their overlapping geographic ranges was conducted to determine the role of behavior and physiological responses in limiting the distribution of species. Although our studies predated the current intense interest in the impact of global warming, the results are relevant. Naturally it was necessary to study populations of fiddler crabs along the Atlantic coast from their most northern limits in Massachusetts to their southern limits in southern Brazil and Argentina. Winona and I accepted this scientific mandate, after all someone had to do it! Seriously, we found the experience greatly broadened our thoughts on ecophysiological phenomena (and to answer the urge to satisfy our need to honor the creed of the United States Navy "to see the world" which was instilled in us during our period of service in World War II).

Our latitudinal studies expanded to include the offshore fauna when an oceanographic ship (R/V Eastward) became available. Working at sea on a 120-foot vessel is a real research experience! Now we could compare metabolic patterns of species characteristic of colder water north of Cape Hatteras with that of species inhabiting the warmer waters associated with the Gulf Stream.

Another bend in our research path resulted when we focused our attention on the question of how environmental factors influenced the physiological ecology of both a parasite (trematodes) and the various hosts that the parasite inhabits when completing its life cycle.

How does the genome of an individual animal enable the organism to function in the wide range of habitats it encounters which may vary from anaerobic to free-living aerobic and/or cold-blooded to warm-blooded hosts? Also, what impact does the parasite have on the host? These studies involved metabolic measurements, determination of survival rates of intact organisms, and behavioral studies. Unfortunately the techniques of present day molecular biology and genetics were not readily available to us during this period of our research careers.

These studies, which have been described in greater detail in our various publications, are presented here to demonstrate that our research experiences have been exciting to us and totally unexpected based on the knowledge of the environment we had when finishing graduate school. As technological advances are made, the researcher has an opportunity to expand his/her horizons and some day to look back and remember the high points with more clarity than the frustrations.

Message from the President

John Pearse

I trust you have all thoroughly enjoyed exploring our new SICB website. Not only are its layout and rotating images attractive, its organization has been simplified so that items of interest are more easily found. Our gifted and responsive webmaster, Ruedi Birenheide, deserves major credit for this reorganization. In addition, our secretary, Lou Burnett, who worked closely with Ruedi over much of this year, should receive huge kudos for meticulously going through every parcel of the site, and weeding out redundancies and remnants of long ago, to create the streamlined and up-to-date version you see now. I was copied on many of their exchanges, and so I know better than most what they went through. An enthusiastic thank you to both!

I trust you have also enjoyed this year's issues of *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, which have been appearing monthly on schedule since July. By the end of the year all of the symposia to be published in the journal from the 2007 meeting will be out. Quite a remarkable achievement by our editor, Harold Heatwole, and our publisher, Oxford University Press. You also can be pleased to know that *all* papers published in both *American Zoologist* and *ICB* are now online. Moreover, the impact factor for *ICB* rose to 2.232 in 2006 so the journal is now ranked 8th out of 114 in the Zoology category on ISI. Clearly all the hard negotiations done by Past-President Sally Woodin, along with Ron Dimock, our treasurer, and Brett Burk, our executive director, are paying off now.

In early October, I met in San Antonio with the other Executive Officers (Executive Director Brett Burk, Treasurer Ron Dimock, Secretary Lou Burnett, Program Officer Linda Walters, and President-Elect Rich Satterlie) to review the state of SICB and prepare for the Annual Meeting in San Antonio. As you can see from the other officers' messages, our Society continues to thrive: it is fiscally sound (thanks in particular to Ron and Brett), has vibrant Divisions, and is moving toward broadening its scope.

Our meeting overlapped with that of the Program Officers, who worked intensely together to assemble the Annual Meeting's program. I can tell you that the 2008 Annual Meeting will be as full, diverse, and as exciting as ever, and our Program Officer Linda Walters deserves major credit for keeping on top of the never-ending details. I look forward in particular to Past-President Sally Woodin's opening talk, as well as to the film "Flock of Dodos," by our colleague, biologist-turned-filmmaker, Randy Olson. I gather that the film is mostly about us scientists, and appropriately so, I think. Be ready to be scolded. You will also enjoy the setting in San Antonio, with the hotel and convention center conveniently near each other and right on (or over) the fabulous River Walk. Once again we need to thank Sue Burk and Lori Strong for arranging such a great meeting site for us.

I continue trying to fill out and support our hard-working Committees. As you can see on our website, there are quite a few of them, each working for our diverse interests. Most have open slots, however, or will at the end of the San Antonio meeting. If any of them appeal to you, please let me know. Of some concern also is finding someone interested in serving as an Archivist. Our Society has had a long and rich history over the past century, and we want to be sure to capture that history for future members to appreciate. Currently, it is scattered about, electronically and on paper in a variety of files (boxes actually), and needs careful culling and organizing. Eventually, it should all be available to everyone on-line. If you are interested in such a project, I am interested in you.

Of most pressing importance, however, is the selection of candidates for our Spring election. Positions opening for Society-wide officers include President-Elect, Program Officer-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, one Member-at-Large, and Chair of the Educational Council. This will indeed be a major election! If you might enjoy serving, or can think of people whom you would like to see in these roles, please let me know, and I will pass their names on to the Nominating Committee.

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My first year as your President has been enjoyable and satisfying, mainly because of the great people I have encountered. I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio, and working with many of you during the coming year.

Message from the Treasurer

Ron Dimock

- Transition to new fiscal year and budgeting consequences are complete.

With the closing of the books on June 30, 2007, the Society completed its first full year with the new fiscal year. The financial personnel at Burk & Assoc., together with an auditing team, have worked effectively to integrate the calendar year budgets for Dues and Memberships, as well as for ICB journal income and expenses, into the new fiscal format. This involved some complicated splitting of revenues and expenses into the two halves of the new fiscal year. Going forward, there should be fewer problems. The primary advantage remains that now the budget for an annual meeting will have been approved 12 months earlier, as is the case for the upcoming meeting in San Antonio.

- Fiscal year finishes with a very positive position.

Fiscal 2007 ended with a total fund balance for the Society of \$1,963,749 in comparison to the last full 12-month fiscal year ending 12-31-2005 with a balance of \$1,883,934. It should be noted that 'fiscal' 2006 was a 6-month "year" that was necessary during the transition from the old to the new fiscal year. The continuing financial health of the Society is largely a consequence of the recent successes with the investment portfolio. The general operating budget finished about \$85,186 in the red. However, this is considerably less than the predicted deficit for 2007 of \$101,746.

- New financial management team

Since the Spring Newsletter the Society has returned to the professional financial management of Matthew Tederick and his associates at Charles Schwab. When the Society first began to have a portfolio managed professionally, Mr. Tederick was with LPL Financial Services. After a brief hiatus in a different line of work, Matt has returned to strategic asset management in affiliation with Schwab. In conjunction with the Finance Committee, he has modified the Society's existing portfolio to one with a stronger emphasis on growth funds, especially large cap growth, and a larger position in international mutual funds. The Society no longer is invested in a REIT, although the previous timing, initially recommended by Matt, served the Society especially well. The outcome of this rebalancing is a projected greater return with less risk than the previous positions. The Finance Committee is very pleased that Matt has returned to a financial management company. The current balance of the invested portfolio is \$1,187,574.

- Fiscal restraint for Annual Meetings.

As was outlined in the Spring Newsletter, the cost-containment measures approved by the Executive Committee for future annual meetings will be in effect for the 2008 meeting in San Antonio. The major elements of these measures are (1) capping all Society-wide functions, such as receptions, coffee breaks, etc., at \$65,000, (2) constraining divisional socials to encourage joint events and not planning for socials to substitute for evening meals, (3) capping student support for compensated rooms or registration at \$60,000, and (4) initiating a new policy that limits any one student's eligibility for such compensation to attendance at 3 annual meetings. This latter measure is grandfathered in and does not affect students who received compensation at meetings prior to the one in San Antonio.

- Revenue from the new endowment fund for symposia.

For the first time revenue from the new symposium fund, the principal of which stands at \$106,450 with the commitment of \$100,000 by the Executive Committee and donations from approximately 7 members since the meeting in Phoenix, will be available to offset some expenses associated with symposia in San Antonio. Members are encouraged to consider contributing to this or other endowed funds by visiting the wonderfully newly designed Society web pages.

Message from the Program Officer

Linda Walters

I hope everyone is excited about the upcoming 2008 SICB meeting, as it should be one for the record books! We received 1002 abstracts, making it one of SICB's largest meetings ever. To cover all contributed and symposia submissions, there will be eleven concurrent oral presentation sessions each day plus 375 poster submissions that will be displayed in groups of 125 on each of the three full meeting days. All contributed oral and poster sessions were created at the Programming Meeting the first weekend of October. Please thank your divisional Program Officers for their hard work at this meeting.

There will be eight regular symposia covering a wide and wonderful range of topics. Each of these symposia has a full day of speakers planned and many have additional complimentary oral and poster sessions. For the first time, SICB will also have late-breaking symposia. Four were selected in September of this year for the 2008 meeting and these symposia are each a half day in length. I expect these presentations to be very interesting to the membership. I also predict that late-breaking symposia will be very popular in years to come!

Many interesting society-wide events will also occur at our January meeting. We all have come to expect excellent society-wide lectures, including the opening plenary (this year featuring Past-President Dr. Sally Woodin), the Bern lecture, and the Bartholomew Award lecture. We also all enjoy the welcoming social, coffee breaks and the end-of-meeting dessert social in honor of students and post-docs. In addition, this year we have two movie presentations to compliment the symposium, "Evolution versus creationism in the classroom." Dr. Randy Olsen will be present and showing/discussing his evolutionary-themed movie, "Flock of Dodos." There will be 5 free showings of it in the San Antonio Convention Center Theater - please check the meeting schedule for times. Please also look for the dodo (not Randy!) wandering around at the welcoming social. Dr. Richard Lutz will be discussing the issues he has faced in distributing his IMAX movie, "Volcanoes of the Deep" on the Friday evening of the conference. The movie has actually been banned in some areas for the evolutionary themes contained within. The IMAX theatre is less than a block from the conference hotel and discount tickets (\$10) will be available at the SICB registration booth.

Finally, San Antonio is a wonderful city for an SICB meeting. Our hotel is on the city's riverwalk, the scenic destination in downtown that is surrounded by all types of restaurants and entertainment. Also make sure you wander around at street level - lots more ethnic eateries, craft galleries and we are only two blocks from The Alamo, the most visited monument in Texas. Due to renovations in our meeting hotel, the Marriott RiverCenter, our scientific sessions will be in the San Antonio Convention Center, an easy one block from the hotel. Like last year, this will allow us to have all 11 concurrent sessions in one location to facilitate moving between sessions. People were happy with this last year and I am hoping it will work well again. Registration and the exhibit hall for vendors, posters and coffee breaks will also be in the Convention Center. Society-wide lectures and some meetings will also occur in the Convention Center. The remainder will take place in the sister hotel for our meeting, the Marriott RiverWalk. To get from our hotel, the Marriott RiverCenter, to the Convention Center, you walk right through the Marriott RiverWalk.

The SICB Society Officers, the divisional Program Officers, the regular and late-braking symposia organizers, Burk & Associates, and I have worked hard to make your 2008 SICB meeting as productive and engaging as possible. We all look forward to seeing you in San Antonio at the start of the New Year!

Message from the Secretary

Lou Burnett

We are happy to have our new face to the world as the new SICB web site launched a few months ago. This new site comes from the keyboard of our very talented webmaster Ruedi Birenheide. He had the herculean task of putting the new design and content together while responding to about 30 emails per week (sometimes per day) from me asking him to add one feature or another. Thank you, Ruedi.



Webmaster
Ruediger Birenheide

The web site organization will provide a good context for just about anything SICB members require. Over the next few months we will continue to refine nearly all aspects of the web site. In the next phase we will begin populating the site with archival material so that SICB members can have access to important information from the past that can benefit the operation of the society. This will take time and we hope to engage an archivist to help with this project.

We hope members enjoy the changes and will participate in making the site better by contributing to some of the numerous divisional activities, including the researchers database. Photos from the each division's researchers database appears in the upper left panel on the SICB Home Page and changes each time the screen is refreshed. You can be famous! All you have to do is send your divisional secretary a photo and a brief description of your research.

News and Announcements

- [Call for Exceptional Photomicrographs](#)
 - [Graduate Fellowships in Tropical Biology at STRI](#)
-

Call for Exceptional Photomicrographs

Do you have a photomicrograph of exceptional interest and quality? If so, the American Microscopical Society invites and encourages you to enter it into the annual **Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Excellence in Photomicrography Contest**. The contest will take place at the SICB meeting in Phoenix, January 4-7, 2007. Micrographs will be displayed at the AMS booth where SICB meeting attendees may evaluate them and vote for the best image in both black and white and color categories. Winning micrographers in each category will receive a cash award, a photomicrography book and a luncheon ticket to the AMS banquet at the next SICB meeting. The images will be also be featured on the AMS website. The contest is open to SICB meeting participants; up to 3 entries each. AMS membership is welcomed but not required. Submissions must be **prints**, with **maximum dimensions of 8 X 10 inches, unlabeled, unsigned**, and mounted on poster board or foam-core mounting board. A single line of information identifying the subject (e.g., "Mouthparts of a mite") and stating the microscopical technique used (e.g., "SEM") should be below the photograph. **Entries will be accepted on the morning of the first full day of the meetings (Thursday, January 4, 2007)** at the AMS booth in the exhibit hall. The deadline for submitting entries is before the exhibits close for lunch that day. Voting begins on the afternoon of the first meeting day and ends before exhibits close at the end of the second full day (Friday, January 5, 2007). All meeting participants who visit the AMS exhibit are allowed one ballot for each contest category.

Graduate Fellowships in Tropical Biology

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Short-Term Fellowship Program allows selected candidates to come to STRI year-round and is an excellent resource to provide support for graduate students and introduce them to tropical research. Although focused primarily on graduate students, awards are occasionally given to undergraduate and postdoctoral candidates. These fellowships enable selected candidates to work in the tropics and explore research possibilities at STRI. Deadlines: February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15. For more information see: http://www.stri.org/english/education_fellowships/fellowships/stri_programs.php or e-mail fellows@si.edu.

Report of Spring 2007 Elections, Ballot Measures and New Officers

Society-wide and divisional elections in the spring 2007 are reported below. All divisional ballot measures were passed. There were no Society-wide ballot measures. Terms are from the end of the SICB annual meeting through the annual meeting in the years indicated. A number of terms began immediately in 2007 for a variety of reasons. Congratulations to the new officers.

Office	Member	Term
Secretary	Lou Burnett	1/2009-1/2012
Program Officer-Elect	Ed Rosa-Molinar	2007-1/2008
Member-at-Large	Jackie Webb	1/2008-1/2011
DAB Program Officer-Elect	Sarah Humfeld	1/2008-1/2011
DCB Chair	Bob Full	1/2008-1/2011
DCB Program Officer	Frank Fish	1/2008-1/2010
DCB Secretary	Miriam Ashley-Ross	1/2008-1/2011
DCE Chair-Elect	Mark Sheridan	1/2008-1/2010
DCE Secretary-Elect	Mary Mendonça	1/2008-1/2009
DCPB Secretary	Allen Gibbs	1/2008-1/2010
DDCB Chair	Karen Crawford	1/2008-1/2010
DEDB Chair-Elect	Linda Holland	2007-1/2008
DEDB Secretary-Elect	Elaine Seaver	1/2008-1/2009
DEE Chair-Elect	Michele Nishiguchi	1/2008-1/2009
DEE Secretary	Michael Finkler	2007-1/2011
DEE Program Officer (fills vacancy)	Mike O'Connor	2007-1/2009
DIZ Program Officer	James McClintock	1/2008-1/2011
DNB Chair	James Murray	2007-1/2010
DNB Program Officer	Duane McPherson	2007-1/2010
DNB Secretary	Tom Pirtle	2007-1/2010

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DSEB Program Officer-Elect	Michael Alfaro	1/2008-1/2009
DVM Chair-Elect	Mark Westneat	2007-1/2009

Committee Reports

- Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee
 - Student Support Committee
-

Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee

Larry Riley, Chair

Hi everyone, I am the new chair of the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee. If this is going to be the first meeting you have attended I know how you feel. My first conference was the SICB meeting held in Albuquerque, NM in 1996. I was nervous, yet excited, and it turned out to be a great experience. Now, I am glad that I can give back (that is so cliché, but true) to a Society that really focuses on helping young scientists achieve their goals.

The committee (composed of graduate student and post-docs) and I have developed this year's student/post-doc workshop "*I Have a Great Idea, But Who Will Fund Me: How to Write a Grant.*" The workshop will consist of a panel of granting agency Program Directors and faculty review panelists. The workshop will focus on 1) selecting the most appropriate agency to submit your proposal; 2) tips on how to write a strong and convincing proposal; 3) key ingredients to be included in a grant proposal; 4) developing an appropriate budget, etc... We believe that this will be a very helpful and informative workshop since we all need to secure funding to conduct our research endeavors.

Some background on me: I earned my master's in biology from California State University at Fresno under the advisement of Dr. Brian Tsukimura. I then moved to the University of Hawaii and earned a doctorate degree in zoology in Dr. Gordon Grau's lab. My studies investigated the effects of salinity and sex on the physiological/endocrine mechanisms that regulate growth in the tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*), a fish. I received a post-doctoral USDA fellowship and stayed in Hawaii (I married a local girl) for 2 additional years. My research focused on the growth and metabolic role of a novel gut peptide, ghrelin.

I am now an assistant professor in biology at California State University at Fresno. I currently have a couple of graduate students working on an NSF funded project, which is investigating the interaction between ghrelin and insulin on growth regulation and glucose metabolism in the tilapia. Another project funded by California Sea Grant investigated the effects of temperature and nutritional status on the endocrine regulation of glucose metabolism. We are collecting some really interesting data and my research program is growing quickly to accommodate more students.

Student Support Committee

Sherry Tamone, Chair

First of all, I would like to acknowledge Adam Summers, the past chair of the Student Support Committee, for his efforts with this committee and for his continued commitment to the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology. His organization and strong leadership really helped last year's committee members during the arduous task of making final decisions for the Student Awards. During the 2007 SICB meeting in Phoenix, the Student Support committee made the final funding decisions and selected 4 graduate students from a total of 14 applicants to receive a Fellowship for Graduate Student Travel (FGST). During this time, we also selected 23 graduate students from 67 applicants to receive a Grants In Aid of Research (GIAR) award. The list of successful applicants and the titles of their proposals will be available on the organizational webpage. As incoming chair of this committee, I hope to make the 2008 selection process run as smoothly as did Adam, and I look forward to working with past as well as new members of the Student Support Committee. Our deadline for GIAR and FGST submissions is November 18th and I will be organizing proposals and sending these to committee in early December. I would like to thank the past committee members for their continued commitment and welcome the new members for the next term.

Division of Animal Behavior (DAB): 2007 Fall Newsletter

Message from Tom Hahn (Chair), Sarah Humfeld (Program Officer), and Scott MacDougall-Shackleton (Secretary)

Greetings from your DAB Executive!

Upcoming Meeting in San Antonio

We look forward to seeing all of you in San Antonio. Sarah is familiar with San Antonio and assures us this should be a great venue with lots of great science and lots of great places to eat and visit nearby.

Our division is co-sponsoring a whopping four symposia this year:

- Evolution vs. Creationism in the classroom: evolving student attitudes
- Consequences of maternally-derived yolk hormones for offspring: current status, challenges and opportunities
- Reptile genomics and evolutionary genetics
- Aeroecology: probing and modeling the aerosphere - the next frontier

Make sure to check out the excellent line up of speakers. We will again have a combined social/ business meeting. Please plan to attend.

Best Student Presentations from 2007

The best student presentations in Animal Behavior at the 2007 meeting were:

Best Student Oral Presentation: **Heidi Mahon**, Old Dominion University
"Energy maximization strategies of two surface deposit-feeding gastropods"

Best Student Poster: **Devin Zysling**, Indiana University
"Seasonal Changes in Immunity: Immune responses track energetics in Siberian hamsters (*Phodopus sungorus*)"

Congratulations Heidi and Devin! And many thanks to the judges. If you are willing to serve as judge in San Antonio please contact Scott by email.

Upcoming Elections

In 2008 we will need to elect a new Secretary for the Division. If you or someone you know is interested please let Tom know. We will soon be putting together a list of nominees.

See you in January,

Tom, Sarah and Scott.

Division of Comparative Biomechanics (DCB): 2007 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Program Officer](#)
 - [Message from the Secretary](#)
-

Message from the Program Officer

Frank Fish

That's a big HOWDY to y'all. The program is now set for the 2008 SICB meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The conference hotel is located at one end of the Riverwalk. The Riverwalk is full of a large variety of restaurants that should meet everyone's tastes. From the airport, a taxi costs about \$20 to the conference hotel. The talks, poster sessions, and displays will be at the convention center which is a short walk from the hotel. The conference rooms are quite large, providing enough seating for all the talks. Our divisional meeting will be held on Thursday evening and the DCB social will be held the following evening. We will be holding a joint social with the Division of Vertebrate Morphology (DVM). We will be having a "kegger" with an assortment of Tex-Mex favorites.

DCB is making a big presence for only its second year in operation. First, the DCB is sponsoring a symposium, "Going with the flow," which is organized by Rick Blob and Gabe Rivera. This promises to be a major addition to past symposia on bio-fluid dynamics. The symposium will be on Saturday. The oral presentations are distributed throughout the meeting with multiple sessions on swimming, flight, terrestrial locomotion and materials.

If you have ideas for future symposia, please come and meet with me in San Antonio or contact me by email (ffish@wcupa.edu) to discuss the possibilities and see what opportunities there are for funding both within and outside the society. I look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio.

Message from the Secretary

Miriam Ashley-Ross

It's "all ahead - warp 10" for the Division of Comparative Biomechanics. Our special online election had excellent turnout, with nearly 75% of members voting, and resulted in the official election of the entire interim officer slate - Bob Full was elected Division Chair, Frank Fish was elected Program Officer, and Miriam Ashley-Ross was elected Secretary. Special thanks to the division members who volunteered to stand for election - John Bertram, Adam Summers, and Stephen Roberts. Congratulations is also in order to Gabriel Rivera, the first divisional representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee.

At the Annual Meeting in San Antonio, there are multiple symposia that will be of great interest to DCB

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members, and will keep us busy for nearly the entire span of the meeting. Things kick off Thursday morning, January 3, with "Electromyography interpretation and limitations in functional analyses of musculoskeletal systems," organized by N. Konow and S. Gerry. On Friday, January 4, "Aeroecology: probing and modeling the aerosphere - the next frontier," organized by T. Kunz and Nick Hristov, will likely capture much of our attention. Finally, "Going with the flow: ecomorphological variation across aquatic flow regimes," organized by Gabriel Rivera and Rick Blob, will be held on Saturday, January 5. And those are just the symposia!

We will inaugurate competition for the Best Student Paper and Best Student Poster in the Division at the San Antonio meeting. Students entering the contest should be nearing completion of their graduate studies, and thus able to tell a comprehensive story. We also need faculty/postdoc volunteers to judge the Student oral and poster presentations for the division - if you are willing to help, please contact Bob Full, the divisional chair.

Don't forget to attend the DCB Business Meeting on Thursday evening, January 3. See you in San Antonio!

Division of Comparative Endocrinology (DCE): 2007 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
 - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
 - [Message from the Secretary](#)
 - [Message from the DCE Representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Bob Denver (rdenver@umich.edu)

We are looking forward to seeing you all in San Antonio this January. This will be my last meeting as chair of the DCE. Stacia Sower will take over the reigns at the close of the meeting. The meeting is shaping up nicely and Michael Romero is now busy planning the program. This year we are pleased to announce that Peter Thomas, Professor in the Department of Marine Science and Section of Integrative Biology at the University of Texas, Austin will be presenting the Howard Bern Lecture. The title of his presentation will be "Nonclassical Steroid Actions Mediated by Novel Membrane Receptors: Lessons from Studies in Fish." There are many activities planned for graduate students at the annual meeting in San Antonio. Also, the scheduled presentations mentioned by Michael Romero below should highlight your experience. Please encourage your graduate students and colleagues to attend.

Penny Swanson and Lynn Riddiford hosted the Western Regional Conference on Comparative Endocrinology (WRCCE) at Friday Harbor Laboratory March 23-25. There were 60 participants with 32 oral presentations and 7 posters. Professor Michael Adams of the Departments of Entomology and of Cell Biology and Neuroscience at the University of California at Riverside presented the annual Irving Geschwind Memorial Lecture; the title of his talk was "Peptidergic Regulation of Innate Behavioral Sequence." Immediately after the WRCCE (March 26-28, 2007) Tyrone Hayes hosted the International Symposium on Amphibian and Reptile Endocrinology and Neurobiology (ISAREN) in Berkeley, California. By all accounts both meetings were great successes.

Your elected representatives, Michael Romero and Cathy Propper have been doing an outstanding job getting us ready for San Antonio. We have an exciting program planned and I hope will see you at the DCE business meeting and DCE social in San Antonio. In the meantime, be sure to send me your thoughts and concerns about any aspect of DCE: rdenver@umich.edu.

Message from the Program Officer

L. Michael Romero (Michael.romero@tufts.edu)

The 2008 meeting in San Antonio, Texas

The program for the upcoming meeting in San Antonio is almost set. A total of 1002 abstracts were submitted. Of these, 475 requested oral presentations, 364 requested posters, and 54 requested either format (if you checked the "either" box make sure you check the format you've been assigned when the program becomes available). A total of 66 abstracts indicated DCE as their primary division. The rest of the abstracts were affiliated with a symposium. DCE is the primary sponsor for what promises to be an exciting symposium on Yolk Hormones. Several other symposia should also be of interest to DCE members, including one on Recent Developments in Neurobiology and another on Aeroecology (the ecology of things in the air). In addition, there will be a symposium on teaching evolution to undergraduates.

In addition to the scientific sessions, several other events have been set. This year's Howard Bern lecture will be given by Peter Thomas of the University of Texas, Austin. His lecture is scheduled for 6:30 on Friday evening (Jan. 4). It will be preceded by the DCE business meeting and followed by the DCE social. I would also encourage everyone to attend two unique additions to the program. Randy Olsen, the director of the film "*A Flock of Dodos*," will be giving 5 showings of his film followed by a discussion. There will also be reduce-priced tickets to an IMAX showing of "*Volcanoes of the Deep*" hosted by the director Richard Lutz.

This should be an exciting meeting, and I hope to see everyone there!

Message from the Secretary

Cathy Propper (Catherine.Propper@nau.edu)

We have had some wonderful meetings and have several upcoming conferences to choose among. Bob mentioned already the WRCCE and the International Society of Amphibian and Reptile Endocrinology and Neurobiology. Both meetings went extremely well, and Penny Swanson, Lynn Riddiford, and Tyrone Hayes deserve a great deal of praise for all the effort involved in organizing these events. The current thought for the next ISAREN meeting is that it will be held in 2010 in Berlin, Germany, hosted by Werner Kloas. Of course, SICB will be in San Antonio from January 2-6, 2008.

Some other conferences coming up in the next year are:

The Endocrine Society's Annual Conference in San Francisco June 15-18, 2008.

<http://www.endo-society.org/endo/>

Society for Endocrinology's Annual Conference will be in Harrogate, UK from April 7-10, 2008.

<http://www.endocrinology.org/meetings/2008/bes2008/welcome.html>

Society for the Study of Reproduction's Annual Conference will be held in Kona, Hawaii, May 27-30, 2008.

<http://www.ssr.org/Meetings.shtml>

Gordon Conference on Environmental Endocrine Disruptors will be held in New Hampshire June 8-13, 2008.

<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2008&program=envendo>

6th International Symposium on Fish Endocrinology will be held in Calgary, Canada on June 22-27th, 2008.
<http://www.isfe.ucalgary.ca/lifetime.html>

If you have any information/announcements you would like to see posted in the Spring, 2008 Newsletter, please let me know, and I will be happy to post it here. If you have any information that needs to go out quickly to the DCE membership, also send it to me, and I'll make sure it goes out by e-mail.

Announcements:

Call for Exceptional Photomicrographs:

Do you have a photomicrograph of exceptional interest and quality? If so, the American Microscopical Society invites and encourages you to enter it into the annual **Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Excellence in Photomicrography Contest**. The contest will take place January 3-4, 2008 during the SICB meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Micrographs will be displayed at the AMS booth where SICB meeting attendees may evaluate them and vote for the best image in both black and white and color categories.

Winning micrographers in each category will receive a cash award, a photomicrography book and a luncheon ticket to the AMS banquet at the next SICB meeting. The images will be also be featured on the AMS website.

The contest is open to all SICB meeting participants; up to 3 entries each. Submissions must be **prints**, with **maximum dimensions of 8 X 10 inches, unlabeled, unsigned**, and mounted on poster board or foam-core mounting board. A single line of information identifying the subject (e.g., "Mouthparts of a mite") and stating the microscopical technique used (e.g., "SEM") should be below the photograph.

Entries will be accepted on the morning of the first full day of the meetings (Thursday, January 3, 2008) at the AMS booth in the exhibit hall. The deadline for submitting entries is before the exhibits close for lunch that day.

Voting begins on the afternoon of the first meeting day (January 3) and ends before exhibits close at the end of the second full day (Friday, January 4, 2008). All meeting participants who visit the AMS exhibit are allowed one ballot for each contest category.

Message from the DCE Representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee

Darren T. Lerner (dlerner@hawaii.edu)

Hello to all DCE graduate students and postdocs! I am looking forward to seeing you at our 2008 Annual Meeting in San Antonio (January 2-6th).

There are a number of events that you should be sure to attend, some of which are specifically designed for students. These include the Student "First Timer" Orientation, immediately following the Welcome to San Antonio Reception and the student/postdoc workshop tentatively entitled: **"I Have a Great Idea, But Who**

Will Fund Me: How to Write a Grant". For this workshop, a panel of faculty members will discuss and field questions on various topics ranging from how to find funding opportunities to how to increase your odds of being funded. Don't miss out! The workshop will be immediately followed by the Society-Wide Social in Honor of Students and Postdocs. I also encourage you to attend the SICB and DCE business meetings. Please look at the meeting website for details (<http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2008/>)

SICB offers a generous student support program for the annual meeting and details of this program are given on the SICB website (<http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2008/studentssupport.php3>). To be eligible for the program you need to be a member of SICB, a presenting author, and be willing to provide one half-day of assistance during the meeting. The program provides financial support in the form of housing or registration fees. The deadline for this program is October 26 2007.

DCE offers two Best Student Paper awards at the Annual Meeting, one for the best oral presentation and one for the best poster presentation. Undergraduate students and graduate students who have not yet been awarded a PhD are eligible for the award, as are new PhD's who have received the degree no more than 12 months prior to the meeting. The work must be original and must be carried out principally by the student presenting the paper or poster. In any one year, a student can enter either the oral or the poster competition.

SICB and a number of other organizations offer student grants and fellowships. DCE students may want to consider the following funding opportunities:

- SICB Grants in Aid of Research, due Nov. 18th. <http://sicb.org/grants/researchgrant.php3>
- SICB Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel, due Nov. 18th, which provides funds for travel and other expenses at distant research laboratories, museums or field sites. <http://sicb.org/grants/fgst/>
- SICB Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship, which provides assistance for students to take courses or to carry on research on invertebrates at a marine, freshwater, or terrestrial field station. Generally due in March. <http://sicb.org/grants/hyman/>
- Fall 2007 EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellowships, which funds research grants and graduate fellowships in numerous environmental science and engineering disciplines. Closing date Nov 28th. http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008/2008_star_fellow.html
- Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research Program provides funding for the purchase of specific equipment necessary to undertake the proposed research project and travel to and from a research site. Proposals are due October 15th and March 15th. <http://www.sigmaxi.org>
- The National Science Foundation offers fellowships for new students (Graduate Research Fellowship http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=6201&org=DGE&from=home , due early-November) and for doctoral candidates (Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants, Directorate for Biological Sciences <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf05607/nsf05607.htm>, due mid- November).

Division of Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry (DCPB): 2007 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
 - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
 - [Message from the Secretary](#)
 - [Message from the Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative](#)
 - [Integrative Physiology Meets Diversity - This Summer, In Brazil!](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Patrick J. Walsh

I trust you all have had an enjoyable summer. I certainly did, just the right blend of science (including four weeks at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre) and down-time. By now you are all well into the routine of the academic year, so I will keep my comments brief.

SICB Annual Meeting, San Antonio, 2008 (and beyond)

We have a great lineup of symposia (see Don Mykles' comments below) and contributed talks, and San Antonio is a pretty cool venue. I hope to see many of you there! Also, please note Don's request for additional symposia for the outyears.

Judging of Student Papers

The Division of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry honors its student presenters with Best Student Paper Awards (one each for best oral presentation and best poster) at each year's annual meeting. (This year the awards will be named to honor Robert Terwilliger.) This program works because of the dedication and support of the members -- particularly when it comes to serving as judges. Last year in Phoenix, we had OVER 70 entrants. This represented a significant increase (about 10%) over the number of entrants we evaluated in Orlando. This trend has held for about five years now, and all indications are that this trend will continue. In short: we need **you** to serve as a judge, this year more than ever.

What do you have to do?

Attend the presentations to which you are assigned and evaluate the students according to the rubric provided. Ask questions. Be interested. Return evaluations to me after the meeting. Ideally, we will have a brief meeting to discuss the best papers on the last day in San Antonio.

What are the benefits?

Meeting our student members, encouraging them in their research, recognizing their efforts, making them feel more a part of SICB and DCPB, and potentially assuring their future participation in DCPB and the Society.

The students receive a monetary award and the pride of knowing that their work is appreciated by their broader professional community.

Who may serve?

In brief, YOU! If you are a full or postdoctoral member of DCPB we can find a place to use you, as long as you don't have students entered in BOTH the oral and poster competitions. If you have students in one or the other (but not both), you can still judge. (It is better if postdoctoral judges are not also entrants in the competition.)

If you can help, please respond directly to Dave Tapley at dtapley@salemstate.edu

Elections Past and Future

Please give Allen Gibbs a warm welcome as our incoming secretary (and a thank you to Steve Secor for standing for election). Allen will replace Jonathon Stillman at the end of the San Antonio meeting. As you know, in last year's election, Joe Williams got the nod as incoming Chair, so he has been in the loop as Chair-Elect for the past year. He will replace me as Chair at the close of the 2008 meeting. A nominating committee will be present at the San Antonio meeting, so it is not too early to be thinking about the next election in the Spring in which a Program Officer and a Chair-Elect will be selected to start service in January 2009. Let me know your suggestions for nominees and I will put you in touch with the nominating committee.

Bartholomew Award Winner!

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Sheila Patek of the University of California Berkeley was chosen by the Bartholomew Award Committee (Drs. Burnett, Gilmour (Chair), Gordon, Riddiford, Wainwright, and Huey, *ex officio*) to be the 2008 Bartholomew Awardee "for distinguished contributions to comparative physiology and biochemistry, and to related fields of functional and integrative biology" for her research on the evolution of sensory and mechanical systems in marine invertebrates. Congrats to Dr. Patek and my thanks to the committee members. While program details are still being worked out at press time, if past years are indicative of the upcoming schedule, the lecture and reception should be the evening of Jan 3, just after our DCPB business meeting. Please check the program for details and plan on attending! Sponsors of the award will again be Sable Systems, so be sure to drop by their booth in San Antonio and give them a hearty 'thank you'.

Membership

As part of an email/database glitch, last year many long-term members of DCPB did not get recorded as DCPB members. I hope that by now most of you will have renewed your SICB membership and DCPB affiliation to rectify this issue. We've also noted a phenomenon in the membership database, namely, that a small subset of members renew only in the year in which they attend a meeting (presumably so they qualify for the member's meeting registration rate). We need you to be a SICB member *year in and year out*. If you have not yet done so, please renew! The society can be best maintained by a strong, active and *continuous* membership.

Message from the Program Officer

Don Mykles

Upcoming SICB meetings

San Antonio 2008. Our next meeting is at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, January 2-6, 2008. The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, just a short walk from the hotel, will be an excellent venue for symposia and contributed papers and posters (<http://www.sanantonio.gov/convfac/HBGCC/hbgoverview.asp>). The area immediately around the hotel, which includes the River Walk, has an abundance of restaurants. You can take the airport shuttle (SATRANS; 210-281-9900) to downtown hotels; tickets are purchased (\$14 one way) at kiosks immediately outside the baggage claim areas at Terminals 1 and 2 (<http://www.sanantonio.gov/aviation/>). For visitor information, maps, and guides, go to: http://www.sanantoniovisit.com/visitors/com_history.asp.

The program is varied and interesting. Over a thousand abstracts were submitted. The division received 149 abstracts, which were distributed between 67 oral and 82 poster presentations. There are poster sessions on Jan. 3, 4, & 5. There will be 10-11 concurrent platform sessions, including symposia. DCPB is cosponsoring the symposium "**Evolution vs. Creationism in the Classroom: Evolving Student Attitudes**", organized by E. Lovely and the late-breaking symposium "**Recent Advances in Crustacean Genomics: A Two-Year Progress Report**," organized by J. Stillman. DCPB is hosting the reception following the Bart Lecture on Thursday, Jan. 3rd.

Boston 2009. The meeting is January 2-6, 2009 at the Westin Waterfront Hotel (<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1528>).

DCPB is sponsoring a society-wide symposium on **Insect Evolution**, organized by T. Bradley and A. Briscoe, and a regular symposium on **Biomaterials: Properties, Variation, and Evolution**, organized by B. Swanson and A. Summers. More details about the venue and program will be provided in the spring 2008 newsletter.

The program committee will consider proposals for late-breaking symposia for the Boston meeting. Information on this will be announced later. Remember, it's never too early to develop symposia for the 2010 meeting! Please feel free to discuss your ideas with me in San Antonio.

Other upcoming meetings of interest

- **Experimental Biology 2008** San Diego, CA, April 5-9, 2008. The web site: <http://www.eb2008.org>
- **SEB at Marseille**, France, July 6-10, 2008. The web site: <http://www.sebiology.org/meetings/Quicklinks/Registration.html>
- **11th International Coral Reef Symposium** Fort Lauderdale, FL, July 7 - 11, 2008. The web site: <http://www.nova.edu/ncr/11icrs/index.html>
- **4th International Conference in Africa for Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry**, July 19-25, 2008 at the Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya. The web site: <http://www.natural-events.com/mara/default-follow.asp>
- **5th North American Echinoderm Conference** Melbourne, FL, July 20-25, 2008. The web site: <http://research.fit.edu/naec/>

- **The Crustacean Society Summer Meeting** Galveston, TX, summer 2008. Go to the TCS web site for details (<http://www.vims.edu/tcs/>).

Consult The American Physiological Society web site for a list of other meetings:
<http://www.the-aps.org/meetings/related/index.htm>

Message from the ICCPB & IUPS Representative

Lou Burnett

The seventh International Congress of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry (ICCPB) took place in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil on August 12 through 16. By all counts, the meeting was a success with over 300 registered delegates attending 5 plenary lectures and 40 symposia with accompanying oral and poster presentations. The meeting headquarters was located in the beautiful Pestana Bahia Hotel located directly on the Atlantic Ocean where one could enjoy a breakfast watching waves crash onto the rocks at the base of the hotel (see image). SICB delegates made a strong showing, participating in numerous symposia. SICB member Nora Terwilliger presented one of the plenary lectures.

This international congress has occurred every four years since 1984 and has been the premier international meeting for comparative physiologists and biochemists. The next meeting will occur on June 1-5, 2011 in Nagoya, Japan. SICB members should be thinking now about symposia for this meeting. Contact members of your DCPB Executive Committee if you have ideas for the program. Mark your calendars for June 2011!



Message from the Secretary

Jonathon H. Stillman

Those of you who regularly view the SICB website have undoubtedly noticed that SICB now has a new website - one that is greatly improved. Many thanks to the SICB webmaster Ruedi Birenheide and SICB Secretary Lou Burnett for their efforts!

One of the new features is our "Researchers Database" which is basically a collection of images portraying research of SICB members and short descriptions to accompany the images. The researchers database is a great way for community exposure, both within and outside of the SICB. Plus, this is a pretty unique feature among large scientific societies, and with the integrative nature of our research (i.e., cool organisms to look at) our members have an abundance of interesting images. Every member of SICB can be listed in the Researchers Database, (yes YOU)! If you are not yet listed, please send a photo and accompanying text to the DCPB Secretary and your submission will be added to the website.

Another new feature of the website is that there are many more images integrated on the website, both on the home page as well as in newsletters. **Please** take pictures at the SICB meeting and send them to the DCPB secretary so that they can be incorporated into the newsletter.

Finally, it has been an honor to serve the DCPB as secretary the past two years, and I will do what I can to ensure a smooth transition to your next Secretary, Allen Gibbs at the 2008 DCPB business meeting. Congrats Allen!

Message from the Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative

Joanna Joyner Matos

Hello DCPB graduate students and postdocs!

The Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) has planned several activities during the San Antonio meeting. I hope you will attend:

- The Grad Student/Postdoc Welcome and Meeting Orientation on Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. is entitled, "**How to get the most out of your SICB meeting.**" We will discuss topics ranging from how to find relevant talks/posters, enter or leave a room, and approach a "leader in the field" at the meeting.
- Saturday evening (6:00-7:00 p.m.) we are hosting a workshop entitled, "**I Have a Great Idea, But Who Will Fund Me: How to Write a Grant.**"
- Saturday evening concludes with a society-wide social for students and postdocs from 8:00-9:30 p.m.

I want to encourage female doctoral students and postdocs to consider applying for the **Dorothy M. Skinner Scholarship**, which contributes to travel costs to the SICB annual meeting for presenting authors. I also

encourage all students who are presenting authors to apply for the **Charlotte Mangum Student Support Program**, which provides registration or housing costs in exchange for one half-day of volunteer work during the annual meeting. The applications for both of these funding opportunities are on-line.

On a separate topic, the DCPB officers have decided to alter the method for selecting the graduate student/postdoc representative. In previous years, the division Chair has selected the representative. We would like to alter this process in an effort to give DCPB student members more involvement in the selection of their representative. To that end, we are soliciting nominations (feel free to self-nominate) for a two-year term as the DCPB student representative. A description of the duties is listed below. The divisional student representative also serves on the Student/Postdoc Affairs Committee, which oversees several activities during each annual meeting.

Nominations are due December 1, 2007. With the nomination please include a brief statement of SICB activities, research interests, and your goals as the DCPB student representative.

I strongly encourage you to apply for this position. I have benefited greatly from learning how an organization is managed, interacting with the DCPB officers, and contributing to SPDAC activities.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at jjmatos@ufl.edu. Good luck with the semester!

Duties of the DCPB Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Representative:

1. You are an assistant to the DCPB chair and should make yourself available for any help the Chair may need, particularly at the Annual Meeting.
2. You normally become a member of SICB's Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC), a society-wide committee. The SPDAC is chaired by a full member of SICB and has graduate student or post doc representatives from each of the SICB divisions. The chair of SPDAC is a member of the SICB Executive Committee. SPDAC is responsible for planning student-oriented activities at the Annual Meeting. SPDAC also is intended to serve as a liaison between SICB's student members and SICB's Executive Committee. You should attend SPDAC meetings as well as DCPB business meetings at the Annual Meeting.
3. In your role as DCPB student representative, you should try to get to know the DCPB student members (this is the really fun part-now you have an excuse to walk up and introduce yourself to people!). Hopefully the DCPB students will approach you with questions or concerns about the Society or the meeting.
4. You submit a paragraph or two for the DCPB newsletters twice per year, including information of student activities at upcoming meetings, reviews of student participation at meetings, and notices about grant opportunities.
5. Some good places to look for grants that interest DCPB students:

SICB - Grants in Aid of Research and Fellowship for Graduate Student Travel. www.sicb.org

Sigma Xi - Grant in Aid of Research (2 applications/year). www.sigmaxi.org

National Science Foundation - Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant. www.nsf.gov

Environmental Protection Agency - STAR Fellowships and others. <http://es.epa.gov/ncer/fellow/>

General search for government-sponsored grants, may have student grants. www.grants.gov

Division of Developmental and Cell Biology (DDCB): 2007 Fall Newsletter

Message from the Chair

Karen Crawford

Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that I begin my stint as Chair of the DDCB. I want to thank everyone for their support and warm welcome (especially Billie Swalla). I look forward to working with all the members of the Division of Developmental and Cell Biology and welcome your thoughts and comments about how best to move forward in synergy with our close cousin the Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology. While my real work will begin in January at the meeting in San Antonio, between now and then I will be contacting folks who might serve with me in support of our division as Program Officer, Secretary, and Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Representative. It is an extraordinary time in cell and developmental biology; a time for looking both ways, up and down the timeline of discovery to both reexamine classical studies with contemporary technologies and forge new paths with model and non-model systems. Please send me your ideas for symposia for future meetings and come find me in San Antonio to talk about DDCB and the future.

Cheers and see you in Texas!

Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology (DEDB): 2007 Fall Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

Billie J. Swalla

Hi Everyone,

The leaves are falling and grant panels are convening, it must be fall when classes begin again and campuses are going at breakneck speed until Thanksgiving Holiday finally gives everyone a break.

That means that *Ptychodera flava* will soon be spawning in Hawaii and the SICB meetings in sunny San Antonio is just around the corner. Once again, we've got a great program that Wendy Olson, our program officer, will tell us about below. Don't miss the symposium in honor of the Gans and Northcutt paper, published in 1983. Was that really 25 years ago? That is also the year that I took the Embryology Course at Woods Hole and fell in love with marine invertebrate embryos.

The Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology is bustling, thanks to all of you that do great research, attend the meetings and make our presence known. We've been fortunate to have great leadership in DEDB and our newly elected officers are no exception. We welcome Linda Holland as the new Chair of DEDB, to take over the reins at the end of the SICB annual meeting for the next two years. I am pleased to pass the baton to Linda, who I'm sure will bring a new perspective to the leadership of DEDB. We also welcome Elaine Seaver as the new Secretary-Elect. Elaine just received tenure at the University of Hawaii (Congratulations Elaine!) and is stepping up to the plate with Marcus Davis, who will be DEDB Secretary until January 2009. Marcus has been a real pleasure to work with, and he just began a new faculty position at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta in the Biology Department, so congratulations are also in order to Marcus. Wendy Olson is continuing on as Program Officer, and we thank Wendy for all her hard work last year and this year putting the program together. Dr. Paulyn Cartwright, who gave a great talk on Cnidarian phylogeny and evolution in Arizona, has been appointed to the Editorial Board of *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, representing DEDB. Many thanks, Paulyn! Finally, Nathan Bird, our graduate student and postdoctoral representative is stepping down, so we give a special thanks of appreciation to Nathan. Nathan will be replaced by Rebecca Shearman, a postdoc in Annie Burke's lab, so we welcome Becky.

If you see these people in San Antonio, introduce yourself and thank them for their leadership in DEDB. They keep things running smoothly.

Unfortunately, the vitality of DEDB caused a temporary downturn for the Division of Cell and Developmental Biology. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Karen Crawford has been elected the new Chair of

DDCB. Some of you may have seen Karen's cool movies at one of her posters in Phoenix. Karen is revitalizing DDCB with a full slate of officers and separate symposia slated for the new year. If you are interested in helping Karen by taking up leadership in DDCB, please let either her or me know.

Finally, I'll be stepping to Past-Chair of DEDB, so it's my time to say "Farewell" and to thank everyone who I've been fortunate to work with for the past few years. We have some terrific leaders at SICB that pour their heart and soul into their positions. DEDB is proud to announce that Eduardo Rosa-Molinar, our capable Program Officer for many years, has been elected SICB Program Officer. We are really pleased to have a friend in Ed and I'm sure that he will continue to deliver exciting and cutting-edge programs for us to attend.

I hope to see you all in San Antonio in 2008, I am looking forward to spending some time in Texas, where the best margaritas in the world are served.

Happy holidays to you and your loved ones!



Collecting a colonial ascidian *Botrylloides violaceus* at Roche Harbor docks
2006 Comparative Embryology Course at Friday Harbor Laboratories

Message from the Program Officer

Wendy Olson

Greetings, again, from the heartland.

There were 1002 abstracts submitted for the 2008 SICB Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas (down from 1080 last year). The meeting will be held January 2-6, 2008. The headquarters hotel for the meeting is the

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Marriott Rivercenter Hotel (be careful, it is NOT the Marriott Riverwalk hotel, which is right across the street). The hotel is right on the river walk, and right next to a small shopping center, so there are a lot of places to eat, etc. It is also 1-2 blocks away from the Alamo. The meeting itself will be located across the street from the hotel, in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

DEDB/DDCB is the main supporter of two symposia for the San Antonio 2008 meeting: "Reptile Genomics and Evolutionary Genetics" (Dan Janes & Chris Organ) and "Vertebrate Head Segmentation in a Modern Evo-Devo Context" (Shigeru Kuratani & Thomas Schilling). The following symposia are also being supported: "Conservation of Maternally-derived Yolk Hormones for Offspring: Current Status" (DDCB) and "Evolution vs. Creationism in the Classroom: Evolving Student Attitudes" (DEDB). Be sure also to check out all of our talks and posters, scattered throughout the conference.

Abstract keywords continue to be a problem, one which I did not truly appreciate until my first Program Officer meeting. Abstracts are initially sorted by topic, then distributed to the PO's for sorting into sessions. Out of the group specifically directed to me, only 4 were from DDCB and 2, yes 2, were from DEDB. Because of the words you all are choosing, your abstracts are being sent to other divisions (such as DVM and DSEB). We need to fix this! I have some ideas which I hope to discuss at the business meeting (which will be on Friday Jan. 4); feel free to come with ideas of your own. Also, please note that after our temporary association, DDCB and DEDB are to be separate divisions, once again. This is an exciting development, one that can only make both divisions stronger. Please come to the business meeting to hear and discuss new ideas and directions for both. And congratulations to Karen Crawford, the newly elected in-coming Chair of DDCB!

To stay on a high note, congratulations to Claire O'Quin for winning the Best Student Poster award from DEDB, for her presentation "The role of hedgehog signaling during craniofacial development in larval zebrafish." The DDCB winners were announced in the Spring newsletter. Congrats, Claire!

If anyone is interested in being a judge for the 2008 competition, let me know!

Best wishes, and I hope to see you all in San Antonio.



David Garfield, Duke University, on the *R/V Centennial*, staring lovingly at a dredge full of sea urchins.

Message from the Secretary

Marcus Davis

Greeting from the Deep South,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate

Karen Crawford, our new DDCB Chair-Elect

Linda Holland, our new DEDB Chair-Elect

Elaine Seaver, our new Secretary-Elect

I wish to thank all the candidates for running for these offices. Thank you for your contribution to the division's future! We are also pleased to welcome Rebecca Shearman as our new DEDB Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Member. She will be taking over the position so diligently filled by Nathan Bird. Thank you for your hard work Nathan!

I look forward to working with Karen, Linda, Elaine, Becky, and ongoing Program Officer Wendy Olson during the next year as we continue to foster the success of DEDB and DDCB. As you've may have already learned (see above), our Chair Billie Swalla will be stepping to Past-Chair after our San Antonio meeting. I

would personally like to thank Billie for being such a joy to work with. She is the perfect combination of passion and prowess, and she has long been a key asset of our division. Thanks Billie!

I'd like to throw my congratulations in to Claire O'Quin. Her presentation "The role of hedgehog signaling during craniofacial development in larval zebrafish," won DEDB Best Student Poster at the Phoenix meeting. As someone very interested in hedgehog signaling I found her work very exciting!

Finally, as I always do, I'd like to encourage members to contribute to our researchers database. If you haven't already done so, or would simply like to update your current page, send your information to me at mdavi144@kennesaw.edu and I'll forward your content to our expert webmaster Ruediger Birenheide. Please send images in jpg format and remember that you can also provide html links to your personal and departmental research pages.

See y'all in San Antonio!



Digging Hemichordates at Padilla Bay, WA - Billie Swalla with shovel, Carmel McDougall to the left, Gabrielle Miller-Messner to the right, Roy Zeng, watching to the left - Photo by Holly Jessop, 2006 Comparative Embryology Course at FHL

Message from the Student/Post-Doc Representative

Nathan Bird

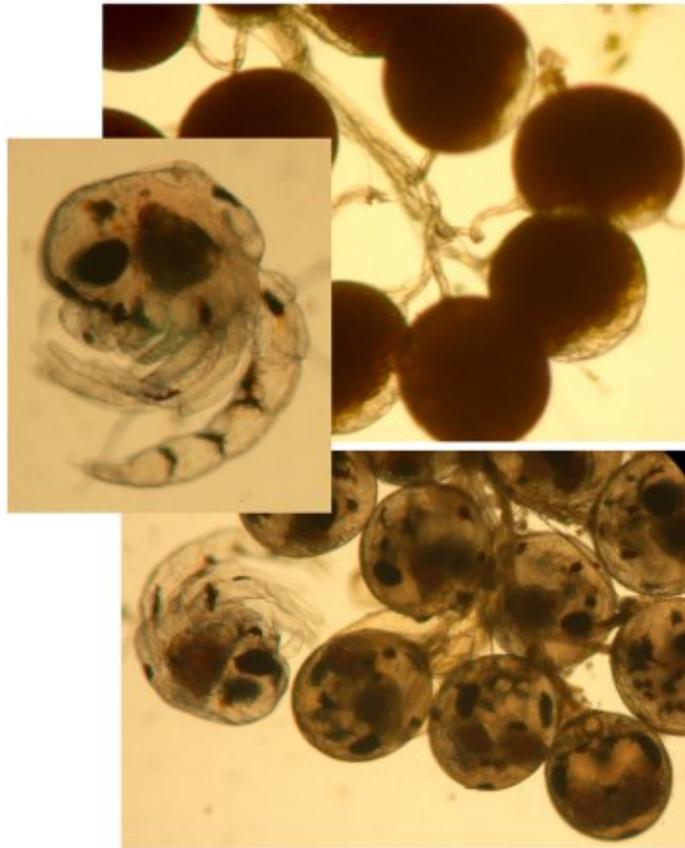
Greetings fellow graduate students and post-docs! As autumn finally appears to be arriving in DC, it can only mean another meeting is fast approaching. I look forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio!

A few deadline notes. The deadlines for the Charlotte Mangum Student Support Program and the Dorothy M. Skinner Scholarship will already have passed by the time this newsletter is out, but note that this is an important source of funding for students to attend the annual meeting. Those who are eligible should apply for a Grant in Aid of Research (GIAR) or Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel (FGST). You have a little more time for these, as the deadline is November 18 for both. Links to these programs can be found on the "For Students" tab on the SICB home page.

Don't forget the Grad Student/Post Doc Welcome and Meeting Orientation on Wednesday, January 2, 2008, at 5:30 pm. This year the always informative Graduate Student Workshop is "I Have a Great Idea, But Who Will Fund Me: How to Write a Grant," which will be held on Saturday, January 5 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Funding is of concern to all of us, so please make plans to attend. As always, I encourage you all to become more involved in SICB and our division, particularly by attending the DEDB business meeting.

And finally, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for allowing me to be your divisional representative. The past three years have been a fantastic learning experience, through which I have made wonderful friends and connections. As my term draws to an end, I strongly encourage all of you to consider serving as a representative, and as your careers progress, in other divisional and society offices.

See you all in January!



Crab Larvae Montage - Photos by Holly Jessop,
2006 Comparative Embryology Course at FHL

Division of Ecology & Evolution (DEE): 2007 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
- [Message from the Program Officer](#)
- [Message from the Secretary](#)

Message from the Chair

George Bakken

As some of you may be aware, the DEE board has undergone several unexpected mid-year changes. First, Secretary Tony Steyermark encountered serious health problems soon after the 2007 meeting. Mike Finkler (Indiana University - Kokomo) was gracious enough to stand for election in the spring and he was elected as our divisional secretary through January 2011. Then, Program Officer Jennifer Elwood also had to resign for health reasons. Mike O'Connor (Drexel University) has agreed to step in as a DEE board appointee. We all wish Tony and Jen the best for a speedy recovery, along with 2008 DEE secretary candidate Aaron Krochmal, who also suffered a serious health setback this fall.

Needless to say, the DEE board is a bit shell-shocked. We appreciate the assistance we received from the SICB board, particularly Lou Burnett, as well as the DEE members who agreed to step in when needed.

It is quite possible that some agenda items have fallen in the cracks as a result of these upheavals. If you have made a request or proposal that seems to have vanished into a black hole, e.g. for a symposium at the 2009 meeting or regarding arrangements for the 2008 meeting, please call it to the attention of the current officers. We need all the help we can get.

The board is in the process of revising the DEE bylaws as part of a Society-wide effort to get all the sections aligned with the SICB bylaws. You will hear more about this in the coming months.

We hope to see you all at the San Antonio meeting!

Message from the Program Officer

Michael O'Connor

One important way for the division to participate in the society, to increase the visibility of DEE in the society and indeed to contribute to our science is to develop and present symposia at the January meeting each year. Symposia for the 2009 meeting in Boston are already in preparation, but symposia for the 2010 need to be submitted next summer. The idea is not only to present syntheses in an organized way, but to encourage interactions and new ideas from both established and new researchers in important fields. Of the eight regular symposia at the January 2008 meeting, four have obtained NSF funding, so perhaps the tide is turning on

funding. I'm new at the program officer game, but am willing to work with folks to help develop proposals. If you have an idea for a symposium, by all means take the plunge.

Message from the Secretary

Michael Finkler

As mentioned in the message from the chair, the previous secretary of DEE fell seriously ill soon after the meeting. This set in motion a chain of events that caused the loss of all the DEE judging records for the 2007 "Best Paper" and "Best Poster" awards. Subsequently, the other officers of DEE and I regret to announce that there will be no awards for the 2007 Phoenix meeting.

We are taking steps to ensure that this is never repeated, but we realize that this does not make the current situation any less disappointing for our divisional members and, particularly, for the students who participated in the competition who invested so much effort into producing first-rate presentations. We deeply regret this unfortunate situation, and most humbly apologize. We hope that the judging process was nevertheless a positive experience that will help you give better presentations in the future.

The other officers and I strongly encourage students to continue participating in the "Best Paper" and "Best Poster" award competition for the 2008 San Antonio meeting and subsequent meetings. Moreover, I ask that DEE members consider volunteering to serve as judges for the award competitions. Our division has had excellent participation from the membership in judging the student competitions, which greatly reduces the work load of any single judge. I will send out a formal call for volunteers when we get closer to the meeting.

Division of Invertebrate Zoology (DIZ): 2007 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
 - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
 - [Message from the Secretary](#)
 - [Message from the Graduate Student-Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative](#)
 - [Message from the Student Awards Committee Chair](#)
 - [Message from the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Committee](#)
 - [Elections: Changes to DIZ Bylaws](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Janice Voltzow

*Mud, mud, glorious mud!
Nothing quite like it for cooling the blood.*

Flanders and Swan

Dear Invertebrate Zoologists,

This summer I had the opportunity to visit two glorious mudflats, False Bay, San Juan Island, Washington, and the nature reserve Verdrongen Land van Saeftinghe in the Netherlands. Happy as a clam, I dug around in the muck to find worms, worms, and more worms, and even a few molluscs and crustaceans. The richness of these habitats make them magnets for invertebrate biologists. Their fragility in light of human-caused environmental impacts has helped drive efforts to control invasive species, pollution, and habitat destruction.

Some of these worms will be featured in the plenary address at our next annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, January 2-8, 2008, when Sally Woodin, SICB Past President, tells us about "*Worms I Have Known and Loved or Spheres of Influence, Recruitment, and Community Dynamics.*" Other highlights at this meeting include symposia sponsored in part by DIZ on ecomorphological variation across aquatic flow regimes, decapod crustacean phylogenetics, crustacean genomics, and evolution vs. creationism in the classroom. Be sure to check the details in the report from the DIZ program officer, Amy Moran, below.

I would like to congratulate this year's winner of the Libbie Hyman Scholarship, Johanna Cannon of Auburn University. I was able to meet Johanna this summer at the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Laboratories, where she was using her award to study invertebrates. Sid Bosch has been serving as Chair of the Libbie Hyman Memorial Scholarship Committee for the past four years and has served as a member of that committee since 2001. I am extremely grateful to him for all his years of service. Helping Sid on the committee this year were Will Jaeckle and Bruno Pernet, who has kindly agreed to chair the committee for the next three years. I greatly appreciate all their work.

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Congratulations are also in order to our program-officer-elect, Jim McClintock. Jim has actually already started his service by representing DIZ at the program officers' meeting this fall in San Antonio. He and Amy Moran, who is finishing her term, have worked hard to ensure that DIZ has a strong presence in the SICB program. I thank them both for their efforts. I also appreciate John Zardus' willingness to run for this position.

Last year I mentioned that we were planning another auction to benefit the Hyman Scholarship fund. Because of scheduling conflicts and a few time constraints, we have decided to hold the auction at our 2009 meeting in Boston. This should give you plenty of time to sort through your invertebrates memorabilia to consider what you might donate as well as what you might need to make your collection complete.

I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio!



Mike Hart and field assistants penetrate the fog of False Bay.



Bruno Pernet and Louise Page really dig the worms of False Bay.



Merry malacologists muck about in the Netherlands.

Message from the Program Officer

Amy Moran

Dear DIZ members,

The SICB program committee met in San Antonio, TX at the end of October to assess the conference venue and plan the 2008 meeting, and we can all look forward to another great meeting in January. There were slightly over 1000 abstracts submitted this year, meaning this will be another in a string of large and well-attended meetings. DIZ is co-sponsoring three standard symposia: (1) "*Going with the flow: ecomorphological variation across aquatic flow regimes*," organized by Gabe Rivera and Rick Blob and co-sponsored by DIZ, DCB, DEE, and DVM; (2) "*Advances in Decapod Crustacean Phylogenetics*," organized by Jody Martin and Darryl Felder, sponsored by DIZ, TCE, and DSEB; and (3) "*Evolution vs. Creationism in the classroom: Evolving Student Attitudes*" (Eric Lovely - organizer), which is a society-wide symposium co-sponsored by DIZ and eight other divisions. We are also, along with DCPB, co-sponsoring one of four late-breaking symposia, "*Crustacean Genomics*" (Jonathan Stillman - organizer). The late-breaking symposia, which are being held for the first time, promise to add an exciting new dimension to the meeting. Each symposium has a web page that can be accessed through the SICB meeting pages (<http://sicb.org/meetings/2008/symposia/>).

The meeting will take place at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter Hotel and the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, which are right on the historic Riverwalk; this area has a great ambiance and numerous excellent indoor/outdoor restaurants. The convention center is right across the street from the hotel. DIZ will be joining five other divisions/groups (DDCB, DEDB, DEE, DSEB, AMS) for an evening social in the Convention Center. Please plan to attend this fun event, and watch the web page for announcements about the time and location.

The Invertebrate Auction, which was originally scheduled for the 2008 meeting, is being postponed until 2009 in Boston due to scheduling conflicts. However, there are several other exciting activities to look forward to at

the San Antonio meeting. SICB members will be able to attend a special showing of the new IMAX movie "Volcanoes of the Deep Sea," which is premiering in San Antonio during the meeting, and Randy Olson will also be giving five screenings of his new film "*Flight of the Dodo*."

The 2009 meeting will be held in Boston, and DIZ will be the sponsor or co-sponsor of two symposia: "*The Biology of the Parasitic Crustacea*," organized by Jeffrey Shields, and "*Courtship, marriage, and the art of forming a lasting relationship: current perspectives in symbiosis research, a tribute to Leonard Muscatine*," organized by Michele Nishiguchi. Congratulations to these organizers on their excellent proposals!

I have enjoyed my three years as Program Officer for DIZ very much, and I would like to thank Jim McClintock, the new DIZ program officer, for filling in for me at this year's Program Committee meeting (the dates of this year's program meeting in October coincided with my deployment to Antarctica). It's never too early to think ahead about symposia for 2010 - proposals will be due in August 2008; so please contact Jim well in advance with your ideas.

See you in January!

Message from the Secretary

Renaë Brodie

Dear SICB members,

Like many of you, I will be happy to travel to a warm place for our next annual SICB meeting. Since the last meeting, the SICB website has been overhauled and is now nicer looking and more user-friendly. I encourage you to check your personal information on the member list at the bottom of the DIZ page; updates can be done online. Please also consider adding your profile to our DIZ Researchers database. A paragraph describing your work and a photograph can be emailed to me at: rbrodie@mtholyoke.edu. The DIZ page is also the place to check and post announcements. If you would like to post an announcement, please email me a pdf brochure and a line for the webpage. Divisional members can be sent email announcements as well, but these must be approved and disseminated by us.

For those of you with artistic inclinations and the photomicrographs to prove it, consider entering your best work in the Annual Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Excellence in Photomicrography Contest (<http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2008/events.php3#photo>) at the upcoming meeting in San Antonio.

Finally, thank you to everyone who participated in the elections. The Bylaws concerning chair terms and responsibilities passed with overwhelming support (see below). We welcome our new Program Officer, Jim McClintock, and also Bruno Pernet, the new chair of the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship committee. A big thank you to Amy Moran and Sid Bosch for their service.

Message from the Graduate Student - Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Scott Nichols

Dear Graduate Students/Postdocs,

This summer I had the opportunity to participate in a two-week research cruise in the Bahamas led by principle investigator, Joe Pawlik. This was a tremendous opportunity, both to collect data and to network with nearly thirty scientists (in an intimate research vessel setting, at that). This experience highlights the networking advantages of involvement in SICB - Joe Pawlik was my undergraduate professor, but we did not reconnect until I organized a symposium at SICB and invited him to present. Annual meetings are a great venue for learning about interesting and diverse research, but also for networking. If you are looking for a postdoctoral position, the SICB annual meeting provides ample opportunity for you to have valuable 'face-time' with prospective sponsors. If you are looking for a job, at the SICB annual meeting you can potentially present your research to future search committee members, whereas at specialty meetings your audience is likely to include competitors and collaborators who are already familiar with you and your work. So, as the next annual meeting approaches, strategize about whom you want to meet and how you can extend the network that will be critical to your future academic development. If you have any interest in becoming more active within the society (e.g., planning a symposium), do not hesitate to consult me or the other SICB officers.

Best,

Scott Nichols

Message from the Student Awards Committee Chair

Ben Miner

Another meeting is upon us, and we have 23 students vying for DIZ's Best Student Paper and Poster awards. I encourage all post-graduate members who are attending the meetings in San Antonio to sign up as judges. Typically, I will ask a judge to review 3 to 4 talks. To sign up for judging, just email me (benjamin.miner@wwu.edu) and provide the following information:

- your area of expertise
- the days you are available to judge
- whether you can judge papers, posters, or both

I will be putting the schedule together in late November, and I will email your assignments and judging instructions in early December.

I thank past judges for their time and effort, and ask for their continued help. If you have not volunteered as a judge, I strongly encourage you to volunteer. Judges are often in short supply yet necessary to continue to offer student awards. If you have any questions about what is required of a judge, please email me (benjamin.miner@wwu.edu).

See you in January.

Message from the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Committee Chair

Isidro Bosch (past chair)

We had a particularly strong group of 15 candidates for the Hyman Scholarship in 2007 and the selection of one recipient among such a talented group was difficult. The recipient chosen showed real excellence, great promise, and will genuinely benefit from this award. This year the scholarship was awarded to Johanna Cannon, a second year Ph.D. student who plans to study the phylogeny and evolution of development in Pterobranchs as a member of Ken Halanych's research team at Auburn University. After an outstanding undergraduate career at Bryn Mawr, where she gained a strong background in Oceanography and Ecology, Johanna has been very busy taking graduate courses in Genomics, Developmental Biology and Molecular Biology at Auburn University. The Hyman Scholarship supported her participation in the Marine Invertebrate Zoology course at Friday Harbor labs this past summer ('07). The selection committee felt that the experience of working in a marine station setting and the hands-on knowledge of the diversity of invertebrate animals in the Pacific northwest would be great assets to Johanna as she went on with her dissertation research.

This year we welcomed three new members to the Libbie Hyman Scholarship Committee: Will Jaeckle, Bruno Pernet and John Zardus. From this point on Bruno Pernet will serve as Chair. This is especially noteworthy because, like past chair Amy Johnson, Bruno is a former recipient of the Libbie Hyman Scholarship. Bruno and Will participated in this year's selection process. My own three-term tenure now comes to an end and I wanted to give special thanks to Amy Johnson, Beth Okamura, Will Jaeckle, and Bruno Pernet for helping to make my tenure as chair stress-free and enjoyable. This was an interesting and gratifying experience that I highly recommend to others.

This scholarship is awarded in memory of Libbie H. Hyman, one of America's foremost invertebrate zoologists. For nearly 30 years the scholarship has provided assistance to students wishing to participate in a first significant field experience at a marine, freshwater, or terrestrial field station. Coursework or research activities focusing on invertebrates are both supported. A goal of DIZ and SICB is to increase the number of awards that can be given out to at least two per year. In support of these goals, as well as that of maintaining the continuity of the scholarships, monetary contributions may be made using the SICB web site (click on Donate to SICB on the SICB home page www.sicb.org) or they may be sent 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.

The application deadline for the 2008 scholarship is March 7. Completed applications, which must be submitted on-line, must include:

A one to two page description of the proposed coursework or research

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A brief description of previous experiences in field stations

Two (2) letters of recommendation from faculty members

Transcripts of both undergraduate and (if applicable) graduate course work

Application forms and further information are available on the SICB web site at <http://sicb.org/grants/hyman/>.

For more information contact:

Dr. Bruno Pernet
Department of Biological Sciences
California State University, Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90840
bpernet@csulb.edu

Elections: Changes to DIZ Bylaws (both passed)

I. Item 1. Chair terms

The current Bylaws do not reflect our current practice for the Chair-Elect term. A change is proposed to Article V, to state: "The Chair-Elect shall be elected triennially. The Chair-Elect should attend the annual meeting that follows her/his election. At the end of this annual meeting, the Chair-Elect shall automatically become Chair for three years. He/She shall serve as Past Chair during the succeeding two years."

II. Item 2. Chair responsibilities

A second change moves a responsibility from the Past-Chair to the current Chair, moving the statement "He/She shall sign all proposals to federal granting agencies on behalf of the Division of Invertebrate Zoology" from Article VII to Article VI.

Division of Neurobiology (DNB): 2007 Fall Newsletter

Message from the Secretary

Thomas Pirtle

Greetings to all members of the Division of Neurobiology and other interested readers. I would like to introduce the new officers of the division. Dr. Jim Murray, of the University of Central Arkansas, was elected as our new division chair. Jim studies the neuroethology of orientation in *Tritonia*. Dr. Duane McPherson of the Department of Biology at SUNY Geneseo is the new program officer. Duane's interests include work on the neurobiology and behavior of *Aplysia*. Dr. Thomas Pirtle of Abilene Christian University is our new divisional secretary, and is interested in the neuronal control of locomotion in *Clione*.

We look forward to the January 2008 meeting in San Antonio with another *Recent Developments in Neurobiology* symposium being organized by Dr. Kelly Suter of the University of Texas, San Antonio and Dr. Richard Satterlie of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. We acknowledge and thank the National Science Foundation support of the upcoming symposium. Out of a total of 891 contributed abstracts, 38 fall into Neurobiology. Of these, 22 are posters and 16 are oral presentations. This does not include the 18 oral presentations at symposia (out of a total of 110); there are 10 oral presentations in the Advances in Neurobiology symposium and 8 in the Electromyography symposium. Of the contributed abstracts, 11 are contestants for the Best Student Paper award (eight posters, three talks). That means, we need some volunteers to help judge the presentations! It's important and not difficult -- please contact Duane McPherson (mcpherso@geneseo.edu) if you are willing. Please note that the early fee registration deadline is November 30, 2007. Finally, if you have an interesting photomicrograph, the American Microscopical Society invites and encourages you to enter it into the annual Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Excellence in Photomicrography Contest. For more information about this contest please contact Dr. John F. Pilger at jpilger@agnesscott.edu.

Dr. Jenna Monroy, a postdoctoral research associate with Drs. Kiisa Nishikawa and Stan Lindstedt at Northern Arizona University has been appointed by President John Pearse to represent our division on the Student Postdoctoral Affairs Committee. She will begin her three year term at the end of the annual SICB meeting in January 2008. We thank her for her willingness to service in these areas.

Division of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (DSEB): 2007 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
 - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
 - [Message from the Secretary](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Don Swiderski

Now that everyone has settled into their fall schedules, and we hope, made plans to attend the meeting in beautiful San Antonio, it is time to find candidates for the spring election. This spring we will need to choose a new chair-elect, secretary-elect, and student affairs rep-elect. If you would like to serve your division in one of these important offices (and I know you do), please email Marta (demainte@hawaii.edu) or me (dlswider@umich.edu) to put your name on the list of candidates.

While you are in San Antonio, please find time to attend the divisional business meeting. Rachel Collin, our able program officer, has promised a cheese plate, so you won't have to go hungry; and if you bring an appropriate beverage we may just have an interesting discussion - of symposia (especially 'late-breaking' symposia) and ceiling being imposed on student support and social functions at the annual meeting - please see Treasurer Ron Dimock's message from this spring. Please come to the business meeting and voice your opinion - whether it is thumbs up or thumbs down, we want to hear from you.

Message from the Program Officer

Rachel Collin

It looks like the 2008 meeting will be exciting and unique. The venue - San Antonio, the convention center, the Marriott, and the Riverwalk - looks wonderful, offering many fine restaurants. The hotel is only two blocks from The Alamo.

During the Program Officer's meeting in early October, we scheduled over 1000 abstracts for the contributed sessions, eight symposia and four half-day, late-breaking symposia. DSEB is co-sponsoring two symposia: "Decapod Phylogenetics" and "Teaching Evolution." DSEB will be co-sponsoring a divisional social with DIZ, AMS, DEE and several other divisions.

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The 2008 meeting will have several new and unique features. Two movies will be screened. The Imax movie "Deep Sea Volcanoes" by Richard Lutz will be shown at a reduced price of \$10 (including a discussion with the director). Randy Olsen's "Flock of Dodos" will be shown five times and Randy will be there to participate in discussions of the movie. I would strongly suggest that any of you who haven't yet seen that to plan to attend one of the showings. To avoid conflict with these activities as well as the usual packed SICB schedule "Phylogenetics for Dummies" will be suspended for the 2008 meeting.

Message from the Secretary

Marta deMaintenon

Aloha! Looking forward to seeing everybody in San Antonio! Nothing much from my office, but please do consider running for an office in the upcoming elections, as Don has mentioned above. We do need a number of officer-elect candidates. Because all of these positions are elect, the person elected will have a year to learn the ropes before automatically moving into and actively serving in the position. Most of these are two year posts, with the exception of secretary, which is three years.

Division of Vertebrate Morphology (DVM): 2007 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
 - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
 - [Message from the Secretary](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Kurt Schwenk

The spectacular New England fall foliage visible outside my new office taunts me as I write this. Early fall semester is an exceptionally busy time for those of us in Academe-if it weren't for Gary Gillis' vigilance and tactful reminders, there would probably be a blank space here instead of these pithy remarks.

First of all I'd like to thank Sharon Swartz and Mark Westneat for agreeing to run for DVM Chair. Mark is the new Chair-Elect, but as a consolation prize, Sharon gets to remain a highly productive research scientist while Mark looks forward to two years of unremitting drudgery. Congratulations Mark!

As Gary mentions in his statement, we will soon be electing a new Program Officer and Secretary. So please watch for the announcement asking you to vote. Voting participation is not always what it should be. As always, we need as much input from the membership as possible. I will be appointing a nominating committee very soon to identify candidates, so beware the unexpected phone call or email...

There is one piece of budgetary news that you should be aware of: the Society has adopted a flat-rate funding scheme for all SICB divisions, regardless of membership. For some divisions this represents an increase in traditional divisional budgets, for others a decrease. Unfortunately, DVM is in the latter category. What this means for us practically is a reduction in funds available to support symposia, divisional socials and regional meetings. There are good reasons for going to the flat rate, but obviously it is a bit painful for DVM. Nonetheless, as Jeff describes in his message, we can be creative by pooling our resources with other divisions when appropriate. I am open to the possibility of bringing this up for discussion at the next SICB Executive Committee meeting if the membership decides we should revisit the issue.

The DVM Northeast Regional meeting took place October 13th at the beautiful Narragansett campus of the Graduate School of Oceanography of the University of Rhode Island. Thanks to Cheryl Wilga, Jackie Webb and their students for organizing this year's meeting. The meeting was dedicated to Karel Liem of Harvard University who was honored not only for his distinguished career in morphology, but for his outstanding contributions as a mentor-it seemed that nearly everyone at the meeting had been influenced by Karel in some way. The meeting mirrored our annual meetings in its excitement, diversity and exceptional quality of student talks. Next year's regional meeting will be hosted by the University of Connecticut and will be organized by Margaret Rubega and myself.

Speaking of meetings, January's annual meeting in San Antonio is looking good, as usual. Certainly San

Antonio should be a fun town and there are a variety of symposia of interest to DVM members.

- *Going with the flow: ecomorphological variation across aquatic flow regimes* (full-day symposium organized by G. Rivera & R. Blob)
- *Vertebrate head segmentation in a modern evo-devo context* (full-day symposium organized by S. Kuratani & T. Schilling)
- *Evolution vs. Creationism in the classroom: evolving student attitudes* (full-day symposium organized by E. Lovely)
- *Electromyography interpretation and limitations in functional analyses of musculoskeletal systems* (half-day symposium organized by N. Konow & S. Gerry)
- *Testing macroevolutionary hypotheses: approaches and perspectives* (half-day symposium organized by M. Alfaro)

There are already several excellent DVM-supported symposia lined up for the 2009 Boston meeting, but I would like to encourage our membership to consider organizing symposia that are centered in DVM. The trend has been for DVM to be a subsidiary co-sponsor of recent symposia rather than the main sponsor. On the one hand, this probably reflects the interdisciplinary nature of most modern research, but on the other hand it speaks to the question of DVM's identity as a division-something that has been discussed at recent business meetings.

I'd like to call your attention to Gary Gillis' Secretary's report and his request for member participation and input into the new SICB and DVM websites. We would like to get ourselves out there by providing great photos for the site that will be cycled through the SICB home page. In addition, we want photos and short photo essays of member's labs and research programs. This is a great opportunity to combine shameless self-promotion with service to your society! Please think about putting together a group of several photos and perhaps a brief text description of what goes on in the lab. Gary will start the process of organizing this. Finally, please consider what kinds of things YOU would like to see on the website. It is going to evolve and we would like it to reflect members' needs and interests as much as possible (otherwise it will become a personal venue for me, Gary and Jeff, and who knows what will happen-maybe hundreds of pictures of lizard tongues to start with...). We can discuss this at the San Antonio business meeting, but Gary and I welcome your comments now (ggillis@mtholyoke.edu; kurt.schwenk@uconn.edu).

In Memoriam

We are very sad to report that Karen Hiiemae, well known vertebrate morphologist and a Professor of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering at Syracuse University, has died of cancer at the age of 66. Karen is best known for her work on the functional morphology of mammal feeding. She was a long-time collaborator with Fuzz Crompton, Rebecca German and Jeff Palmer, among others, and a mentor to many students and postdocs, including Kurt Schwenk and Rebecca German. She was as famous for her wit and humor as she was for her science. At her memorial service, Fuzz Crompton observed, "We admire her courage, strong will, friendship and loyalty. But above all, we admire her total inability to be mean or vindictive." She will be missed.

-Kurt Schwenk

Message from the Program Officer

Jeff Walker

The air is cooling and the leaves are falling but not in San Antonio, the site of our 2008 annual meeting. Expect sunny skies, warm temperatures, and many, many great sessions of good science. And get excited about three symposia: (1) ***Going with the Flow***, on the morphological, ecological and evolutionary consequences of living in flowing water, (2) ***Vertebrate Head Segmentation in a Modern Evo-Devo Context***, on one of the great questions of vertebrate comparative morphology, and (3) ***Evolution vs. Creationism in the Classroom***, which will address effective ways of teaching evolution to our students as well as two half-day symposia listed above in the chair's message. As usual, the many contributed sessions on feeding, swimming, running, flying, materials, systematics and developmental and evolutionary morphology will compete for our time. But we can relax after 3 p.m. and visit the poster sessions for another year of good science in the company of friends and drink. Other "edutainment" opportunities in San Antonio will include four showings of the not-to-be-missed *Flock of Dodos* followed by a discussion with the filmmaker Randy Olson and at least one showing of the IMAX film *Volcanoes of the Deep Sea*. Because of the divisional budget restructuring mentioned in the Chair's message, DVM and the Division of Comparative Biomechanics are pooling resources and will be co-hosting a joint social following the annual Friday night DVM business meeting. Both the Marriot Rivercenter Hotel and the Henry Gonzalez Convention Center have spacious facilities for our sessions, meetings, and socials. And finally, the hotel and convention center are located on San Antonio's beautifully planted Riverwalk. Double your food budget because the restaurants along the walk are outstanding (but expect lots of obstacles if you are planning anything other than early morning runs). Finally, think about contributing some time to the Division and running for Program Officer. I'm keeping a FAQ on what to do (and not do) in this position; please contact me (walker@maine.edu) and I'll send you a copy. Good luck preparing your presentations. I look forward to seeing everyone at Mad Dog's British Pub in San Antonio (yes, they have free wireless).

Message from the Secretary

Gary Gillis

Hi all, it was nice to see so many of you at this summer's International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology in Paris, France. The talks and posters were excellent, and the sites and food were pretty impressive as well. It is always fun to get a chance to meet with colleagues from around the world (especially when you get to do it at a café sipping burgundy with a view toward Notre Dame or the Pantheon or Sacre Coeur...you get the idea). If the meeting in Paris is any indication, the study of vertebrate morphology is indeed alive and well both in the U.S. and abroad!

On October 13 we had our Northeast Regional DVM meeting hosted by the University of Rhode Island (Thanks). The tradition of a day's worth of 5-minute talks is a good one and a great way for students to practice presenting new material and for everyone to keep tabs on what everyone else is doing these days. This year's meeting was dedicated to Karel Liem, one of the world's greatest functional morphologists and a darn good story-teller as well. Quite a few members of Karel's "academic family" were present, and seemed to

enjoy harassing him in varied ways (I mean congratulating him for all he has done...). Some photos tell the story.



Our gracious hosts, Jackie Webb and Cheryl Wilga
with our esteemed honoree, Karel Liem



Karel Liem and Fuzz Crompton: as you can tell by the look on Karel's face, he's still in shock that Fuzz helped bring him to Harvard



Karel's laughter is unmistakable and infectious. Here he's "spreading that laughter" amongst fellow DVM members.

Like Kurt, I would like to extend my thanks to Sharon Swartz and Mark Westneat for agreeing to run for DVM Chair-Elect and congratulate Mark on getting the nod (I think having a fish in his picture might have had something to do with it...). I should also note that it will soon be time to vote for program officer and secretary elect, so if you get a call or email from me in the next year asking you to run for one of these esteemed positions, don't hesitate to agree to do it.

Finally, I'd like to encourage everyone to have a look at the new SICB website and especially the DVM page. If you have thoughts or ideas about things you'd like to see changed or improved, please let me know (ggillis@mtholyoke.edu). Along those lines, it would be great to begin to collect cool photos that you have related to vertebrate morphology. These will be used to decorate our website and on occasion will get rotation onto the society's homepage. If you have photos you'd like to see online to highlight your research and DVM more broadly, please send them to me in jpg format. In addition, the society is in the beginning stages of developing an online database of members, which will incorporate photographs and text relating to research interests. I'll have some examples to show you and more to say about this at the upcoming meeting in San Antonio. See you all soon.