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## Divisions of SICB

Animal Behavior
Comparative Biomechanics
Comparative Endocrinology
Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry
Ecoimmunology and Disease Ecology
Evolutionary Developmental Biology
Ecology & Evolution
Invertebrate Zoology
Neurobiology, Neuroethology & Sensory Biology
Phylogenetics & Comparative Biology
Vertebrate Morphology



## Message from the President

Lou Burnett, President

### SICB: From Bankruptcy to Full Bloom!

How good is your SICB? It depends on whom you ask, I guess. The annual meeting is THE main event and it showcases the disciplinary diversity that makes SICB important. The core of the annual meeting is based on the symposia; the rest of the program is built around that. Our membership numbers are the highest they have ever been with 2803, and the demographics of our membership clearly show that we attract undergraduate students, retain graduate students and postdocs, and that these members move in significant numbers into our full member category. This is no accident. SICB has a long history of supporting students beginning in earnest twenty years ago with the Charlotte Mangum Student Support Program. Many full members report that they began as student members of SICB. We are also committed to having a society that is racially and ethnically diverse.

SICB also publishes two journals that provide outlets for cutting-edge work on integrative and comparative biology. More on this below.

Did you know that SICB nearly went bankrupt not too many years ago? A few members of SICB remember this and also remember that our very strong leadership put into place a plan that took us out of danger; this plan included financial commitments from the membership. Today SICB is on very solid financial footing, thanks to good financial planning of our Executive Officers, in concert with our management company Burk and Associates, Inc. Our main sources of revenue are our membership dues and our journal *Integrative and Comparative Biology* (*ICB*). However, we also

have an endowment that provides significant income for various SICB programs, among them the Mangum Student Support Program, the Student Research Programs (GIAR and FGST), the Bartholomew Award, the Gans Award, the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship, the Skinner Award, the Bern Lecture, and the Moore Lecture.

Below I want to outline some of the things SICB has done to back up the statements above and to let you know of some exciting things that will insure a very strong SICB for years to come.

**Broadening Participation.** A while back, SICB and then-President Marvalee Wake decided that it needed to promote activities of the Society to increase the diversity of the membership of the Society and of the fields of integrative and comparative biology. To this end, SICB created the Broadening Participation Committee and gave it a substantial budget. These efforts have been successful, but we are trying to do more. To get a real sense of where SICB has been and where we are going, you should read the article "[Broadening Participation in the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology](#)" published in *Integrative and Comparative Biology* and written by Cheryl Wilga, Michele Nishiguchi, and Brian Tsukimura. Cheryl, Nish, and Brian were pioneers in these efforts for the Society, and their great work continues to this day. The current committee, chaired by Stacey Combes, provides important workshops at the annual meeting and it hands out significant travel awards for individuals from underrepresented groups to attend the annual meeting. Last year the committee received a great boost of

## SICB Executive Officers

### Louis Burnett

President, 2017-2019  
College of Charleston

### Beth Brainerd

President-Elect, 2017-2019  
Brown University

### Peter Wainwright

Past President, 2017-2019  
University of California, Davis

### Alice Gibb

Secretary, 2018-2021  
Northern Arizona University

### Susan Williams

Program Officer, 2018-2020  
Ohio University

### Richard Blob

Past-Program Officer, 2018-2019  
Clemson University

### Karen Martin

Treasurer, 2013-2019  
Pepperdine University

### Miriam Ashley-Ross

Treasurer-Elect, 2018-2019  
Wake Forest University

### Brett Burk

Executive Director  
Herndon, VA

support with a generous donation from the Gans Charitable Trust. This allowed them to award over \$20,000 in travel support!

**Symposium Support.** SICB relies on its members to drive the science that forms the essence of our annual meetings. You often hear SICB officers solicit proposals for symposia. Eleven or so symposia form the centerpieces of our annual meeting. SICB members collaborate to generate ideas for these symposia and make formal proposals containing a rich list of speakers for the Program Committee to consider. Having robust symposia is important for two main reasons. First, as already stated, symposia are the drivers for the program of the annual meeting. Second, symposia are published in our journal *Integrative and Comparative Biology* (*ICB*). *ICB* is where you find the science that we do. *ICB*, published by Oxford University Press, also provides a significant and essential component of the SICB operating budget. One could argue that without symposia there would be no *ICB*, and without *ICB* there would be no SICB.

To punctuate the importance of our symposia, SICB has taken a few new steps. We continue to ask symposium organizers to solicit extramural funding for their symposia — and organizers have been very successful in securing funding. We also have internal mechanisms for symposium support. In 2007, the SICB Executive Committee established a Symposium Support Fund, a part of our endowment, to provide the Program Officer with resources to apply symposium support where needed. This fund now holds \$160,000, making \$5,000 available annually to support symposia. In 2010, the C. Ladd Prosser Symposium Fund was established by long-time SICB member Leonard Kirschner with a generous donation. This fund now contains over \$37,000, making \$1,200 available annually to support symposia related to comparative animal physiology.

Most recently, the Executive Committee approved a measure that significantly enhanced the support we give symposium participants. Essentially, meeting

registration will be reimbursed to all symposium participants — provided they submit their manuscripts for publication in *ICB* by the required deadline. This represents an important, ongoing commitment to symposia on the part of the society.

One last piece that needs mentioning is that each of our divisions has a \$2,000 allocation to be used to support symposia. This support has been in place for a long time and continues to be very important.

**SICB Journals.** The current manifestation of the Society's journal came about in 1961, with the publication of the *American Zoologist*. This journal was an outlet for the proceedings of the annual meetings and other society business. The *American Zoologist* had a rich history of publishing papers with a general theme, and this became most visible with the publication of symposia. In 2002, the *American Zoologist* was renamed *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. We have had nine editors since 1961, and will soon appoint the tenth editor. As mentioned above, *ICB* is not only an important and visible outlet for scientific content, it also provides the Society with significant income. Currently, more than 50% of the operating budget comes from *ICB*.

In 2016, the Society began considering the publication of a new journal that focuses on primary research papers encompassing the integrative and comparative themes that are so important to SICB. After surveying the membership and after extensive discussions of the Executive Committee, it was decided that we should start this new open access journal. We have appointed SICB member Adam Summers as the founding editor, named the journal *Integrative Organismal Biology (IOB)*, and will have the first set of papers published in January 2019! A new editorial board has been formed, and many people are working hard to make this new journal a success. SICB members will receive a significant discount in publishing open access articles in *IOB*. Down the road, revenues from *IOB* will contribute to SICB's bottom line.



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**SICB Endowment.** SICB maintains a portfolio of investments that support many of its programs, and I want to give you a flavor of that here. The endowment is extremely important to the Society. Our current endowment sits at \$1.6 million. We have a total of twelve named funds within the endowment that support specific programs and/or awards. There are rules for establishing new funds that can be found online or by contacting the Treasurer. The current policy is that 4% of the five-year trailing average of a particular fund can be used to support the programs for which it was created. SICB members (or anyone) can, and do, contribute to specific funds.

Recently, we have established targets for each of the funds. The Charlotte Mangum Student Support Program, for example, has a fund specific to it, and the formula-driven income from the fund contributes to the support we give to students through this program. (The Charlotte Mangum Student Support Fund was established from funds left to SICB in her will. Charlotte was president of SICB in 1994.) In this particular case, the bulk of the money needed to support students through Charlotte Mangum program comes from the SICB operating budget, but the endowed fund (sitting at more than \$364,000) currently contributes more than \$12,000 annually to this program. So the support we give to students

to attend the annual meeting comes from both the operating budget *and* the Charlotte Mangum Student Support fund. Obviously, the more this fund grows, the less dependent student support becomes on the operating budget. We would like to see funds like this fully endowed, and our target for the Mangum Fund is \$1.5 million.

**Double Your Dues.** Last year we launched a “double your dues” campaign to engage more of the SICB Community in giving back to SICB, including our student members. We asked each member to consider contributing the equivalent of the cost of annual dues to the Student Research Fund, which supports Grants-in-Aid of Research and the Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel. The Student Research Fund was established in 1996 to provide supplemental awards to graduate students in support of their research in the fields of integrative and comparative biology. This fund currently holds about \$300,000 and provides over \$8,000 annually to support student research. SICB supplements this support with the operating budget. Our target for the fund to fully endow the support is \$1,000,000.

The Double Your Dues program so far has engaged 76 SICB members who have contributed over \$5,000 to support student research!



### **Member Benefit:**

**25% Discount on  
Oxford University  
Press Books**

**[Go to the SICB  
Home Page](#)**

### **Message from the President-Elect**

*Beth Brainerd, President-Elect*

As noted above by President Lou Burnett, we are in the process of [searching for a new Editor](#) for *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. Heartfelt thanks to our current *ICB* Editor, Lynn (Marty) Martin and his editorial board for all of their work over the past few years to raise the profile of *ICB* and help our *ICB* authors publish their best work in the journal. In addition to publishing papers resulting from SICB symposia, *ICB* also welcomes [direct submission](#) of forward-looking review, synthesis, and perspectives articles.

SICB's new open-access journal, *Integrative Organismal Biology (IOB)*, is accepting submissions! Already 17 papers have been submitted since this past July when the submission site opened. SICB members receive a 30% discount on the author publication fee (in 2019 the full fee is \$1700; the SICB rate is \$1190), and only one author need be a current SICB member for the article to receive the discount. Editor Adam Summers, Managing Editor Suzanne Miller, and the *IOB* editorial board have been doing great work to get a set of articles submitted, reviewed, revised, and produced for the

inaugural *IOB* Issue and formal *IOB* launch event at SICB in Tampa!

For the upcoming meeting in Tampa, SICB is excited to be hosting a [Special Focus Meeting on Organismal Botany](#) (see more from the Program Officer, below). Given our history as the American Society of Zoologists, we have a legacy of focus on

animals in SICB. This [Special Focus Meeting](#) is part of an effort to increase the taxonomic diversity of organisms represented in SICB, and we welcome a diverse group of scientists studying diverse organisms — including algae, lichens, mosses, ferns, conifers and flowering plants — to the SICB community!

## Message from the Program Officer

*Susan Williams, Program Officer*

The SICB Program Committee met in Tampa on October 6-7, 2018, to organize the program of presentations and events for the Annual Meeting, which will be held January 3-7, 2019 at the Tampa Convention Center. It's been 12 years since SICB was last held in Florida. The convention center and conference hotels are within a few minutes distance from each other right on the waterfront. Having just spent two days at the venue, I can say that I think this is an excellent place for the meeting. The convention center and hotel both have amazing open space inside, as well as plenty of outdoor spaces to meet with colleagues or just look at the water. For the upcoming meeting,

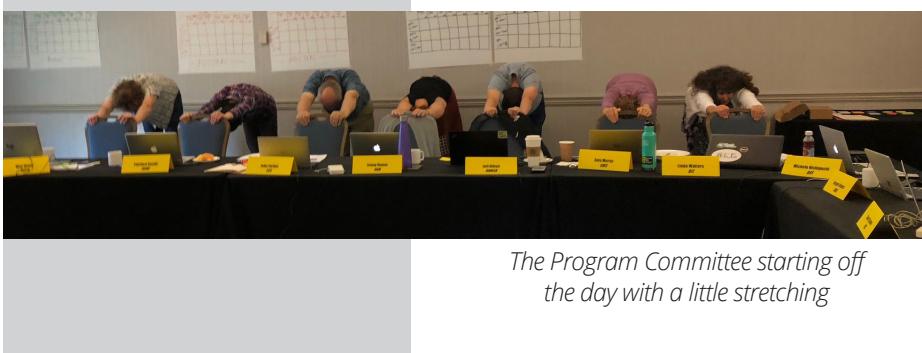
we received 1850 abstracts — with roughly 860 contributed talks, 860 posters, and 130 symposium or special talks. That translated into 140 oral platform sessions, in addition to 36 oral sessions for our [12 symposia](#). Our 4-day scientific program is jam-packed, with 4 days of talks and 3 poster sessions held on the afternoons of the first 3 days of the meeting. In addition to programming the sessions, the Program Committee toured the meeting venue, the Tampa Convention Center, which is conveniently located across the street from one of the meeting hotels, the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina.

I want to thank the Program Committee's herculean efforts on October 6 and 7 in putting together the final scientific program. This is truly a collaborative effort across divisions and with Lori Strong, Jill Drupa and Jennifer Rosenberg of Burk & Associates, Inc. Of course, none of this is possible without the web wizardry and lightning response time of Ruedi Birenheide, the SICB webmaster, who keeps everything moving forward on the abstract submission side of things. To start off our meeting, Sharri Zamore from the Public Affairs Committee boldly commanded us to stretch because she knew we'd be hunkered over our laptops all day. This is a new one for the Program Committee, but everyone went along — and it might actually become tradition!

Towards the end of the afternoon on Saturday, division program officers vied for space on the schedule — it was all friendly competition, of course. We ended



*View across the Garrison Channel of the convention center (blue arrow) and Marriott hotel (red arrow).*



*The Program Committee starting off the day with a little stretching*



Program Officers in action placing sessions on the board

the evening by dining with the Executive Officers, who had just arrived for their meeting the next day. We reassembled in the morning to finish programming and to discuss symposium proposals, the other major task of the Program Committee (see below).

Special emphasis at the 2019 meeting is being given to organismal botany through a series of coordinated activities comprising a [Special Focus Meeting on Organismal Botany](#). This includes a symposium on Integrative Plant Biology, a complementary oral session, a new student oral competition session called the Rising Star Award in Organismal Botany, a poster session, and a *Botany at SICB* Organizational Meeting and Social Event. These will occur on January 4 and 5

and provide researchers studying plants at the organismal level an opportunity to meet, talk shop about photosynthetic organisms, and discuss the future of organismal botany within SICB.

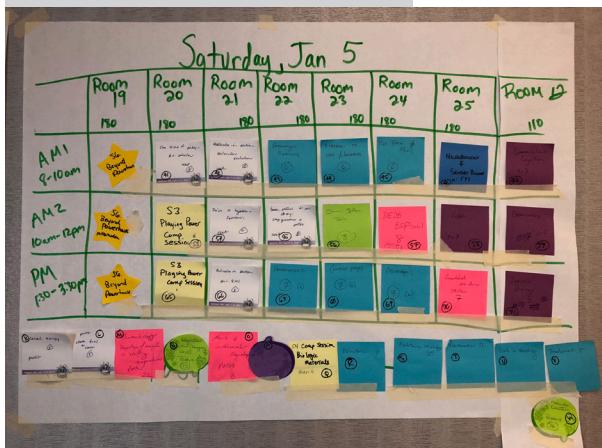
Other program highlights include the opening Plenary Talk on January 3 by Dr. Peter Wainwright, Past-President of SICB and Professor in the

Department of Evolution and Ecology at the University of California Davis. He will be speaking on "Key Innovation and Diversity in Fish Jaws: A SICB Story." On subsequent evenings, the program includes the Bartholomew, Bern, AMS, and Moore Lecture keynote speakers. The daytime program will also feature Best Student Presentation poster and oral competitions for each division. Finally, our [full-day symposia](#) really highlight the breadth of SICB. From immune variation and infectious disease dynamics to the evolution, biomechanics and ecology of gecko adhesion, the program is ripe with focused and forward-looking symposia that intentionally bring together diverse scientists from different backgrounds, career stages and paths, and scientific approaches.

As usual, the lunch break is jam-packed with interesting [workshops](#)... so I guess that means it is not really a break? Workshops sponsored by SICB committees focus on a range of topics, including inclusive teaching (Broadening Participation Committee), scientific poster design (Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Committee), teaching vertebrate morphology (Education Council), and two acting workshops with expert consultants (Public Affairs Committee). Back by popular demand is Shayle Matsuda's Sketchnotes workshop. NSF will be leading two separate workshops on funding opportunities and program changes. Finally, there are several workshops associated with symposia or focused on specific research areas or techniques. Some of the workshops require pre-registration. More information can be found on our annual meeting [workshop page](#).

At our Program Committee meeting, we also selected 11 symposia for the 2020 SICB meeting in Austin. More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter. It is not too early to start thinking about proposals for the 2021 meeting in Washington DC, and the annual meeting is a great place to generate new ideas and find potential symposium collaborators and speakers. I am happy to speak to you at the meeting about your ideas or answer any questions about the proposal process. Feel free to [email me](#) before or while you are at the meeting so we can find a spot to meet, or I am happy to answer questions directly over email. You can also run your ideas or questions by Program Officer-Elect, Jake Socha, or any of the divisional program officers. More information about the symposium proposal process can be found [here](#). Note that we fully reimburse the registration fees for symposium speakers upon submission of a symposium manuscript to *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. The submission website will be ready to receive proposals in the late spring, and we anticipate an August, 2019 deadline for proposal for the 2021 meeting.

For many of us, the 2019 Annual Meeting will be an escape from winter weather back home. It may be a good opportunity



A day in the life of the annual meeting: each post-it represents a session on a day of the meeting



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to bring the kids along as well because this year, SICB is providing FREE onsite childcare through Preferred Sitters. **Pre-registration is required.** Hopefully the weather will cooperate during the meeting to allow you to explore downtown Tampa. If you take the 5-minute stroll over the Garrison Channel bridge right by the convention center and Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina, there are several waterfront restaurants and bars. The [Tampa Riverwalk](#) along the Hillsborough River will lead you to many additional restaurants and bars with outdoor seating, or you can check out the [Public Art Walking tour](#) or visit other exciting venues such as the [Florida Aquarium](#), the [Tampa Museum of Art](#), or [The Glazer Children's Museum](#). Look out for the upcoming "Notes from the Underground" for more suggestions on sightseeing events and dining throughout the city. One note of caution, however, before heading to the water for recreational activities. [Red tide blooms continue to be a concern](#) throughout many areas of Florida, including the Tampa Bay region. One division Program Officer — I won't say who, in case predictions are wrong! — warned that this is unlikely to change in January. Travel

information for the meeting can be found on the [SICB 2019 meeting travel page](#). The Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina is easily accessible by Uber (~\$30 round trip), Taxi (\$45 round trip), or SuperShuttle (\$20 round trip). [Register](#) by December 4 to take advantage of the lower rates.

The Program Committee includes myself, Jake Socha (Program Officer-Elect), Scott MacDougall-Shackleton (DAB), Phil Anderson (DCB), Brian Walker (DCE), Wes Dowd (DCPB), Yui Suzuki (DEDB), Greg Demas (DEDE), Michele Nishiguchi (DEE), Linda Walters (DIZ), Jeff Riffell (DNNSB), Todd Oakley (DPCB), Brooke Flammang (DVM), Amy Moran (AMS), and John Zardus (TCS). In addition, this year we were assisted by Jenny Gum (DAB). We were also joined by Sharri Zamore from the Public Affairs Committee, who helped compile suggestions for presentations to include in SICB press releases, and by *ICB* Editor-in-Chief Marty Martin. Assembling the program is chaotic but fun because you get to see all the wonderful science being done by SICB attendees. Please make sure you thank your division Program Officer for his or her efforts in making the annual meeting a success!

## Message from the Treasurer

*Karen Martin, Treasurer*

My main goal as Treasurer for this society for the past 6 years has been to stabilize and improve the reporting and performance of the many Named Funds. These Funds, named for distinguished scientists and supported by their former students and colleagues, are part of what makes this Society so special. As a legacy, these funds provide continuity for our community and honor those who made remarkable achievements in their fields.

The Society has 12 named funds used to support awards of various types, including student travel, research, field work, symposia, and early career scientists. When I started as Treasurer in January 2013, these 12 funds together were worth \$823,166. Thanks to your generous donations, some re-norming,

and an improved method for allocating investment returns, as well as a strong stock market, six years later those 12 funds are worth over \$1.4 million, while supporting all these programs at higher levels.

At the start of my term, 5 of the 12 named funds were below \$25,000, our Board-approved minimum. Today, 11 of the 12 funds are above \$25,000, and all are in much better shape than in previous years. In addition the larger balances, donations and expenses are more readily visible to the appropriate Divisions to allow better planning and resource allocation. Along with the recent addition of Division Dashboards, the financial status of each part of the Society should be much clearer today.



As a whole the Society is solvent. Revenues are sufficient to meet expenses on an annual basis. This allows development of new initiatives while maintaining core operations and student support.

With a lot of effort of the Finance Committee and, in particular, President Lou Burnett and Past-President Peter Wainwright, reporting of revenues and expenses of the annual meeting and the Society as a whole are being presented in a new format that will help future Treasurers and interested Society members understand the financial status of each part of the budget more readily. BAI staff, Brett Burk (Executive Director), Nguyen Phan (Controller), and Rob Clayton (CFO), have all worked hard

to develop clearer ways to report spreadsheets, while still balancing the books. These changes are necessary as the Society expands and it is good to have these cooperative partners.

Treasurer-Elect Miriam Ashley-Ross has been actively involved in the Finance Committee since January. I am grateful for her astute comments and confident that the Society's finances are in good hands going forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this Society that has been so important to me in so many ways.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Martin, Treasurer

## Message from the Secretary

*Alice Gibb, Secretary*

I would like to begin by recognizing all the SICB members who offered up their names as candidates for leadership positions across the society. I was impressed and humbled by the quality of candidates fielded across all of the divisions, and grateful that so many of us are willing to serve. To those of you who were not selected in this last round of elections, I urge you to consider

throwing your hat in the ring again... maybe as soon as spring of 2019?

On the topic of elections, SICB is seeking qualified nominees for the society-wide positions of Secretary-Elect, Program Officer Elect and Member-at-Large for the election to be held in spring of 2019. If you are interested in (or have questions about) any of these positions, please contact me and I will be glad to provide more information — or point you toward the appropriate nominating committee!

For those of you who haven't seen it earlier, the SICB Election Report for spring 2018 can be found here: [sicb.org/elections/2018report.php](http://sicb.org/elections/2018report.php). In addition, SICB's election schedule is provided online: [www.sicb.org/resources/electionschedule.php3](http://www.sicb.org/resources/electionschedule.php3). As you can see from the schedule, most SICB divisions will be holding elections for officers in spring 2019. We need qualified candidates to step up and help out at all levels of the society. Please think about ways in which you might be willing to commit some of your time and energy to SICB throughout the year.

In tallying the results from the election of spring 2019, one notable finding was that



*The Tampa Convention Center, site of the upcoming SICB annual meeting, is in the heart of downtown Tampa (photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)*



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most of our graduate student members are *not participating* in elections. First, I want to remind everyone that the membership year extends into spring so **everyone who is a member at the annual meeting can (and should) vote in the subsequent spring elections, including graduate student members.** Second, I would like to urge all of the divisions to actively advocate for their students to participate in the spring elections — by reminding students that we are seeking their participation during Divisional Business Meetings, and possibly

also by announcing the upcoming elections during Best Student Presentation sessions and other student-oriented activities! The message here is that SICB's leadership cares about the students' viewpoints and ideas for the society's future, and that we hope to see students choose the candidates for SICB leadership positions who will best represent their priorities! President-Elect Beth Brainerd and I will be working together at the upcoming meeting in Tampa to help spread this message widely across the society.

## Development Committee Report

*Robert Roer, Chair*

During FY 2010 (7/17-6/18), donations to the Society totaled \$82,158, nearly \$50K more than last year! Thanks to everyone who generously supported the Society this year. This is one of the best years for contributions to SICB. Notably, \$36,402 was donated to GIAR in memory of Dr. Steve Vogel.

As a reminder, the Development Committee has identified a major focus for the coming years: to take the GIAR & FGST and Mangum funds to a fully self-supporting level (more information on these three funds is given in the President's statement, above). As each fund currently expends approximately \$40K per year in support of student members of SICB, it would require balances of \$1 million in each fund to realize this goal. The current balances on these funds are approximately \$279K and \$343K respectively (not counting capital gains for this FY). So, we have a long way to go and your participation is necessary for us to succeed in this effort.

One way to further increase your support is to respond to the "Double Your Dues" initiative. We are asking each member of SICB, including students, to contribute the price of a single year of dues over the next three years to this effort. All donations received in this way will go directly to SICB's Student Research Fund that supports the GIAR and FGST programs. For FY 2018, this effort has raised over \$4,000.

Another easy way to help is to buy SICB apparel. Go to the SICB website ([www.SICB.org](http://www.SICB.org)) and click on "SICB Apparel" on the right side of the menu tab below the banner. There you will find a variety of SICB logo items for sale. Not only can you sport your apparel at the annual meeting, but 15% of all proceeds go to support the Student Research Fund as well.

If you attended the meeting in the past few years, you have seen these donors recognized by ribbons attached to their badges; the colors of the ribbons correspond to various tiers of giving.

There are five donor levels:

- Bronze – up to \$50
- Silver - \$51-100
- Gold - \$101-250
- Platinum - \$251-500
- Diamond - \$501 and up





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*Visit the SICB home page  
[www.SICB.org](http://www.SICB.org)  
to view the stories written  
by students in the Mangum  
journalism program about  
presentations at the  
2018 annual meeting.*

It would be wonderful if **everyone** attending this year's meeting would have a ribbon attached to their badges! Any contribution, no matter what amount, makes a difference and will be recognized. Please consider donating whatever you can afford and support the very important missions of the endowed funds.

Please also consider including SICB in your estate plans. This legacy is an excellent way

to provide for the continuing health of our Society by including SICB in your will or as a beneficiary.

To make a donation online, or find out about planned giving, go to the SICB home page ([www.sicb.org](http://www.sicb.org)) and click on "Donate to SICB" on the menu on the left side of the page.

Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you in Tampa!

## **Education Council Report**

*Bram Lutton, Chair*

The Educational Council is looking forward to the 2019 meeting, and there are several exciting events we hope SICB members will consider attending while in Tampa. These include the annual Teaching and Learning Workshop, the John A. Moore Lecture, and the M. Patricia Morse Award for Excellence and Innovation in Science Education.

This year the **Teaching and Learning Workshop** will be "Identifying the core concepts of vertebrate morphology: a means to enhance active learning and retention in the classroom." The workshop will be a two-hour round table format with drinks and desserts, held from 7-9pm on Sunday, January 6th. This year's workshop is organized by Drs. Nicole Danos, Katie Staab, and Lisa Whitenack, and participants will have the opportunity to learn about integrating various fields of inquiry and technology into anatomy courses. For more information please see the website ([sicb.org/meetings/2019/talk.php](http://sicb.org/meetings/2019/talk.php)), and be sure to look for a brochure at meeting registration!

For the 2019 **John A. Moore Lecture**, the Educational Council has invited Dr. Kevin Padian, distinguished Professor in the Department of Integrative Biology and the Museum of Paleontology at the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Padian will provide an important and timely narrative regarding the "declining acceptance of basic and applied scientific understanding" (documented for decades), along with rapidly expanding and novel ideas for communicating science to the public. The title for Dr.



*Cownose rays are common  
in the waters around Tampa  
(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)*

Padian's Moore Lecture is "Lessons from the 'Intelligent Design' trial: Explaining evolution and climate science in a post-evidentiary world." The Moore Lecture is scheduled for the final day of the annual conference, directly preceding the closing reception. We hope to see you all there!

Finally, the Educational council is extremely pleased to announce the winner of the 2019 **M. Patricia Morse Award for Excellence and Innovation in Science Education**: Dr. Dale Broder! As a PhD student at Colorado State University, Dr. Broder mentored many undergraduate students on research projects, taught and developed courses geared for undergraduate and graduate students,



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and developed a K-12 outreach program that has impacted many Colorado schools and led to several science-education publications. Dr. Broder was a postdoc at the University of Denver prior to accepting her Assistant Professor position at St. Ambrose University, IA. The Educational Council is very excited to honor Dr. Broder by announcing her award and recognizing her efforts at the beginning of the Moore Lecture on January 7th!

We would also like to make our education-minded members aware of the National Science Foundation's new Research Coordination Networks in Undergraduate Biology Education (RCN-UBE) program solicitation (NSF 18-510), which supports

the formation of networks of educators, researchers, and other stakeholders to improve undergraduate biology. Award funds can be used to develop community standards, address interdisciplinary topics, explore collaborative technologies, promote the exchange of information and resources, build community, integrate research and education, and minimize duplication of efforts. For a list of recent awards and further details, please visit the NSF booth during the conference in Tampa, and check out [www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pgm\\_id=505495](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pgm_id=505495).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Education Council Chair directly ([chair.edcouncil@sicb.org](mailto:chair.edcouncil@sicb.org)).

## Public Affairs Committee Report

*Thom Sanger, Chair*

Building on the success of #SICB2018's successful story-telling theme, the Public Affairs Committee is excited to announce our workshop for the upcoming meeting entitled The Art of Persuasive Communication: When Acting Meets Science. This workshop is organized by PAC member Jimmy Liao in collaboration with professional acting consultants from VanCort Consulting.

Here is a description of the workshop provided by the organizers: "Professionals at top of their fields are not simply subject-matter experts, they are also highly skilled communicators who persuasively message quickly and easily while forging meaningful connections. VanCort Consulting's interactive talk, The Art of Persuasive Communication: When Acting Meets Science, utilizes macro-performative public speaking tools to impart persuasive micro-communication tools. The talk empowers professionals to present and converse compellingly, merging high impact voice and body work with an overview of current research. In short, it utilizes the artistic and scientific interdisciplinary approaches needed for effective communication training. VCC's innovative interactive approach includes limited, fun, hands-on participation by audience volunteers. Those

attending become better public speakers, optimizing their collaboration skills and leadership potential, ultimately enhancing career and organizational success."

Note that we will be hosting two workshops as part of this exciting collaboration. The first workshop will be January 4th at 12:00 pm and will be open to all meeting participants. The second workshop on January 5th will be a smaller workshop with interactive training demonstrations led by the VanCort group. This second workshop will have limited seats; stay tuned for information regarding workshop signups. This is an exciting opportunity for anyone that wants to add a new dimension to your science communication toolkit.

The PAC is also working closely with the executive officers to develop an updated and modern social media policy for our annual meetings. We hope to lay out guidelines about social media usage and address concerns about the sharing of intellectual property. These are important considerations in a time when a poorly timed photo could undermine the progress of one of our scientists. Look for these policies to be posted and widely shared closer to the meeting.



## Broadening Participation Committee Report

Stacey Combes, Chair



Historic Ybor City is a short ride away from the Tampa Convention Center  
(photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

The goal of the Broadening Participation (BP) committee is to increase the diversity of SICB and in the field of integrative biology at all career stages — in terms of gender, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, ability/disability, and socioeconomic background. All SICB members are welcome and encouraged to attend BP events during the annual meeting. The BP committee also works to increase the diversity of SICB by providing travel awards to help attendees from underrepresented groups defray the costs of attending the annual meeting, hosting a lunchtime workshop and an evening social at the meeting, and organizing a one-on-one Meeting Mentorship program. Please see [www.sicb.org/meetings/bp](http://www.sicb.org/meetings/bp) for further information about our programs.

### Donation by Gans Collections and Charitable Funds, Inc. for BP Travel Awards

For the second year in a row, the BP Committee is grateful to have received a generous donation from the Gans

Collections and Charitable Funds, Inc., a foundation established by renowned vertebrate morphologist and functional anatomoist Carl Gans, which provides additional support for our travel award program. To learn more about the foundation and find out about additional opportunities for conference travel grants, please visit [carlgans.org](http://carlgans.org).

The BP committee grants travel awards (typically capped at \$500) to help defray the expense of attending the annual meeting. These awards are available to any SICB members who are from underrepresented groups and/or who enhance the diversity of experiences and perspectives within their field, geographic region, or institution. Note that BP travel awards are not restricted to students, and we are especially interested in ensuring that post-doctoral and junior faculty members have the support they need to attend the SICB meeting. Recipients of BP travel awards will be honored at the BP evening social, which will be held on Sunday, January 6th. All SICB members are welcome to attend and help celebrate the accomplishments of our BP travel award recipients!

### Mentoring Workshop on Inclusive Teaching at the 2019 Meeting in Tampa

The BP Committee will be hosting a workshop at noon on Sunday, January 6th entitled "*Creating a comfortable and welcoming learning community: From a strategic syllabus to realized student engagement*." The workshop will be led by Dr. Elizabeth Congdon and Dr. Danielle Lee. This workshop will focus on techniques instructors can adopt to intentionally cultivate a classroom environment that is welcoming for all students; activities will include discussing student engagement styles on the introvert-extravert continuum, outlining strategies, and working through classroom activities to create a learning environment that is conducive for all students to express themselves. Drs. Lee



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and Congdon will also discuss the unique challenges of being a minority instructor teaching a predominantly majority group classroom, and vice-versa.

### **Broadening Participation Meeting Mentorship Program for 2019 meeting**

For this year's meeting in Tampa, the Broadening Participation committee will again be organizing a BP Meeting Mentorship program, which is open to the broader SICB community. This program provides SICB members who are from underrepresented groups and/or who enhance diversity within their field, region, or institution with the opportunity to be matched with a "meeting mentor" — a more experienced student, post-doc, or faculty member who has attended SICB several times. Mentors will help their mentees make the most of

the meeting, offering tips on which sessions and events to attend, providing career-related advice, and attending events with their mentee to help expand their professional network at SICB.

We encourage all SICB members to consider taking part in this program and to offer their time to serve as a meeting mentor — the experience of direct one-on-one mentorship can have a huge impact on a younger member's experience of the SICB meeting, particularly for first-time attendees or those with less developed networks within SICB. If you are interested in taking part in the BP Meeting Mentorship program, either as a mentor or a mentee, please indicate your interest on the meeting registration form, or see the Broadening Participation web page at [www.sicb.org/meetings/bp](http://www.sicb.org/meetings/bp) to read more about the expectations for participating in the program and to indicate your interest.

## **Student Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) Report**

*Zen Faulkes, SPDAC Chair*

The SPDAC wants to power-up your SICB poster presentation! Too often, posters are seen as the lesser format for conference presentations — but they don't have to be. A well-designed poster presentation can be a superior experience to the more coveted slide talk.

The SPDAC will be running a short online course on poster design in late fall. We cannot, unfortunately, offer the course to every SICB member, or even every SICB student and postdoctoral member — so you will need to sign up. The amount of interest shown will influence the **format** of the course, and space may be limited.

The class will use the popular Moodle learning management system, and will be led by current SPDAC chair, Zen Faulkes. Zen has a long-standing interest in poster design, and has written the Better Posters blog for several years.

After the class is completed, SPDAC will be showcasing posters again at the 2019 Florida meeting. We hope some of the participants in the online class will join us to show off their work and talk about the process they went through to make their posters.

If you are interested in this course, provide your details using this form: [goo.gl/forms/GK0XZ0A26DLxkwFR2](https://goo.gl/forms/GK0XZ0A26DLxkwFR2)

