

## **DVM Business Meeting Minutes, 5 Jan 2009**

-Kurt Schwenk welcomed all and introduced Matthias Starck who announced the upcoming ISVM meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay, 26-31 July 2010. Those interested in proposing symposia should contact Matthias or Marvalee Wake.

-Adam Summers spoke next as a representative of NSF and alerted everyone to the "Life in Transition" Program, and in particular emphasized that DVM members think about submitting proposals if their work relates in any way to climate change issues.

-Jeff Walker (Program Officer) highlighted new information on symposium funding, specifically that the Society will provide \$100 per speaker. He also emphasized the Society's role in paying for articles and color figures (one per article) for published symposium work in Integrative and Comparative Biology

-Gary Gillis (Secretary) drew attention to the Society's webpage and asked members to alert him if their work is getting national coverage as SICB would like to draw attention to this kind of thing on their homepage. He also asked everyone to think about submitting information and images to add to the researcher's database in DVM.

Kurt Schwenk's (Chair) Report:

-New officers-elect were welcomed (Lara Ferry-Graham and Rick Blob as Secretary and Program officer respectively).

-Northeast (University of Connecticut, 25 October 2008) and Southeast (Clemson University, 13 October 2008) regional meetings were a great success this year.

-Last year's D. Dwight Davis Award went to Andrew Farke of Stony Brook University for his talk entitled, *Evolution of the frontal sinuses in Bovidae*. The award for best poster presentation was split between Leah Brown-Wilusz, an undergraduate at the University of Connecticut, and Brad Chadwell of Wake Forest University. Leah's poster (with Tobias Landberg) was entitled, *Ontogenetic effects of hatching plasticity in spotted salamanders due to larval and egg predators*. Brad's poster (with B.W. Hunter and Miriam Ashley-Ross) was entitled, *When designing rays, function matters*.

-Thanks to this year's judging committee chaired by Margaret Rubega. Good news on the student prizes front: publisher Wiley is now sponsoring all SICB divisional student prizes. Prizes now include a certificate, cash and a subscription to a Wiley Journal (Journal of Morphology for our Division).

-Great news on the Division front: Ken Dial graciously donated \$3,000 to DVM to support various activities at our discretion. Thanks to Ken, and note that other donations are VERY welcome.

-We are considering implementing an additional \$5 fee for DVM members. This will be put into a pot of money (the same pot that Ken's money is in) that can be used to support various activities at the meeting and throughout the year (e.g. regional meetings). Two other divisions already do this and have had good success. This obviously deserves a vote of the membership, which we will have in the spring. At this point the vote will likely not even be to implement such a measure but to agree to give the DVM officers the freedom to implement the fee if they see it as necessary.

-Kurt and Mark discussed the NSF 'grand challenges in organismal biology' initiative and were very much involved in the document produced by SICB for NSF.

- Finally, with much ceremony, if little material goods, Kurt introduced Mark Westneat as the new chair of DVM. We hope Mark re-establishes the tradition of passing a literal torch (a gavel, scepter, necklace composed of wrasse vertebrae...) to our next chair in two years' time.