

SOCIETY FOR INTEGRATIVE & COMPARATIVE BIOLOGY
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, First Meeting
2 January 2008
Marriott Rivercenter Hotel
San Antonio, Texas

Executive Committee Members Present:

President – John Pearse
President-Elect – Richard Satterlie
Past President – Sally Woodin
Secretary – Lou Burnett
Program Officer – Linda Walters
Program Officer-Elect – Eduardo Rosa-Molinar
Past Program Officer – Catherine Loudon, not present
Treasurer – Ron Dimock
Member-at-Large – John Long, not present
Member-at-Large – Rachel Merz
Member-at-Large – Sönke Johnsen

Divisional Chairs

DAB – Tom Hahn
DCB – Robert Full
DCE – Robert Denver
DCPB – Joe Williams (Chair-Elect for Pat Walsh)
DDCB – Karen Crawford
DEDB – Billie Swalla
DEE – George Bakken
DIZ – Janice Voltzow
DNB – James Murray, not present
DSEB – Don Swiderski
DVM – Kurt Schwenk, not present
Editor-in-Chief, ICB – Harold Heatwole
Student Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Chair – Larry Riley
Educational Council Chair – Robin Cooper
Executive Director (*ex officio*) – Brett Burk

Others present:

Linda Holland, DEDB Chair-Elect
Cathy Kennedy, Oxford University Press
Sherry Tamone, Chair, Student Support Committee

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 2:40 p.m. by President John Pearse. President Pearse welcomed and introduced members of the Executive Committee and guests.
2. **Approval of minutes of 2007 Executive Committee Meeting**
Several corrections were made to the minutes.
Motion. Swalla moved (Voltzow seconded) that the minutes be approved as changed. The motion passed unanimously. Approved and amended minutes will be posted on the SICB web site.
3. **Officer Reports.**
 - a. Program Officer – Linda Walters (**Program Officer Report, Appendix 1**)
 1. The highlights of the meeting schedule for the week were reviewed.
 2. There were 4 late breaking symposia this year.
 3. It was noted that 5 of the 8 symposia received support from NSF and that all reported to have sufficient funding for what they wanted to do.
 4. The add-ons of the two movies were a nice touch for this meeting.
 5. Walters will be working with the divisions to make sure that their rules regarding symposium funds are understood and that they are properly spent on symposia for the upcoming year.
 6. Several EC members expressed concern about the protocols for submitting and funding late breaking symposia. This will have to be discussed further by the divisional program officers.
 - b. Secretary – Louis Burnett (**Secretary Report, Appendix 2**)
 1. The SICB website is working quite well and has been well-received by the members. Divisions need to update and add to the divisional pages of the web site.
 2. Burnett noted that there is an option to create calendars for the divisions if that would be useful to them.
 3. Burnett gave an overview of the proposed constitution and bylaws revisions, which will be discussed at the January 6, 2008 Executive Committee meeting. The complete proposal and any revisions will be appended to the minutes of the January 6, 2008 meeting. Rosa-Molinar was surprised to see that the Broadening Participation Committee was not being proposed to be a standing committee. Burnett replied that promoting the Broadening Participation Committee to a standing committee is probably a good idea, but that the proposed changes before the EC are primarily to bring consistency to the existing bylaws. The Broadening Participation Committee may wish to consider proposing a bylaws change at a later date.
 4. Burnett noted that there are a few instances of divisional bylaws in conflict with the overall SICB bylaws. Divisional bylaws changes will probably be proposed in the fall. The divisional secretaries will be working on this and will need the help and support of divisional chairs.
 5. SICB Newsletter Schedule for 2008
 - a. Spring 2008
 1. Mar 5 - submission due
 2. Mar 28 - review on-line draft

3. Apr 7 - corrections due
4. Apr 11 - newsletter goes on-line
- b. Fall 2008
 1. Oct 10 - submission due
 2. Oct 29 - review on-line draft
 3. Nov 5 - corrections due
 4. Nov 11 - newsletter goes online
6. Archiving Candidate Lists. With the help of the divisional secretaries, SICB has begun listing members who have run for divisional and SICB-wide offices in the past years. This information serves as an important part of the SICB history and is useful to nominating committees. This information is now [online](#); go to Resources > Elections > Election Candidates for SICB and Divisions. Please submit revisions and corrections to this list to the Secretary.
7. Divisional awards. Please have divisional secretaries report the results of Best Student Paper and Poster awards to the Secretary as soon as possible after the annual meeting for posting on the SICB web site.
- c. Treasurer – Ron Dimock (**Treasurer Report, Appendix 3**)
 1. Dimock noted that we are in very good fiscal shape at present.
 2. Dimock noted that we continue to run deficits in our operating budget and that the society needs to balance its operating budget.
 3. The income from the journal has stabilized since our collaboration with Oxford University Press and the work of Heatwole as the editor.
 4. Dimock noted that our investments, which were originally made in 2002, are again being handled by Matthew Tederick. We have been very pleased with his performance and those of the funds.
 5. The Symposium Enhancement Fund has grown to just over \$107,000 and will help augment external funding in the future.
 6. Dimock noted that the annual meetings are doing better and better since BAI came on board. Sue Burk has negotiated free audio visual for two years in a row (2008 and 2009) – this has saved SICB about \$45,000 each year.
 7. We will be proposing an increase in meeting registration fees at some point – to keep up with inflation and rising AV costs.
 8. Dimock noted that the student support, which is comprised of GIAR, FGST, complimentary room/registration waivers and registration subsidies, adds up to over \$129,000 per meeting.
 9. Dimock presented an overview of the proposed budget for 2009. The discussion and vote on the budget will occur at the second EC meeting on January 6, 2008.
 10. SICB Policy on Named Funds, A Proposal (**SICB Policy on Named Funds, Appendix 4**). This policy was proposed by the executive officers. There was brief discussion on the policy.
 - a. **Motion.** Walters moved (Swalla seconded) to approve the policy on establishing named funds as proposed.
The motion was approved unanimously.
 11. Dimock distributed the document for evaluating BAI.

4. Special Report.

- a. Bill Zamer (National Science Foundation) joined the Executive Committee meeting via a speaker phone from his office in Washington, D.C. A PowerPoint presentation (**Appendix 5**) was shown while Zamer talked. Zamer encouraged SICB to advertize to its members that NSF needs program directors and divisional directors. SICB members are often appropriate to fill these temporary and rotating slots because of the integrative nature of the society. Zamer discussed the support of the NSF for symposia that are organized at SICB meetings. Zamer also reviewed a number of specific programs and program issues.

5. Committee Reports.

- a. Editorial Board, *ICB* – Harold Heatwole (**Editor Report, Appendix 6**)
 1. Heatwole reported on the experience of *ICB* for the year.
 2. Heatwole asked for the EC's opinion on whether late-breaking symposia should be subject to the rule about SICB having first right of refusal. There was discussion on this issue and it was decided that Heatwole should take up the matter with the editorial board.
 3. It was noted that we are being evaluated by PubMed this February.

6. Other Reports.

- a. International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) Report (<http://www.globalzoology.org/>) - John Pearse. This was the old International Congress of Zoology that was resurrected in Athens in 2000. The most recent meeting was in Beijing, China. Edwin Cooper, former president of SICB, attended the meeting in Beijing. Cooper represented the U.S. and asked if SICB would become a part of this. The annual dues are very inexpensive (around 10 Euros) and the next meeting is in Paris in 2008. SICB is now listed as a corporate member.

7. Additional Committee Reports and Divisional Reports.

- a. SICB Advisory Committee. This committee of past SICB presidents is chaired by Sally Woodin as the past president and will meet tomorrow.
- b. Educational Council. Robin Cooper, Chair (**Educational Council Report, Appendix 7**)
- c. Public Affairs Committee. Miriam Ashley-Ross, Chair (**Public Affairs Committee Report, Appendix 8**)
- d. Divisional Reports. (**Divisional Reports, Appendix 9**)
 1. Divisions reporting:
 - a. Division of Animal Behavior
 - b. Division of Comparative Endocrinology
 - c. Division of Invertebrate Zoology

8. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Appendix 1 - Program Officer Report
Linda J. Walters, Program Officer

2008 SICB Meeting: Total Abstracts = 1005

Poster Presentations: 375

Oral Presentations: 630

8 concurrent contributed paper sessions with 20 minute talks
~3 symposia per day on full meeting days, all symposia organizers received first choice of date
Posters up for 24 hours with approximately 125 posters/day

Abstracts: Backdoor open for 1 week after abstract deadline (approximately 70 late submissions). Abstract revisions allowed for approximately 3 weeks after abstract deadline.

Student support: 337 students at this meeting

Housing support: 299 students

Registration support: 38 students

Regular symposia: 8

Number of speakers per symposia: 11

8 of 8 have applied for external funding, thus registration fees of all speakers reimbursed (8 X 11 = 88 speakers)

7 of 8 have external support in hand, 1 of 8 is still pending

5 of 8 have NSF funding (range: \$4457 - \$40,000)

Other sources of external funding include: NIH, Air Force Science, Soc. for Systematic Biology

2 of 8 have multiple sources of external funding

8 of 8 have internal funding from divisions

7 of 8 have multiple sources of internal funding from divisions

8 of 8 will receive \$1000 from the Program Officer

8 of 8 will have planned extra events (round table discussions, socials, dinners)

Late-Breaking Symposia: 4

Queries from 8 people, 4 submitted and all accepted

2 of 4 have received external funding – one from NSF (\$6675) and one with multiple sources including Journal of Experimental Biology totaling \$5515

2 of the 4 symposia - all speakers will have their speakers' registration fees reimbursed = 8 + 5 = 13 speakers

2 of the 4 symposia have internal funding from divisions

Special events:

1) Randy Olsen and Flock of Dodos Movie – 5 showings over Days 1 and 2 of meeting with Randy present to discuss making of the movie/reactions at 4 of the showings.

2) IMAX tickets at reduced price (\$10) on evening of Day 3 for 2 showings with producer Richard Lutz present at both to introduce and answer questions about his IMAX movie, "Volcanoes of the Deep Sea".

Issues:

1) It is currently proposed for the next fiscal year that each division will be allotted \$2000 for supporting symposia, \$800 for socials, and \$300 for student awards for the 2009 meeting. All monies must remain in their categories and cannot be carried over to future fiscal years. Symposia funds can go to regular or late-breaking symposia and all funds should be distributed by the end of the October programming meeting. Please note that these amounts are the current proposed amounts and the amounts may change prior to voting by the Executive Committee on Sunday, 6 January 2008.

2) The Symposia Enhancement Fund was only used very modestly this fiscal year to solve two small issues related to regular symposia (miscommunications in division funding amounts). Hopefully, the fund will be used more aggressively next fiscal year.

3) Protocol for late-breaking symposia needs to be formalized. DPOs will discuss this on Thursday, 3 January 2008 at the noon meeting.

a) formal online application

b) deadline approximately 1 month before abstract deadline

c) voted on by all DPOs

4) DSEB has requested discussion of:

a) Should late-breaking symposia be allowed to continue?

b) If yes, should they be supported by SICB?

PO Response: I think it is premature to discontinue late-breaking symposia when it was only approved by the Society at the January 2007 meeting and no late-breaking symposia have even occurred yet. I would not have a problem with SICB not funding any speakers of late-breaking symposia. The EC decided over the summer to follow the same rules for late-breaking symposia for this first year as was already in place for regular symposia (i.e. if the organizer applies for external funding, then their speakers' registration fees are reimbursed). At this meeting, it means that 13 speakers in two of the late-breaking symposia will have their registration fees reimbursed. Additionally, divisions have allocated \$2600 of their funds toward late-breaking symposia. On the flip side, \$12,190 in external support was received for these same two symposia.

Appendix 2 - Secretary Report

Louis E. Burnett, Secretary

1. SICB Web Site . After more than one year of effort with extensive consultation and collaboration with the SICB Executive Committee , the Divisional Secretaries, and the SICB webmaster Ruedi Birenheide, the new SICB web site went on-line. The new site has a different look and reorganized content. The site has a special tab along the top “For Students,” reflecting the significance and importance of students to the SICB. The next phase of the renovation will be to place documents in our archives in appropriate places on the web site.
2. SICB Calendar. The executive officers have established an on-line calendar (accessible on the SICB web site through Resources > Calendar) indicating significant organizational and administrative events.
3. SICB Newsletter Schedule for 2008
 - a. Spring 2008
 - i. Mar 5 – submissions due
 - ii. Mar 28 – review on-line draft
 - iii. Apr 7 – corrections due
 - iv. Apr 11 – newsletter goes on-line
 - b. Fall 2008
 - i. Oct 10 – submissions due
 - ii. Oct 29 – review on-line draft
 - iii. Nov 5 – corrections due
 - iv. Nov 11 – newsletter goes on-line
4. Archiving Candidate Lists. Each year divisional and society-wide nominating committees go through great effort to identify candidates for elections. A record of these candidates is not readily available except through inspection of old newsletters. We have initiated a project to list, in a straightforward fashion, candidates who have run for offices in recent history. A Society-wide record dating back to 1992 is already available with only a few records missing. Divisional Secretaries are working on generating candidate lists. These lists can be found on the SICB web site under Resources > Elections > Election Candidates for SICB and Divisions.
5. SICB Constitution and Bylaws Revisions. A number of constitutional and bylaws revisions have been proposed. These are summarized and are included in the agenda for the Executive Committee. These revisions are proposed by the SICB executive officers. To go forward, the revisions must be proposed by the Executive Committee. They will be posted on the SICB web site. The SICB Webmaster will set up an online forum for discussion of the proposals. The SICB membership will vote on the revisions in the spring ballot beginning on or about May 1, 2008.
6. Divisional Bylaws Revisions. A number of bylaws revisions will be forthcoming from the divisions. Revisions will vary among divisions but cover areas such as terms of divisional offices, the definition of executive committees, provisions for vacancies in office, and tie votes in elections.

Appendix 3 - Treasurer Report
Ron Dimock, Treasurer

For the first time since the date was changed to early January, the Society enters an Annual Meeting with a pre-approved budget. This has greatly facilitated the planning of this meeting as well as implementing cost-cutting and cost-control measures that help insure the financial health of the Society while continuing to serve its membership well.

The fiscal condition of SICB continues to be strong. Audited **total assets** as of June 30, 2007 were **\$1,963,749**. With the change to a July 1 - June 30 fiscal year, the most recent comparable 12 month budget was that ending December 31, 2005, at which time the **total assets** were **\$1,883,934**. The 2007 figure includes a net loss in the general operating budget of \$79,946. The budget for fiscal 2008 projects a net loss of \$51,385, which underscores the need for close management of Society expenses. The budget tightening measures implemented for fiscal 2008 have led to improved fiscal responsibility and better overall management of the budget.

The following identify a number of bright spots in the Society's fiscal positions.

Journal Income: The steady erosion of income from **ICB** that was cause for alarm 5 or 6 years ago has by and large ceased with the new partnership with Oxford University Press. **ICB** now is very professionally produced and between the successful operation of the Editorial Office and Oxford University Press, all symposia from the 2007 meeting in Phoenix were published in 2007. The effects of the liaison between SICB and Oxford are reflected below in the figures for net income for the journal:

Net Income from ICB

Fiscal 2001	\$ 262,295
Fiscal 2002	205,528
Fiscal 2003	216,031
Fiscal 2004	200,162
Fiscal 2005	156,075
Fiscal 2006*	96,443 *abbreviated fiscal year; first full year with Oxford U Press.
Fiscal 2007	135,085
Fiscal 2008	159,179 (projected)

Support for Society Symposia: The new **Symposium Enhancement Fund** initiated last year with \$100,000 from the Executive Committee increased to \$107,450 with generous donations from 9 Society members. Interest from this fund is now available to the Program Officer to help support symposia. If the Society can grow the fund, it will relieve some of the diminishing extramural support.

Status of Society Investments: In 2002 the Society contracted with Matthew Tederick with LPL Financial Services to manage a portfolio of Society funds. After a brief hiatus that necessitated a temporary change in manager, Mr. Tederick who now is with C.H. Schwab, has been re-engaged by SICB. The **\$779,498** that was invested beginning in 2002 had a **net value** of **\$1,152,483** on 21 December 2007, a total return of 47.7%. This figure includes a capital gain of \$205,040 on \$200,000 in an REIT that matured early in 2007. With the current vagaries of market conditions, the portfolio is apportioned as \$680,666 in a suite of mutual funds and \$470,767 in cash and cash equivalents. Thus the

Society is poised to take advantage of investment opportunities that may arise in the near term. The Finance Committee is especially pleased to be working once again with Mr. Tederick

Summary of Annual Meetings: Since Burk & Associates, Inc, was hired in 2001, the Society has enjoyed a nearly complete reversal of the past history of chronic deficits associated with the annual meeting. The following summary illustrates the net income (or loss) of recent meetings:

Annual Meetings	(loss in parentheses)	
Fiscal 2001	(\$13,579)	Chicago
Fiscal 2002	\$4,097	Anaheim (first mtg fully managed by BAI)
Fiscal 2003	\$8,607	Toronto
Fiscal 2004	\$1,935	New Orleans
Fiscal 2005	\$3,597	San Diego
Fiscal 2006	(\$31,218)	Orlando
Fiscal 2007	(\$28,330)	Phoenix
Fiscal 2008	\$1,750	San Antonio (projected)

Student Support: SICB continues to be known as a very student-friendly organization. This is reflected in many aspects of the Society's undertakings including such things as Best Paper and Best Poster awards by every Division, the end of meeting social in honor of students and postdocs, etc. However, the major categories of financial support are the Grants In Aid of Research (**GIAR**), the Fellowships for Graduate Student Travel (**FGST**) and subsidized housing and/or waiver of registration for students who volunteer for various tasks during the meeting. The following summarizes the magnitude of this support in recent years:

Student Support

	GIAR	FGST	Comped Room/Registration for N students	
Fiscal 2002	\$24,000	\$6,000	\$37,758	N=173
Fiscal 2003	24,000	6,000	32,612	N=153
Fiscal 2004	24,000	6,000	49,396	N=275
Fiscal 2005	24,000	6,000	39,360	N=319
Fiscal 2006	24,000	6,000	31,134*	N=310
Fiscal 2007	24,000	6,000	36,612*	N=343
Fiscal 2008	24,000	6,000	45,225*	N=337 *includes Student Co-Pay

The Society also heavily subsidizes students with reduced registration fees for the Annual Meeting. For the approximately 350 students registered for 2008, this subsidy amounts to about \$54,250. The exceptional participation by students and recent postdoctoral members in the Society illustrates how effective this investment is likely to be in assuring the future strength of this unique organization.

Appendix 4 - SICB Policy on Establishing Named Funds

Background

A number of named funds exist currently and these funds have specific purposes. This policy establishes procedures that must be used by individuals, groups of individuals, divisions, or other organizations for the purpose of establishing new programs requiring a funding base.

Rules:

1. A new program must state clearly its intended purpose.
2. New programs will normally require a minimum of \$25,000 to establish an endowment whose earnings will be used to support the proposed activities according to the formula specified below.
3. Normally, 4% of the trailing 5 year average of the value of the fund will be available for expenditure on an annual basis for the designated purpose of the fund. However, in no case will expenditures be allowed to invade the principle of the fund. Exceptions to these rules must be granted by the SICB Finance Committee. For funds with less than a 5 year history, the SICB Finance Committee will determine the amount available.
4. Mechanisms for the disbursement of the funds consistent with the stated purpose of the program must be clearly established. If a committee determines how funds are to be disbursed, e.g., determines award recipient(s), what is the composition of the committee, how will the committee be formed, and how often will membership on the committee be changed? An example is the DCPB Bartholomew Award in which the procedures are spelled out in the DCPB Bylaws, Article XIII, B.
5. Programs may be discontinued by the SICB Executive Committee provided proper legal issues associated with the disbursement of remaining funds are resolved.
6. The SICB Finance Committee will oversee the activities of the program to insure adherence to the stated purpose of the program and adherence to all financial procedures governing income, investment, and disbursement of the associated fund.

Procedures:

1. Proposals for new programs must be submitted to the SICB Executive Director, who will forward the proposal to the SICB Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will review the proposal and it may recommend modifications of the proposal to the individual, group of individuals, division or organization making the proposal.
2. The SICB Finance Committee will make a recommendation to the SICB Executive Committee for approval or disapproval of the proposal.
3. The SICB Executive Committee must approve the proposal.

SICB Executive Committee January 2008

- SICB symposium submissions to NSF
- Program Director and Division Director recruitment
- Synthetic approaches to organismal biology and integrative biology
- Research Coordination Networks (RCN)

Symposium Requests

- Topics relevant to Integrative Organismal Systems
 - if topic is focused on ecosystems science (supported by the Division of Environmental Biology), then IOS will not fund it
 - topics in integrative biology (crossing subdisciplinary lines), we will consider it
 - send us preliminary ideas before you submit a proposal

Symposium Requests

- SICB divisional leadership to approve of the request to NSF; let us know that
 - do not bundle the requests
 - timely? how many related symposia in last 2-5 years?
 - support for young investigators (grad students, postdocs, untenured faculty), and underrepresented groups in science (including women)

Symposium Requests

- NSF is looking for prospective symposium requests; could be thought of as workshops
 - stimulate discussions to advance a sub-field
 - which questions should be addressed to significantly advance a sub-field?
 - will the advances lead to advances in other areas of S&T?
 - what resources are required for such advancement?
 - **what are the societal benefits of such advances?**

PD and DD Recruitment

- Encourage the SICB executive to stimulate a cultural change re: NSF service as rotating PD or DD
 - SICB divisional business meetings, newsletters
 - opportunity to steer a sub-field via funding recommendations (PD)
 - for DDs: need to have "run something" (e.g., department, school/college); line-item budget; leading-edge science; steering federal budget 2 years down the line...

"Synthetic" Approaches

- Enormous volumes of data available in literature and databases (genomic and phenotypic)
- Complexity of scientific problems or questions, **some with relevance to societal impact**
- NCEAS, NESCent, and Plant Sciences Cyberinfrastructure Collaborative (PSCIC; soon!)
 - support to fund working groups taking on use of the existing data to advance a field
- Possibly connect with prospective symposium topics:
 - which sub-fields are ripe for advance by synthesis?
 - generate ideas for synthesis working groups on topics relevant to the missions of NCEAS, NESCent (think broadly)

Research Coordination Networks

- A funding opportunity that most organismal biologists are not taking advantage of...
- \$500,000 over 5 years to stimulate and develop collaborations among scientists who are not presently collaborating
 - workshops, meetings, database resources for the group, all poised to lead to new research
 - focused on an approach, a new technology, an organism, a concept, etc.

**Appendix 6 - *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, Editorial Office Report
Submitted by: Harold Heatwole, Editor**

Abstract of Activities:

I. Information on 2007 papers: 76 received for publication; one rejected.
(In 2006, 52 papers were published)

2007 Journal Statistics (from Manuscript Central “At-A-Glance Statistics”)

Average time (days) from submission to first decision: 43 days

Average reviewer turn-around time (days): 18 days

Average days from submission to final decision on revised paper: 69 days

Average time to assign reviewer (days): 2 days

Total Number of pages published in Volume 47: 903

ICB papers published: 61

Number of authors: 138

Nationality of authors: USA/96; Belgium/8; Germany/6; Canada/5; UK/5; Australia/4; Puerto Rico/3; Russia/2; Italy/2; Japan/2; Austria/1; Netherlands/1; Wales/1; Finland/1; Norway/1

Biewener summary paper from 2006

Authors: USA/16; Belgium/1

Respiration Biology papers published: 14

Number of authors: 65

Nationality of authors: Germany/21; USA/19; Brazil/5; UK/5; Switzerland/4; Canada/4; Finland/3; Ireland/2; Sweden/1; Belgium/1

II. Information on 2008 papers

86 papers to be presented in regular symposia

3 of the 4 late-breaking symposia will also publish

Actions/motions requested of the Executive Committee:

Nil

Additional or expanded information for the Executive Committee:

I. Note new policy on colored figures---no exemption from fees for late papers

II. Policy considerations for discussion:

1. Late-breaking symposia

Does first-right of refusal apply?

2. External symposia

Appendix 7 – Educational Council Report
Robin Cooper, Chair

Abstract of Activities:

For the 2006-2007 meeting we hosted the digital library symposium and had a joint meeting with the NSF program officers that were interested in educational programs/policy that universities might be interested in. The discussions focused on the topic of digital information.

Last year, as well as this year, we plan to help host local high school students to attend and present their posters at SICB. These students are ones involved with the local INTEL affiliated Science Fair. The idea behind getting these students involved is the hope that they join SICB when attending college and know about the possibility to present their future research at SICB.

Actions/motions requested of the Executive Committee:

No actions or motions requested except to help recruit members to join the council and take an active role.

Appendix 8 – Public Affairs Committee Report

Miriam Ashley-Ross, Chair

The Public Affairs Committee is completing another successful year of publicizing the annual meeting, and organizing public-communication related events for SICB members. A brief summary of our efforts is presented below.

Advertising the Annual Meeting. Every year the Public Affairs Committee puts together a promotional pamphlet that is sent to Science, Nature, Science News, and other media outlets, including local press in the city that is hosting the annual meeting. The pamphlet contains press releases and informative (and attractive!) photos that we have solicited from the symposium organizers. The SICB Business Office has the completed pamphlet layout printed and sent to the media contacts.

Support for the Science Writing Program at MBL. The Public Affairs Committee, on behalf of SICB, donates \$500 to support the summer Science Writing Program at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. Every summer, this innovative and competitive program brings a select group of science writers together with researchers and allows the writers to experience research first-hand.

Events at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ, 2007 (from the meeting webpage; both events were well-attended and lively)

Evolution Town Meeting: A Year After the Dover Decision

Kitzmiller v. Dover struck a blow for the teaching of evolution, and against creationism, in the the US public schools. How did this case affect the ongoing battle between creationists and scientists over what is taught in schools? What has happened in the year since, and what is on the horizon? How do lawyers argue such cases, and what do we, as scientists, need to know to help them? Join us on January 5th, 2007 from 12:00 - 1:30 pm, for the fifth Town Meeting on Evolution. Our panel will feature Kevin Padian (University of California at Berkeley), Patricia Princehouse (Case Western Reserve University), and Stephen Harvey (Pepper Hamilton LLC law firm). The speakers will give short presentations, followed by what is sure to be lively discussion from the audience.

Media Workshop: Hey, Wanna Read My Blog?

Blogs are online "diaries" that are growing in popularity. Popular political and social commentary blogs are making the news, but is there more out there than chatty gossip and collections of links? How about some science? Can this trendy technology be useful for scientists? Come to the Media Workshop and find out! Experienced science bloggers P.Z. Myers (Pharyngula; <http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/>), Grrl Scientist (Living the Scientific Life; <http://scienceblogs.com/grrlscientist/>), and John Lynch (Stranger Fruit; <http://scienceblogs.com/strangerfruit/>) answer your questions about how blogging works, setting one up, finding things to write about, and using the medium for your classes, for research, or for educating the public.

Events at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, 2008 (from the meeting webpage)

Flock of Dodos

The film, *Flock of Dodos*, by Dr. Randy Olson, an evolutionary biologist filmmaker and longtime supporter of SICB, will be shown 5 times at the beginning of the meeting. Randy will be present and will introduce the film and be available for Q&A afterwards for the Thursday viewings. The Public Affairs Committee is a co-sponsor of this event.

Media Workshop

"Lost in Translation: How to talk about science to politicians and other policy-makers"

Most lawmakers have little or no scientific training, yet they must make major decisions about global climate change, evolution, and many other important scientific issues. Where do they get their information? In a world full of well-funded lobbyists, how can an individual scientist be heard? Come to the Media Workshop and find out how you can make a difference! Science policy fellow Molly Jacobs will discuss her adventures as a scientist in the halls of Congress and make the case for more scientists to get involved. We'll discuss how to be an effective advocate, and how to avoid common mistakes, and what resources are available to help you get your message across.

Appendix 9 – Divisional Reports

Divisions Reporting:

- **DAB**
- **DCE**
- **DIZ**

Division of Animal Behavior (DAB)

Tom Hahn, Chair

Activities:

1. We continue holding a student poster and talk competition at the meeting each year and we have good participation by students.
2. We hold a combined social and business meeting at the SICB meeting and have had good attendance the past couple of years. This was something Scott MacDougal-Shackleton, our former chair, started and it has greatly increased the attendance at the DAB business meeting.
3. We continue encouraging and co-sponsoring symposia (we just had one approved for the Boston meeting).
4. Sarah Humfeld, our divisional secretary, and Scott MacDougal-Shackleton presented a poster about DAB at the Animal Behavior Society Meeting this past summer to increase awareness of this nice winter behavior venue among those who may not know about it.
5. We're behind on getting our website showing enhanced but are working on that and plan to discuss it at this meeting.

Animal Behavior is sort of at the interface between a lot of fields, and a lot of the participants in DAB also have strong involvement in (for instance) DCE. Under Scott's leadership the past couple of years I think DAB has been revived substantially and I hope to at least see that maintained through the coming years. We all think behavior is an extremely important element of SICB, placed as it is at the crux of so many elements of integrative biology.

Division of Comparative Endocrinology (DCE)
Robert Denver, Chair

The DCE currently has 403 active members.

The DCE is the primary sponsor for the symposium "Consequences of maternally-derived yolk hormones for offspring: current status, challenges and opportunities." (Organized by R. Bowden & M. Lovern) A complimentary session for contributed papers has been arranged.

The DCE organizes and hosts the Howard Bern Lecture given at the annual meeting. This year's lecturer is Professor Peter Thomas, University of Texas, Austin. The title of his presentation is: "Nonclassical Steroid Actions Mediated by Novel Membrane Receptors: Lessons from Studies in Fish." Funds for the Howard Bern Lecture are provided by a generous grant from Elsevier.

The primary scientific journal for DCE members is *General and Comparative Endocrinology*. The journal typically receives over 300 manuscripts for review each year. The journal's impact factor is currently 2.5.

The DCE co-sponsored two regional meetings during 2007:

- The Western Regional Conference on Comparative Endocrinology (WRCCE) at Friday Harbor Laboratory, March 23-25.
- The International Symposium on Amphibian and Reptile Endocrinology and Neurobiology (ISAREN) in Berkeley, California, March 26-28, 2007.

The DCE of the SICB is a member of the International Federation of Comparative Endocrine Societies (IFCES). The IFCES meeting is held every four years; the next meeting will be in Hong Kong in 2009.

Division of Invertebrate Zoology (DIZ)
Janice Voltzow, Chair

Activities:

Student awards for 2007:

This year 30 students competed for best student paper. The best oral presentation went to Alison Sweeney for her talk entitled, "Evolution of high-acuity vision in coleoid cephalopods." The best poster presentation went to Ben Lake for his poster entitled, "Influence of orientation and flow speed on feeding behavior and metabolism of the barnacle *Semibalanus balanoides*." The Adrian M. Wenner Strong Inference Award went to Dawn Vaughn for her talk entitled, "Predator-induced morphological defenses in marine zooplankton: a larval case study." The runner up for best student paper went to Fernanda Oyarzun for her talk entitled, "Plasticity in brooding time of a species with alternative reproductive modes." The runner up for best student poster went to David Sischo for his poster entitled, "Biofilms affect the behavior of polychaete larvae landing on surfaces in water currents and waves." Runner up for the Adrian M. Wenner Strong Inference Award went to Tracey Smart for her talk entitled, "Tolerance of the early life history stages of *Owenia fusiformis* to environmental conditions: possible limits to dispersal."

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. 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.

Changes in officers and committee chairs:

Amy Moran is completing her term as Program Officer; James McClintock will be replacing her and has already begun helping her with her duties.

Sid Bosch has completed an extended tenure on the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Committee, serving and then chairing this committee for many years. Bruno Pernet has agreed to chair this committee.

Scott Nichols has finished his term as DIZ representative to the Graduate Student-Postdoctoral Affairs Committee; Jann Vandetti has agreed to assume this post.

We are grateful to all of these individuals for their commitment to DIZ and greatly appreciate their service.

Highlight for Boston 2008:

We are planning an auction to benefit the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Action requests/decisions:

We need to move \$65 from socials to student awards to cover the costs of the memberships to SICB and AMS that we give to the winners of our awards.