



## Division of Animal Behavior

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### DAB Officers & Representatives

Diana Hews  
*Chair 2013-2016*

Michele Johnson  
*Secretary 2015-2018*

Allison Welch  
*Program Officer 2011-2017*

Helen Chmura  
*Student/Postdoctoral Affairs  
Committee Representative  
2015-2018*



*Yellow-billed loon and chick. Photo by Helen Chmura.*

### DAB's 2016 Best Student Presentation Competitions

The DAB executive committee, along with judges Jennifer Gumm and Erica Westerman, have selected seven finalists for this year's Best Student Oral Presentation Award. In alphabetical order, the finalists are: Alexandra Bentz, Jennifer Hellman, Carl Keiser, Issac Ligocki, Yuxiang Lui, Peter Marting, and Avery Russell. They will each present the results of their research in a special oral BSP session on the afternoon of Monday, January 4. Please join us in congratulating all of these finalists!

We will also have an impressive group of almost 30 students competing for the DAB Best Student Poster Award in the poster sessions. If you are interested in serving as a judge in the poster competition, please indicate your interest when you register for the conference, or contact DAB Secretary Michele Johnson at [Secretary.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DAB@sicb.org).

### Message from the Program Officer

Allison Welch, [DPO.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DAB@sicb.org)

Upcoming Meeting Highlights – January 3-7, 2016, in Portland, OR

The SICB programming committee recently met to finalize the program for our upcoming Annual Meeting, to be held January 3-7 in Portland, OR. With almost 1650 abstracts submitted, we expect this to be another record-breaking year. Don't forget that presenters must [register](#) by November 5!

The meeting will be held at the Oregon Convention Center – one of the nation's "greenest" – with housing at a number of nearby hotels. Make [hotel reservations](#) early for the best selection and rates! Portland boasts one of the nation's top public transport systems. Included in your SICB registration is a [TriMet pass](#) valid on local trains, buses and streetcars for the duration of the conference, which you will receive upon check in at the SICB registration desk. For those arriving via air, the MAX Light Rail will get you from the airport to the downtown area for \$2.50. Child care will also be available at the meeting again this year. If you are interested in using this service, please complete the [child care survey](#) by Nov. 15.



Animal behavior will have a very strong presence at the meeting, including:

- 102 oral presentations in 15 behaviorally-themed sessions
- 60 posters in behaviorally-themed poster sub-sessions
- 103 presentations in other sessions by authors with DAB primary affiliation or ABS affiliation
- 49 entrants in DAB Best Student Presentation competitions (oral and poster)

and

- again this year, a special oral session will feature the Best Student Paper finalists; learn about their exciting work at the special session on Monday afternoon, January 4

In addition, DAB will co-sponsor two society-wide and four regular symposia:

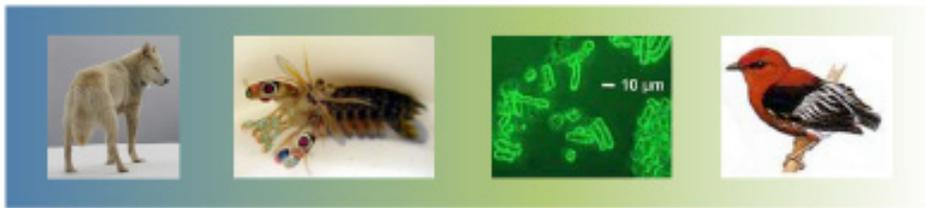
- SOCIETY-WIDE SYMPOSIUM: **[Evolutionary Endocrinology: Hormones as Mediators of Evolutionary Phenomena](#)**, Tuesday, January 5 – organized by Robert Cox, Joel McGlothlin and Frances Bonier
- SOCIETY-WIDE SYMPOSIUM: **[New Frontiers in the Integrative Study of Animal Behavior: Nothing in Neuroscience Makes Sense Except in the Light of Behavior](#)**, Thursday, January 7 – organized by Suzy Renn, Hans Hofmann and Dustin Rubenstein
- REGULAR SYMPOSIUM: **[Neuroecology: Neural Mechanisms of Sensory and Motor Processes that Mediate Ecologically Relevant Behaviors](#)**, Monday, January 4 – organized by Jeff Riffell and Ashlee Rowe
- REGULAR SYMPOSIUM: **[Are Migratory Animals Superspreaders of Infection?](#)** Wednesday, January 6 – organized by Alexa Fritzsche and Bethany Hoye
- REGULAR SYMPOSIUM: **[Beyond the Mean: Biological Impacts of Changing Patterns of Temperature Variation](#)**, Wednesday, January 6 – organized by Michael Dillon, Art Woods and Michael Sears

While at the meeting, don't forget to attend the DAB business meeting on Monday, January 5, at 5:45 PM, followed by a joint DAB/DNB social at 6:30-8:00 PM. Everyone is encouraged to attend both the business meeting and the social!

### **Future Symposia – January 2017 in New Orleans, LA**

Looking further ahead, we have an exciting slate of symposia for the 2017 meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana of which DAB will co-sponsor one society-wide and five regular symposia. Tentative titles are below:

- SOCIETY-WIDE SYMPOSIUM: **[Indirect Effects of Global Change: From Physiological and Behavioral Mechanisms to Ecological Consequences](#)** – organized by Alex Gunderson, Jonathon Stillman, and Brian Tsukimura
- REGULAR SYMPOSIUM: **[The Development and Mechanisms Underlying Inter-individual Variation in Pro-Social Behavior](#)** – organized by Ben Dantzer and Dustin Rubenstein
- REGULAR SYMPOSIUM: **[Integrating Cognitive, Motivational and Sensory Biases Underlying Acoustic and Multimodal Mate Choice](#)** – organized by Kathleen Lynch and Scott MacDougall-Shackleton
- REGULAR SYMPOSIUM: **[The Ecology of Exercise: Mechanisms Underlying Individual Variation in Movement Behavior, Activity or Performance](#)** – organized by Tony Williams and Shaun Killen
- REGULAR SYMPOSIUM: **[Integrative Life-History of Whole-Organism Performance](#)** – organized by Simon Lailvaux and Jerry Husak
- REGULAR SYMPOSIUM: **[Molecular and Neuroendocrine Approaches to the Study of Evolutionary Tradeoffs: Food, Sex, Stress, and Longevity](#)** – organized by Jill Schneider



## Message from the Chair

Diana Hews, [Chair.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DAB@sicb.org)



Diana Hews and doctoral student Ryan Seddon sampling ambient chemical signals in *Sceloporus occidentalis* habitat, San Bernadino mountains

Greetings from the wilds of west-central Indiana. Our "Indian Summer" weather has brought a resurgence of calling by katydids and scattered Spring Peepers. Red-headed Woodpeckers are vocalizing about the acorn crop and pairs of Carolina Wren are duetting more on their year-round territories. Three new migrants arrived in our woods today, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper and Hermit Thrush.

The season for SICB meeting is also ramping up. After evaluating the submitted extended abstracts, our judging panel has selected an excellent set of Oral contributions for the Best Student Presentation session. Results of this competition will be announced in the DAB business meeting, to be held the same day. To further entice more members to our divisional business meeting, the DAB officers have cooked up several animal behavior Trivia Questions. Correct answers will be rewarded with animal behavior book or art prizes; Trivia Question submissions from senior members are welcome! Another agenda item for our meeting is to discuss naming the BSP Oral Session award. One suggestion is to name this award the Tinbergen Award, to honor his "four questions," which epitomize the array of work conducted by DAB researchers. Please send me other suggestions or ideas. I am looking forward to the Portland meetings, anticipating the great symposia, the huge number of presentations, the chance to catch up with colleagues and friends, and the fantastic host city.

## Message from the Secretary

Michele Johnson, [Secretary.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DAB@sicb.org)

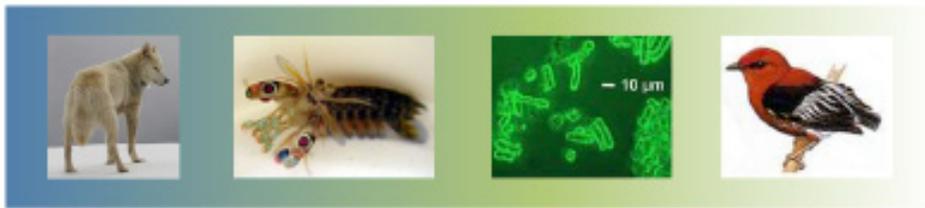
As I've served in the role of DAB Secretary for almost a year, I've become more and more impressed with the tremendous accomplishments, resources, and energy we have within our division. We continue to have one of the largest and most robust Best Student Presentation competitions, we support numerous symposia each year, and you see animal behavior talks and posters everywhere you look at our annual meetings.

But, our division doesn't yet have a large online presence. We've recently established a Facebook page for DAB members, and if you use Facebook, please look for the "[SICB Division of Animal Behavior](#)" group and join us to receive updated information about the activities of our division and our membership. We also have the opportunity to participate in SICB's online Researchers Database. If you would like to include your information in this database, please send a Word document with your name and a brief description of your work, along with a high-resolution .jpg photograph, to [Secretary.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DAB@sicb.org).

However, many of our labs already maintain online blogs to enhance the visibility of our own research. If you or your lab have such a blog, send me a quick note with the link, and we'll highlight these blogs in our next division newsletter.

And as always, if you have other ideas about how to effectively communicate the work of our division to our members and beyond, please contact me.





## Students and Postdocs: Making the Most of your Conference

*Helen Chmura, Graduate Student/Post-Doctoral Affairs Committee Representative*



*Helen Chmura, SPDAC Representative, with a white-crowned sparrow*

I first attended a SICB annual meeting in 2008 as an undergraduate. I was presenting my first poster and I was very nervous. Attending your first scientific conference can be an overwhelming experience – people everywhere, dozens of concurrent talks, and public speaking! Fortunately for all new SICB attendees out there, SICB is an extremely friendly place to have your first conference experience. There are numerous [funding opportunities](#) to help pay for student travel, special receptions for students, workshops for graduate students and postdocs on building your career, student poster competitions and more! Best of all, in my experience, SICB members are always welcoming and happy to talk to students about their research and careers in science. So don't be shy – make the most of SICB 2016 by talking to other attendees and coming to special student events!

This is my first conference since becoming the DAB Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) Representative. In Portland I look forward to meeting other students and postdocs and learning how the DAB and SPDAC can better serve your needs. Please don't hesitate to stop me in the halls and say hello!

## Welcome to DAB's Incoming Chair!

*Jennifer Gumm, Incoming DAB Chair*



Jennifer Gumm, an Assistant Professor at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, was elected to the position of DAB Chair last spring. Her tenure will begin at the end of the 2016 annual meeting in January. In the meantime, she

can be contacted at [ChairElect.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:ChairElect.DAB@sicb.org). During her time as chair of the division, Jenny aims to increase DAB's commitment to young scientists, and to enhance our involvement in science outreach and educational efforts. Congratulations, Jenny!

## DAB Research Highlight

*Marcus Thibodeau, MWSU graduate student, with live and model horned lizards*

Matt Watson's Evolutionary Ecology and Physiology Laboratory at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, uses a 3D scanner and printer to make animal models for research on predator/prey interactions. Master's student Marcus Thibodeau, shown here, uses these models to



investigate the effects of quail management practices on horned lizard populations in North Texas. This project entails elements of digestive physiology, prey composition, thermal ecology, habitat composition, and conservation biology. The 3D printed model in the photograph, alongside the live horned lizard, is one of many used to establish operative lizard temperatures. The Watson lab is constantly looking for new applications of this technology. Look for Marcus' presentation in Portland for more information!