

Minutes of the DIVISION OF INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY BUSINESS MEETING, January 4, 2009, Boston, MA

Janice Voltzow (DIZ Chair) opened the meeting by requesting motions to approve the minutes of the previous year's meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Renae Brodie (DIZ Secretary) welcomed the Dianna Padilla, the newly elected Chair, and thanked David Wethey for running. She reminded members to look at the proposed by-laws changes that they will vote on this spring and encouraged them to contribute to the Researchers database on the SICB website.

The SICB officers arrived and were introduced: John Pearse (President), Lou Burnett (Secretary), Eduardo Rosa-Molinar (Program Officer), Ron Dimock (Treasurer), and Brett Burk (Executive Director). John Pearse asked for suggestions for improving the meeting and introduced the new President, Richard Satterlie. He also introduced Robert Podolsky, the new Chair for the Educational Council, which will emphasize undergraduate and graduate outreach.

A general complaint was immediately raised by several people in the audience: the poster session was crowded and poorly lit. Brett Burk replied that there were 300 more abstract submissions for the 2009 meeting than anticipated, and as a consequence, the poster session was relocated to a bigger room. Typically around 1350 people attend the annual SICB meeting, but in 2009 a record 1800 people arrived. Brett explained the record number of attendees was likely due to improved advertising. Rachel Merz suggested that poster boards could have been moved to solve the crowding problem and asked why this couldn't be done. Brett explained that SICB could not move poster boards because of union rules and assured members that the poster problems would be fixed by the next morning.

Beth Davis inquired about the lack of free drink tickets at the 2009 meeting. Brett explained that the drink ticket price in Boston was quite high (\$12 per ticket) and either the registration rates would have been raised or student support reduced to cover the tickets.

Ron Dimock (Treasurer) mentioned that SICB finances were in great shape. Trish Morse noted that services and rooms at the meeting were quite nice and thanked the officers for their hard work.

Jim McClintock (DIZ Program Officer) gave an update on the symposia, mentioning two at the 2009 meeting sponsored by DIZ: The Biology of Parasitic Crustacea (organized by Jeffrey Shields and Chris Boyko) and Cell-Cell Signaling Drives the Evolution of Complex Traits (organized by John Torday). Jim mentioned that there are five DIZ sponsored symposia for the 2010 Seattle meeting: Animal Regeneration: Integrating Development, Ecology, and Evolution (Alexa Bely), Assembling the Cnidarian Tree of Life (Paulyn Cartwright), Advances in Antarctic Marine Biology (James B. McClintock), Marine Ecosystem Engineers in a Changing World: Establishing Links Across Systems (Sarah Berke), Evolutionary paths among developmental possibilities: A symposium marking the contributions and influence of Richard Strathmann (Michael Hart). Jim encouraged members to submit symposium ideas for the 2011 meeting to be held in New Orleans or Salt Lake City.

Sally Woodin added that the heart of the society is the quality and breadth of topics covered in the meetings; these make both the journal and society vibrant. She encouraged the participation of scientists from abroad and mentioned that there are special funds available for symposia.

Ben Miner (Student Awards) told members that it is easier than ever to volunteer to judge student talks

and posters. You check a box on the online registration form to volunteer and can also select specific student papers online. He strongly encouraged members to volunteer next year and commented on how streamlined the process is now with online tools.

Last year's winners were:

Best oral presentation

Winner

Lindsay Waldrop for her talk entitled, "Fluid dynamics of antennule flicking of the blue crab, *Callinectes sapidus*"

Runner up

Pauline Yu "Extended starvation resistance and subsequent growth recovery in sea urchin larvae: Implications for lifespan in the plankton"

Best poster presentation

Winner

Joerg Hammel "Morphogenesis during asexual bud-formation and growth in the poriferan *Tethya wilhelma*: silica skeleton, aquiferous system and the mesohyle"

Runner up

Dawn Vaughn, "Attack on the Clones: Predator-Induced Cloning in Echinoderm Larvae"

Andrian M Weener Strong Inference Award

Winner

Nicholas Alcorn "How do changes in parental investment influence larval development in Gulf of Maine echinoids?"

Runner up

Sylvia Lewis "Tests for palatability and feeding deterrence in egg masses of nine species of opisthobranch gastropods"

Ben encouraged students to sign up for the awards and noted that there were 28 students and 20 judges participating in the Boston 2009 meeting. Given that there were at least three judges assigned to each talk/poster, Ben anticipated a higher quality of judging and thanked all of the volunteer judges.

Janice Voltzow (DIZ Chair) added that Wiley Blackwell is underwriting the student awards for the entire society and winners will receive a free journal subscription.

Bruno Pernet (Chair, Libbie Hyman Memorial Fund Committee) thanked the other members of the Libbie Hyman Committee, Will Jaekel and Jake Zardus. Twelve students applied for the award and one \$1200 prize was given to Dennis Evangelista from Mimi Koehl's laboratory at UC Berkeley. Dennis used the funds to take a biomechanics and invertebrate zoology course at Friday Harbor Laboratories and he is presenting the project from the biomechanics course at the 2009 Boston meeting. Bruno encouraged students to apply and reminded them that the applications are due in early May. He also encouraged members to come to the invertebrate auction to benefit the Libbie Hyman fund.

Janice Voltzow (DIZ Chair) announced that the auction to benefit the Libbie Hyman fund would be held on January 5, 2009 in the Grand Ballroom and encouraged everyone to come. She mentioned that cash, checks and credit cards would be accepted and that anyone still wanting to donate items could leave them at the registration desk. Linda Walters encouraged Janice to mention some of the more unusual offerings, such as the B&Bs at the homes of John Pearse in Monterey Bay and Kathy Kennedy in Oxford. Trish Morse threw in the offer of her own B&B in her A-frame on Friday Harbor Island plus dinner. More standard offerings, such as Hyman volumes would also be up for bidding.

Janice also mentioned that the next SICB meeting will be held in Seattle and the following year (2011) the choice of meeting locations is between Salt Lake City and New Orleans.

Patrick Reynolds (Editor of *Invertebrate Biology*) thanked the six editors of *Invertebrate Biology*: Michael Hart, Bruno Pernet, Louise Page, Greg Rouse, Nora Terwilliger, and Robert Thacker. Manuscripts accepted by IB are now online within a month of acceptance; there are no page charges and free color illustrations. There were 115 submissions this past year (the second highest number on record) from 31 countries (25% of submissions were from the US). Acceptance rate is 25% and average manuscript turn-around time is 26 days from first submission to decision. Patrick encouraged DIZ members to “embrace the journal”.

Clay Cook (NSF, Integrative Organismal Systems) invited DIZ members to visit the NSF booth at the poster sessions to pick up a CD with funding opportunities. He highlighted a new funding priority for “Life in Transition” (LiT; NSF 08-078) proposals; \$3.5 million has been set aside for projects that address three fundamental objectives: 1. how the world adapts to and transforms the earth’s climate, 2. how energy transduction is managed by living systems and 3. origins of life. To apply for LiT funding, submit proposals to the appropriate division (e.g., DBI, IOS, MCB) on the regular target date and specify that the proposal is eligible for LiT on the cover page.

Erika Ivengar inquired if RUI (research in undergraduate institutions) grants are eligible for LiT funding and Clay indicated that they are.

Gonzalo Giribet (President Elect, International Society for Invertebrate Morphology, ISIM) announced the founding of ISIM in August 2008 during the 1st International Congress on Invertebrate Morphology meeting organized by Klaus Nielsen in Copenhagen. The purpose of this new society is to promote international collaboration and provide opportunities for training in invertebrate morphology. So far, there are 170 members, most of whom are European and Gonzalo encouraged Americans to join. The Copenhagen meeting was a great success and *Invertebrate Biology* is publishing the symposium papers. The next meeting will be held in July 2011 at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. It is hoped that 200-300 people will attend. Meeting attendees automatically become members of ISIM.

Frederick Harrison (Editor Emeritus, *Journal of Morphology*) mentioned that abstracts from the Copenhagen meeting will be published in the *Journal of Morphology* and that the publisher, Wiley, Blackwell and Springer offers a \$1500 award open to any investigator for a prominent publication.

Janice Voltzow (DIZ Chair) asked for volunteers for a nominating committee for DIZ secretary. Ben Miner, Molly Jacobs and Rachel Merz volunteered/were volunteered.

Dianna Padilla (DIZ Chair Elect) issued an NSF challenge to symposia organizers. “What are the next hot questions, she asked?” She directed organizers to design symposia that set new directions rather than retrospectives.

Gonzalo Giribet suggested that it is hard to know what will be hot in two years (the lead time for organizing a symposium).

Sara Lindsay asked, “is there room for questions that have not been answered in an integrated way?”

Clay Cook and Dianna Padilla emphasized that there is room for everything. NSF wants to respond to

the community of scientists and funnel money towards what the scientific community thinks are the big questions.

Frederick Harrison asked, “are there invertebrate canaries for climate change?”

Dianna Padilla noted that areas of inquiry need to directly benefit society and climate change is a focal area for the Obama administration.

Janice Voltzow suggested that there is an opportunity for the “big questions” discussion to take place on the DIZ website.

Rachel Merz thanked Janice Voltzow for serving as DIZ chair and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by R. Brodie