



## Division of Animal Behavior

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Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco

### DAB's 2018 Best Student Presentation Competitions

Six students have been selected to compete in this year's inaugural Marlene Zuk Award for Best Student Presentation. Our judging panel, composed of the DAB executive committee, Secretary-elect Erica Waterman, and 2016 BSP winner Nick Keiser, selected these finalists on the basis of their extended abstracts. The finalists are (in alphabetical order): Roger Brothers, Tracy Burkhard, Daniel Escobar-Camacho, Patrick Green, Sydney Hope, and Joel Slade. These students will each present the results of their research in a special Zuk Award session on the afternoon of Thursday, January 4. Please join us in congratulating these finalists!

We will also have an impressive slate of more than 25 students competing for the Elizabeth Adkins-Regan Award for Best Student Poster 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 Chair

Jennifer Gumm, [Chair.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DAB@sicb.org)

Dear DAB Members,

I am thrilled to announce that, at this year's meeting, we will be hosting the inaugural competitions for the **Marlene Zuk Award for Best Student Presentation and the Elizabeth Adkins-Regan Award for Best Student Poster!** The research areas represent both proximate and ultimate approaches to animal behavior, highlighting our integrative nature. Further, it is particularly exciting that our awards will be named after two prominent women in the field. We have a great set of talks for the Marlene Zuk Award, which will be held on the first day of the meeting. The students in the Elizabeth Adkins-Regan Award competition can be found throughout the poster sessions on each night of the meeting. I encourage everyone to attend the talk session, and engage with the poster presenters to show support for the up-and-coming student members of our division.

The process to name the BSP awards started more than 2 years ago and is due to the efforts of current and previous officers including Diana Hews,

### DAB Officers & Representatives

Jennifer Gumm  
Chair 2016-2019

Michele Johnson  
Secretary 2015-2018

Scott MacDougall-Shackleton  
Program Officer 2017-2020

Helen Chmura  
Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee  
Representative 2015-2018



Alison Welch, Michele Johnson, Scott MacDougall-Shackleton, Tracy Langkilde and Helen Chmura. Most importantly, I want to thank all who gave input throughout this process. We had invaluable input from the members at the business meeting last year, in surveys and in voting. We couldn't have done this without your help!

This year, elections were held for a new Secretary and I thank the nominating committee. Congratulations to Erica Westerman who will begin a term as Secretary in 2018. Erica has been working with DAB as a student presentation judge and we are looking forward to working with her more for the next few years.

SICB continues to grow with the over 1900 abstracts submitted AGAIN this year! While it will be a busy meeting, we hope you will join us at our DAB business meeting to discuss how we can strengthen our division. Please feel free to contact myself or any of the officers with thoughts or suggestions for the division.

See you in San Francisco!

## Message from the Program Officer

Scott MacDougall-Shackleton, [DPO.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DAB@sicb.org)

SICB continues to grow, and the annual meeting in San Francisco will be another record-breaker with a total of over 1,940 total abstract submissions. Animal Behavior will continue to be a key part of SICB with over 160 behavior-related oral presentations, and 140 behavior-related posters at the upcoming meeting. We received 20 applications for the newly-named Marlene Zuk Award for the best student oral presentation, and six of these were selected to present in our special competition session. Make sure to mark your schedules for this exciting session, on Thursday, January 4! As well, we received 26 applications for the Elizabeth Adkins-Regan Best Student Poster award.

Symposia continue to be the heart of the SICB annual meeting, and the Division of Animal Behavior is co-sponsoring five symposia in San Francisco: "Science Through Narrative: Engaging Broad Audiences", "Sensory Feedback and Animal Locomotion: Perspectives from Biology and Biorobotics", "Understanding the Evolution of Endocrine System Variation through Large-scale Comparative Analyses", "Science in the Public Eye: Leveraging Partnerships", and "Behavioral and Physiological Adaptation to Urban Environments".

It is never too soon to start thinking about symposium proposals for the 2020 meeting in Austin. The proposals will be due next

summer. If you have any questions about organizing a symposium send me an email or flag me down. The work is not too onerous, but it does require some planning and organization. We would like the breadth of animal behavior research to be continued to be reflected in the symposia and resultant publications in the society's journal, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*.

It will be great to return to San Francisco, with a full meeting program and lots to see in the area, and great places to eat. Our last visit to San Francisco was 2013 and we are excited to be returning there so soon.



Port of San Francisco

## Planning for the 2018 SICB meeting in San Francisco

Don't forget that presenters must [register](#) by November 6, and early registration discounts end on December 4!

The meeting will be held at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis. Remember to make [hotel reservations](#) early! Child

care will also be available at the meeting again this year. This service will be provided by Preferred Sitters, the same group that provided care at the last three SICB meetings. To register, send an email to: [preferredsitters@msn.com](mailto:preferredsitters@msn.com) with the following information: Full name, telephone number, email address, children's name, age and any special instructions/needs. Further information is available on the meetings travel page: <http://sicb.org/meetings/2018/travel.php>.

While at the meeting, please join us for the DAB business meeting on Thursday, January 4 at 5:45 pm. Our divisional social will be the following evening, on Friday. We'll be joining with DNNSB (formerly DNB), DCE, and DEDE to have a smashing fun time at a local restaurant. Both events are 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!



Lunch on the harbor in San Francisco



The famous wall of Post-it notes – the center of SICB meeting planning

## Message from the Secretary

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

A few weeks ago, I had the great fun of serving as the DAB representative at the SICB meeting planning meeting in San Francisco. (DPO Scott MacDougall-Shackleton couldn't make it this year, but he still did all the pre-meeting prep work!) At this meeting, I worked closely with Jeff Riffell, DPO from DNNSB (formerly DNB) and John Zardus from the Crustacean Society to plan the behavior-themed oral and poster sessions. Seeing the meeting from the "inside" was a fantastic experience, and makes me appreciate all the work our program officers do to make our conferences so successful.



Michele Johnson with DNNSB DPO Scott Riffell, planning the behavior and neurobiology sessions for San Francisco

Every year, the Best Student Presentation competitions are a highlight of our annual conference, and this year will be even more exciting with the student awards recently named for two leaders in our field, Marlene Zuk and Elizabeth Adkins-Regan. DAB supports one of the largest and most dynamic BSP competitions in our society, and these competitions are only possible because of 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 San Francisco, make sure to check out DAB on Facebook or Twitter. 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](mailto:Secretary.DAB@sicb.org).

## News from *Integrative and Comparative Biology*

Tracy Langkilde, Assistant Editor, Division of Animal Behavior

ICB is now on Twitter and Facebook! Follow [@ICB\\_tweets](#) and [@IntegrativeandComparativeBiology](#) to get the latest exciting news from the journal.



## Students and Postdocs: Opportunities at SICB

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

It's fall, so that means it's time to start gearing up for SICB 2018! This also means that it is application season for SICB's numerous grants and fellowships to aid student research and conference participation. The deadline for all of these applications was October 20, so if you missed these opportunities this year, make sure to look out for them as you prepare for SICB 2019.

- **Broadening participation travel award:** Funds to attend the 2018 SICB Meeting
- **Charlotte Magnum Student Support Program:** Funds to attend the 2018 SICB Meeting
- **Dorothy M. Skinner Award:** Funds to attend the 2018 SICB Meeting for female scientists (typically awarded to postdocs)
- **GIAR/FGST:** Funds to support student research (Grants in Aid of Research, and Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel awards)
- **Libbie Hyman Memorial Scholarship:** Funds to support student research on invertebrates (due Feb. 5, 2018)

Additionally, I will be seeking a replacement as the Student-Post-doc representative for the Division of Animal Behavior. Please contact me ([hechmura@ucdavis.edu](mailto:hechmura@ucdavis.edu)) or any of the DAB divisional officers if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity!



*Erica Westerman  
University of Arkansas*

## Welcome to DAB's Incoming Secretary!

Erica Westerman, Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of Arkansas, was elected to the position of DAB Secretary last spring. Erica has been involved in DAB as one of the Best Student Presentation session judges and as a poster judge for the past few years, and we are excited to welcome

her to a new leadership position in the division. During her upcoming term as the Secretary of the division, Erica looks forward to working to encourage and support undergraduate and graduate student research in our field, with a particular focus on underrepresented groups. She also aims to facilitate increased participation of post-docs in the division's activities, and to support symposia that highlight animal behavior. Congratulations, Erica!

## DAB Research Highlights



*Kirsty MacLeod and an  
eastern fence lizard*

### Kirsty MacLeod, Postdoctoral Researcher, Pennsylvania State University

My research focuses on how mothers influence the traits and life histories of their offspring through flexible investment or maternal effects, and what the evolutionary consequences of these effects might be. Currently I am investigating how gestational stress in response to invasive fire ants influences the traits and survival of offspring in the eastern fence lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*), and particularly whether this stress allows them to better deal with the same stressor in their own lifetime. Other recent work shows that the stress of predation risk alone can significantly influence maternal survival in snowshoe hares, as well as the survival of their young, even though they were never themselves exposed to predators. Together, this work suggests multi-generational effects of encounters with predators large and small, that may have long-lasting impacts on prey population dynamics. This reflects my interest in incorporating physiology, behavior, and ecology to help us understand both proximate mechanisms and evolutionary outcomes of maternal effects in wild animal systems.



*Danielle Lee in the field*

### Danielle Lee, Assistant Professor, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

The DN Lee Lab is an intersectional research squad built on the principles of Service Scholarship. We conduct basic science in service of applied research interests that benefit public health, ecosystem services, and future innovation. We operate within urban communities, engaging members in inquiry and basic research. Our research includes field studies and experimental behavioral observations of field mice and rats. This work includes trapping, marking, and releasing mammals to identify their nest locations, home ranges, studying community interactions with other plants and animals, and behavioral observations in novel test mazes and activities. I am currently recruiting students interested in pursuing Masters research examining nuisance mice behavior and ecological interactions in urban and suburban contexts.