

# SICB Division of Vertebrate Morphology (DVM)

## Meeting Minutes

DVM Business Meeting Notes (1/5/2007)

### Announcements:

1. The Society's officers stopped by to introduce themselves and remind us that the Society's journal, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, is in good shape, with a nice new format and speedy online publishing of new papers. Melina Hale confirmed that the journal is not on PubMed yet and also clarified that the journal has the right of 1<sup>st</sup> refusal for papers based on society symposia.
2. Tony Russell told us of the upcoming International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology (ICVM) in Paris this summer. In addition, as the president of the Canadian Society of Zoologists, he clued us in to the "morphology-friendly" environment of that society and offered a standing invitation to attend their annual meetings (in Montreal in 2007)
3. I announced that the society is in the process of retooling its website and that your pictures, videos, flash animations etc. would make excellent additions to the DVM page. Please send any such materials to me ([ggillis@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:ggillis@mtholyoke.edu)) and you'll be hearing from me if I don't hear from you.
4. Jeff Walker listed the symposia for next year (see Jeff's report above). He also announced that the deadline for submitting ideas for symposia for the 2009 meeting in Boston is August '07. Email Jeff with your ideas ([walker@maine.edu](mailto:walker@maine.edu)).
5. Adam Summers apologized for any problems people had with student rooming issues, but was pleased to report that 361 students were supported with rooms at this year's meeting and 30 students had their registrations waived. In addition, this year \$23,000 was given to students in the form of grants-in-aid-of-research, and \$8,000 in the form of travel grants.
6. Bill Zamer from NSF shared his thoughts on some of the changes in IOB at NSF. Many of us likely fall under the umbrella of the Physiological and Structural Systems Cluster in the Division of Integrated Organismal Systems. He suggested that "systems-based approaches" were important in our applications for NSF grants and encouraged us to have a look at Jim Collins' presentation on integrative biology in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century (go to the Phoenix meeting link on the SICB website to view the presentation).
7. Beth Brainerd announced that Mark Westneat and Sharon Swartz are up for election to Chair-Elect this spring (see below for their abbreviated cv's and statements). In addition, Beth announced that the tradition of giving a book prize to the D. Dwight Davis award winner has been restored, and this year it is a copy of O.C. Marsh's 1880 monograph on extinct toothed-birds of North America.

Much of the remaining part of the meeting was spent discussing the issue of identity for DVM in the context of the newly formed Division of Comparative Biomechanics. Several members expressed potential concern about DVM membership and session attendance (which will be monitored closely in coming years), and it was made clear that careful planning of the timing of business meetings between the various Divisions that attract our membership is essential. In the end, most of us still consider DVM as our home-base and thus it will surely remain a vital division.

As the final order of business, Beth passed the reins (reign) of Division chair onto Kurt Schwenk, the self-professed "bald guy that's not Ken Dial" who quickly inspired us with his visions as the new "commander".

On a serious note, Kurt did announce that he is on the editorial staff at the Journal of Experimental Zoology A, and that they are excited to receive interesting work in the field of functional vertebrate morphology. Please see the final section of this newsletter for more detail.