

Division of Animal Behavior

Contents

Best Student Presentation Competition	1
Message from the Program Officer1
Symposia2
Message from the Chair3
Message from the Secretary3
Students and Postdocs4
DAB's Incoming Program Officer4
Research Highlights5

DAB Officers & Representatives

Jennifer Gumm
Chair 2016-2019

Michele Johnson
Secretary 2015-2018

Allison Welch
Program Officer 2011-2017

Helen Chmura
Student/Postdoctoral Affairs
Committee Representative
2015-2018



Monarch at butterfly reserve in Michoacán, Mexico. Photo by Miguel Angel Webber.

DAB's 2017 Best Student Presentation Competitions

Seven students have been selected to compete in this year's Best Student Presentation (BSP) oral competition. Our judging panel, composed of the DAB executive committee, Program Officer-elect Scott MacDougall-Shackleton, and 2015 BSP winner Gavin Leighton, selected the finalists on the basis of their extended abstracts. The finalists are (in alphabetical order): Roger Brothers, Rachel Crane, Jesse Delia, Christopher Goodchild, Lucie Gracias, Sarah Guindre-Parker, and Avery Russell. These students will each present the results of their research in a special BSP session on the afternoon of Thursday, January 5. Please join us in congratulating this impressive group!

We will also have a remarkable slate of more than 40 students competing for the DAB Best Student Poster Award in the poster sessions. If you are willing to serve 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.

Message from the Program Officer

Allison Welch, DPO.DAB@sicb.org

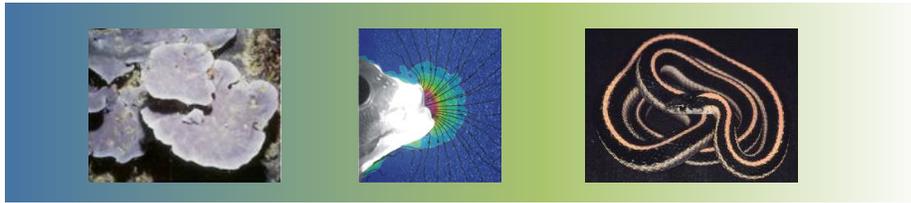
Upcoming Meeting Highlights – January 4-8, 2017, in New Orleans, LA

The SICB programming committee recently met to finalize the program for our upcoming Annual Meeting, to be held January 4-8 in New Orleans, LA. With over 1900 abstracts submitted, this will be our largest meeting yet. Don't forget that presenters must [register](#) by November 5.



Program officers

planning SICB 2017 in NOLA



The meeting will be held at the New Orleans Convention Center and Hilton Riverside Hotel, with student housing at other nearby hotels. The meeting venues are a quick walk from New Orleans' famed French Quarter, with abundant opportunities for dining and entertainment. Remember to make [hotel reservations](#) early! 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 November 15.

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

- 109 oral presentations in 16 behaviorally-themed sessions
- 102 posters in behaviorally-themed poster sessions
- 99 presentations in other sessions by authors with DAB primary affiliation or ABS affiliation
- 65 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 Thursday afternoon, January 5

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

- **Society-wide Symposium:** [Indirect Effects of Global Change: From Physiological and Behavioral Mechanisms to Ecological Consequences](#), Thursday, January 5 – organized by Alex Gunderson, Jonathan Stillman, and Brian Tsukimura
- **Society-wide Symposium:** [Integrative Life-History of Whole-Organism Performance](#), Saturday, January 7 – organized by Simon Lailvaux and Jerry Husak
- **Regular Symposium:** [The Ecology of Exercise: Mechanisms Underlying Individual Variation in Movement Behavior, Activity or Performance](#), Thursday, January 5 – organized by Tony Williams, Shaun Killen, and Ryan Calsbeek
- **Regular Symposium:** [Molecular and Neuroendocrine Approaches to the Study of Evolutionary Trade-offs: Food, Sex, Stress, and Longevity](#), Thursday, January 5 – organized by Jill Schneider

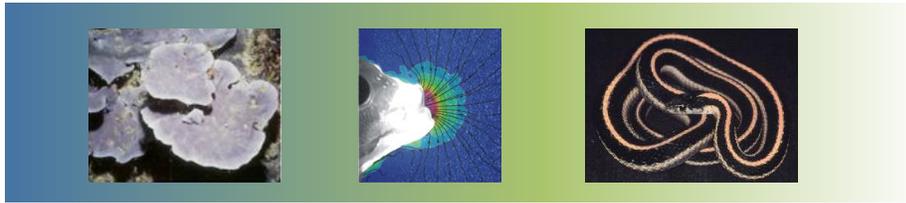
- **Regular Symposium:** [Integrating Cognitive, Motivational and Sensory Biases Underlying Acoustic and Multimodal Mate Choice](#), Friday, January 6 – organized by Kathleen Lynch and Scott MacDougall-Shackleton
- **Regular Symposium:** [The Development and Mechanisms Underlying Inter-individual Variation in Pro-social Behavior](#), Sunday, January 8 – organized by Ben Dantzer and Dustin Rubenstein

While at the meeting, please join us for the DAB business meeting on Thursday, January 5 at 5:45 pm, followed by a joint DAB/DNB social at 6:30-8:00 pm. The business meeting is a great opportunity to meet other animal behaviorists, to become more involved in your Division, and maybe even to win a door prize. Everyone is encouraged to attend both the business meeting and the social!



There's plenty of wild life to explore in New Orleans!





Future Symposia – January 2018 in San Francisco, CA

Looking further ahead, we have an exciting slate of symposia for the 2018 meeting in San Francisco, California, of which DAB will co-sponsor two society-wide and three regular symposia. Tentative titles are below:

Society-wide Symposium: Behavioral and Physiological Adaptation to Urban Environments – organized by Jenny Ouyang and Davide Dominoni

Society-wide Symposium: Story and Art in Science Communication – organized by Sara ElShafie, Stuart Sumida and Bram Lutton

Regular Symposium: Sensory Feedback and Animal Locomotion: Perspectives from Biology and Biorobotics – organized by Brett Aiello, Jessica Fox and Gary Gillis

Regular Symposium: Understanding the Evolution of Endocrine System Variation through Large-scale Comparative Analyses – organized by Maren Vitousek, Jerry Husak and Michele Johnson

Regular Symposium: Science in the Public Eye: Leveraging Partnerships – organized by Martha Merson, Nick Hristov and Louise Allen

Message from the Chair

Jennifer Gumm, Chair.DAB@sicb.org

It's dipped below 90 degrees for multiple days in a row here in Texas, which means it's time for the SICB Fall newsletter! This year, elections were held for a new Program Officer, and I thank those who ran for office and the nominating committee. Congratulations to Scott MacDougall-Shackleton who will begin a term as Program Officer in 2017. Scott has previously served the division as Chair and Secretary, and he is co-sponsoring a symposium this year. We are looking forward to working with him for the next few years.

Looking ahead, the upcoming meeting in New Orleans will be one of the biggest in SICB history, with over 1900 abstracts submitted. Over half of the SICB membership is affiliated with DAB, which gives us strong representation at the meetings and allows us to draw from a strong base for innovative symposia (6 co-sponsored this year!). In addition to the symposia, we have a great set of talks for the Best Student Presentation award, which will be held on the first day of the meeting. I encourage everyone to attend this session to show support for the up-and-coming student members of our division.

A continued goal of DAB is to support student and postdoc members of DAB in meaningful ways, and in the past year we have proposed a few new ways to strengthen our efforts in this area. In order to highlight the student talk competition, we will be naming the competition. Additionally, the Best Student Poster competition format is being discussed as to how best to celebrate the work of undergraduate and graduate students. Please join us at the business meeting on the first full day of the annual meeting (5:45-6:30 pm on Thursday, January 5) to further discuss these changes. We are always open to any other ideas that members have to strengthen support for students or the division as a whole. Please feel free to contact myself or any of the officers with thoughts or suggestions for the division.

See you in New Orleans!

Message from the Secretary

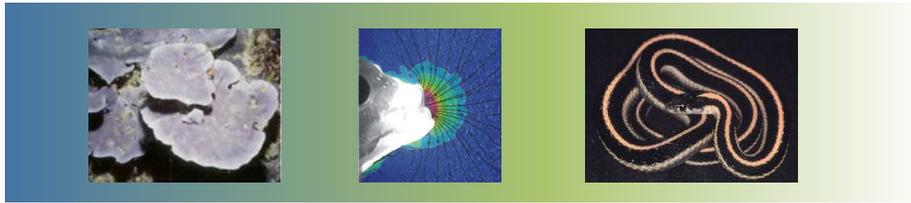
Michele Johnson, Secretary.DAB@sicb.org



Secretary Michele Johnson

Although I look forward to SICB every year, I'm especially excited for our upcoming meeting in New Orleans! As a postdoc, I conducted fieldwork on green anole lizards just south of the city, and I can confirm that there is as much interesting animal behavior in NOLA as there is interesting human behavior. I expect we'll be able to enjoy both this January.

One of the highlights of this year's meeting will be our Best Student Presentation competitions. Many of us began our involvement in SICB as students, and it is particularly rewarding to celebrate the successes of the many undergraduate and graduate students in our division. DAB continues to support one of the largest and most dynamic BSP competitions in our society. Yet, these large competitions would simply not be possible



without the dedication of our many judges. Please consider serving as a judge for this year's poster competition – your thoughtful critiques of our students' work are critical for this vibrant competition!

As you're preparing for NOLA, make sure to check out DAB on Facebook or Twitter. In the past year, we have ramped up our social media presence to provide year-round information about the activities of our division and our members, and there is always much to share in the weeks and months leading up to the annual meeting. You'll find us on Facebook via the "[SICB Division of Animal Behavior](#)" group, and on Twitter under @SICB_DAB.

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.

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: Opportunities at SICB

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

The Annual Meeting in New Orleans is fast approaching. I hope you've taken advantage of the numerous opportunities SICB provides to help students conduct and present their research. The deadline for all of these applications was October 25, so if you missed these opportunities this year, make sure to look out for them in preparation for SICB 2018.

Conference Travel Support:

- [Charlotte Mangum Support Program](#): For all graduate and undergraduate students.
- [Dorothy M. Skinner Award](#): For female graduate students and postdocs.
- [Broadening Participation Travel Award](#): For students and faculty from under-represented backgrounds in the sciences.

The [Student Support Committee](#) also accepts applications to the Grants in Aid of Research and Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel Awards. These are great programs to support research costs, including travel to distant field sites or universities to conduct research.

Finally, the SICB Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Committee has compiled a [list of external grants](#) that may provide additional research support.

If there are additional ways that the Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Committee can help you make the most of your meeting, please let me know (hechmura@uc-davis.edu)! I will see you in New Orleans.

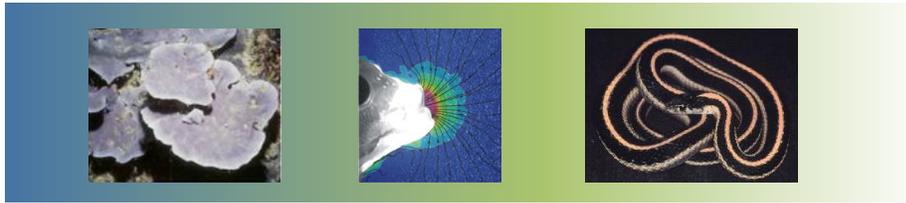


Ptarmigan changing plumage for Alaskan Winter. Photo by Helen Chmura.

Welcome to DAB's Incoming Program Officer!



Scott MacDougall-Shackleton, Incoming DAB Program Officer



Scott MacDougall-Shackleton, Professor of Psychology and Biology at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, was elected to the position of DAB Program Officer last spring. Scott will begin his duties as DPO at the end of the 2017 annual meeting in January. Scott has previously served as DAB's Chair (2004-2007) and Secretary (2007-2009), so he knows the division well. During his upcoming term as the Program Officer of the division, Scott looks forward to organizing the scientific program of the meetings, and he aims to encourage symposia organization and participation by younger researchers and those from underrepresented backgrounds. Congratulations, Scott!

DAB Research Highlights



*Erica Westerman,
University of
Arkansas*

Erica Westerman, Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas

Erica Westerman, an integrative animal behaviorist and invertebrate biologist interested in developmental plasticity, cognition, and sexual selection, is an assistant professor at the University of Arkansas. She is celebrating her tenth year as a member of SICB, and her first as a full member of the society. Erica did her postdoctoral research on the genetics of mate preference at the University of Chicago (2012-2016); her doctoral research on mate preference learning in butterflies at Yale University (2007-2012); and her master's thesis on climate change and invasive species reproduction at the University of New Hampshire (2004-2007). She is now building a research program at the University of Arkansas that integrates techniques used in multiple fields, including genomics, developmental biology, neurobiology, and field ecology, to study the role of environment in the development, evolution, and diversification of visual learning and communication. Research in her lab takes advantage of the diversity of butterflies native to the Ozarks, as well as the growing numbers of

tropical butterfly species with published genomes. Ongoing projects include identifying genes and developmental pathways associated with visual attraction and mate preference learning throughout the Lepidoptera, as well as determining the role of supergenes in mating behavior in Batesian mimics.



Dan Charbonneau, University of Arizona

Dan Charbonneau, Graduate Student, University of Arizona

Dan's work seeks to explain a phenomenon that has long been observed, but never adequately addressed: that most workers in social insect colonies spend most of their time doing what appears to be nothing at all. Dan's work has shown that inactivity is a real and ecologically relevant phenomenon where colonies contain large portions of workers (typically >50%) that effectively specialize on inactivity. In his talk at the 2017 SICB conference in New Orleans, he will present work showing that these workers form a behaviorally, physiologically and morphologically distinct group within colonies, suggesting that inactive workers may be immature, selfishly reproducing, and/or storing food for the colony. These are not mutually exclusive explanations for inactivity, but rather suggest a suite of linked traits common to inactive social insect workers. The simultaneous contribution of these traits to inactivity may explain the difficulty in finding a simple answer to this deceptively simple question. To further build upon and broaden this work, Dan is seeking a postdoctoral position where he can develop a theoretical framework for inactivity and apply it to other complex systems such as supply chains, human organizations, computer processors, multi-robot swarms, and economic systems.