

SOCIETY FOR INTEGRATIVE AND COMPARATIVE BIOLOGY
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
3 and 7 January 2013
San Francisco Hilton Union Square
San Francisco, California

Executive Committee Members, 3 Jan 2013:

President – Ken Sebens
President-Elect – Billie Swalla
Past President – Richard Satterlie
Secretary – Lou Burnett
Program Officer – Jon Harrison
Past Program Officer – Brian Tsukimura
Treasurer – Bob Roer
Treasurer-Elect – Karen Martin
Member-at-Large – Sally Leys
Member-at-Large – Amy Moran
Member-at-Large – Beth Brainerd

Divisional Chairs

DAB – Marilyn Ramenofsky
DCB – Sharon Swartz
DCE – Steve McCormick
DCPB – Don Mykles
DEDB – Chris Lowe
DEE – Art Woods
DIZ – John Zardus representing Jim McClintock
DNB – James Murray
DPCB – Pat O’Connor, not present
DVM – Kiisa Nishikawa
Editor, ICB – Harold Heatwole
Student Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Chair – Peggy Biga
Educational Council Chair – Bob Podolsky
Broadening Participation Committee Chair – Cheryl Wilga
Executive Director (*ex officio*) – Brett Burk

Others present:

Committee Chairs

Jake Socha – Public Affairs Committee Chair
Emily Carrington – Development Committee Chair

Guests

Jim Belanger – incoming DNB Chair
Mark Denny – DCB Chair-Elect
David Drupa – BAI
Michelle Elekonich – NSF
Steve Ellis – NSF

Alice Gibb – incoming DVM Chair
Mary Mendonça – incoming DCE chair
Stephen Secor – DCPB Chair-Elect
Ian Sherman – Oxford University Press
Mike Simon – NSF
Sherry Tamone –incoming SICB Program Officer-Elect
John Wingfield – NSF
Bill Zamer, NSF

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 2:36 p.m. by President Ken Sebens. President Sebens welcomed and introduced the members of the Executive Committee and guests.
2. **Record of Executive Committee Actions**
 - a. **Approval of minutes of the 2011 Executive Committee Meeting.**
The minutes of the 2012 Executive Committee meeting were approved as submitted.
3. **Officer Reports.**
 - a. Program Officer – Jon Harrison
 1. Jon Harrison reported that this is the largest meeting of the Society with more than 2100 meeting attendees that were preregistered.
 - There are a total of 1621 abstracts. 148 oral sessions.
 - Other highlights of the program were reviewed.
 - b. Secretary – Lou Burnett
 1. The Secretary reported on a number of items associated with the organization and management of the Society ([Appendix 3.Secy.a, Secretary Report](#)).
 2. The newsletter schedule for 2013 was reviewed.
 - a. Spring 2013
 1. Mar 1 - submission due
 2. Mar 25 - review on-line draft
 3. Apr 5 - corrections due
 4. Apr 10 - newsletter goes on-line
 - b. Fall 2013
 1. Oct 8 - submission due
 2. Oct 25 - review on-line draft
 3. Nov 1 - corrections due
 4. Nov 8 - newsletter goes online
 - c. The Secretary reminded the committee that SICB elections are held each spring. Society-wide and divisional election schedules are available on-line under Resources > Elections > Election Schedule for SICB and Divisions or <http://www.sicb.org/resources/electionschedule.php3>. The 2013 election schedule was presented ([Appendix 3.Secy.b SICB Election Schedule for Spring 2013](#) for SICB-wide and divisional elections).
 - d. The Secretary reminded divisional Chairs that nominating committees for divisional offices should be appointed in the fall prior to the annual meeting. Nominating committees may use the list of candidates who have previously run for office (Resources > Elections > Election

Candidates for SICB and Divisions or
<http://www.sicb.org/resources/electioncandidates.php3>.

3. SICB Bylaws change last spring.
 - a. A SICB Bylaws amendment was approved in the spring 2012. The Broadening Participation Committee was renamed; BPC Chair will serve on the SICB Executive Committee; President may appoint more than six members.
 - b. The Division of Neurobiology approved bylaws amendment relating mostly to divisional officer terms and duties.
 4. Divisional Best Student Presentation awards.
 - a. Best Student Presentation procedures for administering the awards were reviewed – these procedures have been posted on SIB web site Resources > Administration, Contacts & Handbooks > Administrative Procedures for Divisional Best Student Presentations. The description of the procedures has been revised ([Appendix 3.Secy.c, Administrative Procedures on Divisional Best Student Presentation Awards at the Annual Meeting](#)). The Secretary called on Art Woods, Chair of DEE, to describe the new process that the division was using. The division will report on the success of the new process in the spring newsletter.
 - b. The **divisional secretaries** were asked to report the results of Best Student Presentation awards to the SICB Secretary **within 2 weeks** after the annual meeting for posting on the SICB web site and notification of winners.
 5. The Secretary reviewed other resources that are available on the SICB web site.
 6. SICB will move to a new database system for managing members and events. Brett Burk was called upon to elaborate on the new system.
 7. A survey of meeting attendees will be sent soon after the meeting. The 2012 Charleston meeting was the first post-meeting survey conducted electronically. 529 attendees responded.
- c. Treasurer – Roer - **Treasurer Report**
1. The Treasurer reported on the financial status of the Society ([Appendix 3.Treas.a, Treasurer Report](#)).
 2. The Treasurer reviewed an executive summary of the Society's investments ([Appendix 3.Treas.b, Summary of Investments](#)).
 3. The proposed SICB budget for 2013-2014 was presented by the Finance Committee. Executive Committee members were asked to review the details of the budget before the second Executive Committee meeting on January 7, 2013. At that time there will be further discussion and a vote to approve the budget.
 4. The Treasurer stated that the SICB Membership Year will be changed to begin on April 1 and end on March 31. This will simplify the recruiting of new SICB members in the fall when abstracts are due for the annual meeting in January. Individuals joining SICB in the fall when abstracts are submitted will be members through the first quarter of the new calendar year.

5. It was announced that the annual evaluation of Burk & Associates, Inc. and the SICB Executive Officers will be done electronically after the annual meeting and will involve all 2012 Executive Committee members, SICB committee chairs, and divisional officers. The survey will close on January 31, 2013.

4. Special Reports

- a. National Science Foundation – Bill Zamer introduced a number of staff members from the NSF. Jane Silverthorne, Division Director of Integrative Organismal Systems, was present online. Bill updated the Executive Committee on a number of issues at the NSF. This information is summarized in the presentation by Bill Zamer ([Appendix 4, NSF](#)).

5. Committee Reports

a. Journal, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*

1. Editor Hal Heatwole reported on the status of the journal ([Appendix 5.ICB Editor Report](#)).
2. The Oxford University Press Publisher's Report was presented to the Executive Committee by Ian Sherman.
3. A number of individuals rotate off the ICB Editorial Board on January 7, 2013 and replacements for four divisional representatives were suggested by divisions and nominated by Editor Hal Heatwole as prescribed in the SICB Bylaws. In addition, two Associate Members were nominated by Editor Heatwole. Board appointments; all individuals have been nominated by Editor Hal Heatwole; divisional representatives were recommended by the divisions:
 - a. DAB Representative, Matt Grober
 - b. DCE Representative, Henry John-Alder
 - c. DEDB Representative, Bob Zeller
 - d. DNB Representative, Rich Satterlie
 - e. Associate Member, Dominique Adriaens
 - f. Associate Member, Chris Bridges

The appointments for 2013-2018 were approved by acclamation.

b. Standing Committee Reports (order as listed in the SICB Bylaws) ([Appendix 5](#))

1. Advisory – Satterlie – report was deferred to the second Executive Committee meeting on Jan 7, 2013.
2. Educational Council – Podolsky ([Appendix 5, Ed Council](#))
3. Membership – no report.
4. Nominating – no report.
5. Editorial Board, *ICB* – Heatwole (included in Journal Report above)
6. Student/Postdoctoral Affairs – Biga ([Appendix 5, SPDAC](#))
7. Student Support – Patek – ([Appendix 5, SSC](#))
8. Finance Committee – Roer (included in Treasurer Report)
9. Public Affairs – Socha –([Appendix 5, PAC](#))
10. Program – Harrison (included in Program Officer Report)
11. Development – Carrington – ([Appendix 5, Development](#))
12. Broadening Participation – Wilga – ([Appendix 5, BPC](#))

6. Divisional Reports. ([Appendix 6](#))

1. Animal Behavior

2. Comparative Biomechanics
3. Comparative Endocrinology
4. Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry
5. Evolutionary Developmental Biology
6. Ecology & Evolution
7. Invertebrate Zoology
8. Neurobiology
9. Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology
10. Vertebrate Morphology

7. New Business

- a. **Educational Council** – Bob Podolsky, Chair of the Educational Council, introduced a motion from the council to reinstitute a special award in science education. The Educational Council provided some background on their proposal.

Background and rationale

The “SICB Award for Excellence and Innovation in Science Education” was given for the first (and only?) time to Manuel Joao Costa for his presentation at the Toronto meeting in 2003. (Ana Alexandra Pedrosa Ramos also lists this award in 2003 on her online CV—perhaps her award was given in 2004?). The award was initially intended as an annual award for an oral or poster presentation with an education component. The Educational Council proposes to transform this award from one that focuses on a single presentation (see Original Description, below) to one that recognizes a record of achievement in science education (see Motion, below).

The description of the original awards as put forth by the Educational Council in 2002 (Wendy Ryan, chair) is as follows.

Award for Excellence and Innovation in Science Education in 2002

Anyone who has submitted an oral or poster presentation with an education component for an annual meeting is eligible to compete for the award. The criteria used to determine excellence will include:

1. *innovation and significance of the educational component of the presentation,*
2. *excellence and scientific value of the biology component of the presentation,*
3. *general adaptability of the concept for other institutions or locations, and*
4. *career experience of the presenter(s), with priority given to newer faculty, graduate students, and post-doctoral students.*

Award recipients will be informed of the award within four weeks of the conclusion of the annual meeting and the award will be announced to the membership in the spring newsletter.

The rationale for this change is as follows:

- Teaching, broadly defined, is a major component of the careers of many SICB members, yet we do not offer an achievement-based award to recognize excellence in science education. The 2009 SICB member-wide survey

indicated strong interest in increasing the recognition of the role of education in the Society.

- The role that professional societies can play in education was highlighted at a 2008 HHMI-sponsored conference attended by Bob Podolsky, Rich Satterlie, Ron Dimock, and Brett Burke. One recommendation that emerged from the conference was the establishment of an award honoring educational achievement.
- Those most likely to give an advanced presentation on education are faculty, but SICB does not have a similar award for faculty for single presentations on research (though we do for students). Some faculty who give education presentations at SICB provided feedback to us that this “pat on the head” for an education talk, when we don’t give them to faculty for research talks, seemed out of place. Thus, we feel that an award based on a body of work would be more consistent with the current achievement-based awards for research (the Bartholomew Award and Gans Award).
- Relatively few education presentations are given by full members at the annual meeting. While we appreciate that one purpose of initiating the award was to encourage more education presentations, there is no evidence that it did from 2003 (14 presentations) to 2004 (16 presentations) and no strong evidence that it would have this effect more generally. It seems unlikely to us that full members or student members would be significantly more likely to give an education talk because of the hope of winning an award.
- Trish Morse, who we understand was involved in initiating the award, was enthusiastic about putting the focus on a record of achievement rather than on a presentation. She said, “I think you should DEFINITELY go with this one.”

The following motion was presented by the Educational Council for consideration at the second meeting on January 7, 2013.

(Named) Award for Excellence and Innovation in Science Education

An annual prize may be given to a SICB member at any career stage for significant achievement in science education. The Educational Council will accept and evaluate applications as well as nominations for this award. Applicants shall submit to the Chair of the Educational Council a curriculum vita, a one-page description and any supporting materials related to significant achievements in science education, and three letters of support. Nominators are expected to submit one of the support letters and must arrange for the remainder of the same materials to be submitted to the Educational Council. No special address by the award recipient will be expected. Each year's winner will be presented with a plaque in recognition of the award prior to the introduction of the Moore Lecturer. The Chair of the Educational Council may also authorize a cash prize. Details for the competition will be announced in the spring newsletter of each year.

ADJOURNMENT OF FIRST MEETING AT 5:30 P.M.

Executive Committee Members, 7 Jan 2013:

President – Ken Sebens
President-Elect – Billie Swalla
Past President – Richard Satterlie
Secretary – Lou Burnett
Program Officer – Jon Harrison
Past Program Officer – Brian Tsukimura
Treasurer – Bob Roer
Treasurer-Elect – Karen Martin
Member-at-Large – Sally Leys
Member-at-Large – Amy Moran, not present
Member-at-Large – Beth Brainerd, not present

Divisional Chairs

DAB – Marilyn Ramenofsky
DCB – Sharon Swartz
DCE – Steve McCormick
DCPB – Don Mykles
DEDB – Chris Lowe
DEE – Art Woods
DIZ – Jim McClintock
DNB – James Murray
DPCB – Pat O’Connor, not present
DVM – Kiisa Nishikawa
Editor, ICB – Harold Heatwole
Student Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Chair – Peggy Biga
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Broadening Participation Committee Chair – Cheryl Wilga
Executive Director (*ex officio*) – Brett Burk

Others present:

Committee Chairs

Jake Socha – Public Affairs Committee Chair

Guests

Jim Belanger – incoming DNB Chair
Mark Denny – DCB Chair-Elect
David Drupa – BAI
Alice Gibb – incoming DVM Chair
Mary Mendonça – incoming DCE chair
Ian Sherman – Oxford University Press
Sherry Tamone –incoming SICB Program Officer-Elect

The second meeting of the SICB Executive Committee was called to order at 7:13 a.m. on January 7, 2013 by President Sebens.

3. c.3.c. Treasurer Report (continued from first meeting)

SICB Budget. Treasurer Bob Roer continued the discussion of the proposed budget. Projections were given for the additional divisional funds available to each division based on the recent dues increase. These projections were based on current divisional membership numbers. These funds will not affect the overall SICB budget. After brief discussion, the Finance Committee moved the adoption of the 2013 SICB budget.

The 2013 SICB budget was approved by acclamation.

7. New Business.

Annual Meeting Venue for 2016.

Three venues were offered: San Diego, Phoenix, and Portland. Spreadsheets with specifications of the hotels and convention centers were sent to the members of the Executive Committee prior to the meeting.

Portland, Oregon was approved as the 2016 site for the SICB Annual Meeting.

Educational Award Motion.

The motion introduced by the Educational Council at the January 3, 2013 meeting was taken up. After some discussion an amendment to the motion was made by Lou Burnett (seconded by Brian Tsukimura) to name the new award “The M. Patricia Morse Award for Excellence and Innovation in Science Education.” The vote on the amendment was 16 approved, 5 not approved, 4 abstained. The amendment passed. The full motion was then approved by acclamation.

M. Patricia Morse Award for Excellence and Innovation in Science Education

An annual prize may be given to a SICB member at any career stage for significant achievement in science education. The Educational Council will accept and evaluate applications as well as nominations for this award. Applicants shall submit to the Chair of the Educational Council a curriculum vita, a one-page description and any supporting materials related to significant achievements in science education, and three letters of support. Nominators are expected to submit one of the support letters and must arrange for the remainder of the same materials to be submitted to the Educational Council. No special address by the award recipient will be expected. Each year's winner will be presented with a plaque in recognition of the award prior to the introduction of the Moore Lecturer. The Chair of the Educational Council may also authorize a cash prize. Details for the competition will be announced in the spring newsletter of each year.

SICB Mission Statements.

The SICB Executive Officers drafted two versions of a mission statement for the Society. The draft was sent to the SICB Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee offers a long version and a short version of the mission statement for approval by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee approved these statements by acclamation.

Long version of SICB Mission Statement

The mission of SICB is to further research, education and public awareness in the areas of organismal, functional and evolutionary biology. Organismal biology comprises diverse fields that lead to a better understanding of whole organism function and the interface between organisms and their physical and biological environments. Comparative morphological, developmental, physiological, behavioral and biomechanical approaches examine functional diversity and integrate the study of living and physical systems. Evolutionary and ecological approaches examine stability versus change over time, how genomes evolve, how they produce phenotypes, interact with the environment, and lead to functional diversity. SICB encourages interdisciplinary cooperative research that integrates across levels of biological organization, from molecules and cells to ecosystems, and can move beyond standard model organisms and methodologies. SICB also encourages use of new technologies that allow researchers to improve their abilities to collect and properly analyze these new and complex data sets. SICB enhances education and scholarship at all levels, from K-12 to postgraduate. The society also works to inform the public, legislators and granting agencies of the importance of organismal biology and its potential to produce valuable new knowledge, findings, applications and tools.

Short version of SICB Mission Statement

SICB fosters research, education, public awareness and understanding of living organisms from molecules and cells to ecology and evolution. SICB encourages interdisciplinary cooperative research that integrates across scales, and new models and methodologies to enhance research and education.

New Orleans as an Annual Meeting Site.

Rich Satterlie, chair of the SICB Advisory Committee, reported that the committee met during the annual meeting and discussed several issues. Background was presented on the decision made several years ago to choose Salt Lake City as a venue for the annual meeting over New Orleans based in part on the position of the state of Louisiana on the teaching of creationism and intelligent design in science classes. The Advisory Committee offered the following motion, which was discussed and passed unanimously by the Executive Committee.

This motion simply means that New Orleans may be considered as a venue for annual meetings by the SICB Executive Committee in the future.

Based on the May 2011 New Orleans City Council's unanimous vote rejecting the teaching of creationism as science and the Orleans Parish School Board's decision to prohibit the teaching of creationism or intelligent design in classes designated as science classes, the SICB Executive Committee agrees to consider New Orleans as a site for its annual meetings.

8. Recognition of Officers.

President Sebens recognized the outgoing members of the Executive Committee, thanking them for their service to SICB. Brian Tsukimura, the outgoing Program Officer was especially recognized for his diligent service to the Society.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Appendix 3.Secy.a, Secretary Report

Lou Burnett, Secretary

The items reported here are ones in which the secretary had significant involvement.

Email Contacts and Calendar Updates. The overall organization of the society continued to improve in 2012. The email accounts created for some of the Society officers have expanded to include more individual and some committees. These accounts have facilitated communication and include automatic notices tied to the SICB calendar. The full list of accounts with email addresses is available on the SICB web site > Resources > Administration, Contacts & Handbooks > SICB Officer and Committee Email Contacts.

Officer and Committee Manuals. Additions and updates were made to the manuals for officers and committees containing standard operating procedures. Like all societies, the turnover of officers and the training of new officers is an ongoing challenge. The Secretary will continue to work with Society-wide and Divisional officers over the next two years to update these manuals. Manuals will appear on the SICB web site > Resources > Administration, Contacts & Handbooks > Officer Handbooks and Committees and Other. The following are new or newly revised.

- President Manual
- Divisional Chairs Manual
- SICB Secretary Manual (new)
- Divisional Secretaries Manual
- Member-at-Large Manual (updated)
- Membership Committee
- SICB-wide Nominating Committee (updated)
- SICB Awards List and Timelines

Bylaws Updates. SICB bylaws and DNB bylaws amendments were approved in the spring.

Newsletter. The newsletter schedule is published on the agenda. Please put these dates on your calendars. The deadlines are serious. Spring is time for Society-wide and divisional elections. Please make sure your nominating committees have a complete slate of officers and at least two candidates for each position. Divisional secretaries will work with the chairs to provide complete candidate biographies with photos.

Member Updates. We have continued to use SICB Member Updates to provide members with monthly information on the activities of the society. We plan to use more complete Member Updates with divisional announcements included. We have also established a better “News and Announcements” feature on the SICB home page. The Secretary is able to add and edit these. These items are normally repeated in the Member Updates and SICB members have been good at reporting newsworthy events.

Executive Officers. The executive officers of the society had significant interaction with each other throughout the year with a total of 40 conference calls and a September planning meeting in San Francisco, CA.

Appendix 3.Secy.b, SICB Election Schedule for Spring 2013

SICB-Wide Elections in 2013

Secretary-Elect
Member-At-Large

Divisional Elections in 2013

Division of Animal Behavior	Program Officer
Division of Comparative Biomechanics	Secretary Program Officer
Division of Comparative Endocrinology	Chair-Elect Secretary-Elect
Division of Comparative Biochemistry & Physiology	Secretary
Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology	Secretary
Division of Ecology & Evolution	Chair-Elect Secretary-Elect
Division of Invertebrate Zoology	Program Officer
Division of Neurobiology	Program Officer Secretary
Division of Phylogenetics & Comparative Biology	Program Officer
Division of Vertebrate Morphology	Program Officer-Elect

Appendix 3.Secy.c, Administrative Procedures Divisional Best Student Presentation Awards at the Annual Meeting (updated 18 Dec 2012)

This procedure describes a process that outlines the responsibilities of the Divisional Chair, the divisional representatives, the SICB business office, and the SICB Secretary in administering the Best Student Presentation Awards.

1. **Awards Committee Appointment.** Divisions should review their procedures and the Chair should appoint an awards committee no later than the summer prior to the annual meeting. This is a part of the SICB calendar.
2. **Judging.** Appointment of judges is the responsibility of the Divisional Chair or the Chair's delegate. Information on the individuals who wish to be considered for judging is collected as a part of the annual meeting registration process. Additional names may be obtained by divisions. Divisions should emphasize in the fall newsletter the importance of having judges. Instructions on how to volunteer for judging should be provided.
 - a. **List of individuals volunteering to judge.** Names collected through registration will be given to each Chair in the form of a link provided by the SICB webmaster ([Link 1](#)). Through this link a separate spreadsheet can be downloaded for each division. The spreadsheet gives the name of the volunteer judge, the email address, SICB membership status (remember only Postdoctoral and Full Members are allowed to judge), and division(s) for which the individual is willing to serve as a judge.
 - b. **Contact the Judges.** Judges should then be contacted by email and asked to sign up for presentations they are willing to judge. The webmaster will provide the appropriate link for sign-up ([Link 2](#)). On this page judges can view their assignments. Some divisions have rules governing the number of judges required for each paper or poster, so additional work might be required by the division to obtain the desired coverage.
 - c. **List of Presentations and Assigned Judges.** A listing of the presentations and the assigned judges for each division can be obtained through a link provided by the webmaster: [Link 3](#).
 - d. **Collecting Scores.** Scoring can be submitted to the division by paper/email/other means, or by asking the judges to enter their score into an online form: [Link 4](#). **This electronic form can be used regardless of whether the judges have signed up on-line in the step above. The two databases are independent. A division could invite a judge ad hoc at the meeting and have her/him enter the scores on the on-line scoring form.**
 - e. **Viewing the Results.** A list of presentations and their scores by division can be found at the following link: [Link 5](#).
3. **Awards associated with prizes with budgetary implications.** The review of the procedures must include provisions in the divisional budgets for cash awards, memberships, or other prizes that the division will award to student award winners. Wiley-Blackwell has generously underwritten the Best Student Presentations such that each division is allocated \$300 for the student awards (\$150 for best oral presentation and \$150 for best poster presentation). Wiley-Blackwell also provides student winners with a

free one year subscription to an appropriate one of their journals. The following journals are associated with the divisions.

Division of Animal Behavior	Ethology
Division of Comparative Biomechanics	J. of Zoology
Division of Comparative Endocrinology	J. Exp. Zoology A
Division of Comparative Physiol. & Biochem.	J. Exp. Zoology A
Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biol.	J. Exp. Zoology B
Division of Ecology & Evolution	Ecology Letters
Division of Invertebrate Zoology	Invertebrate Zoology
Division of Neurobiology	Developmental Neurobiology
Division of Systematic & Evolutionary Biol.	Evolution
Division of Vertebrate Morphology	J. Morphology

4. **Certificates.** SICB headquarters will make available certificates for each division to present to the student award winners. A sample of the certificates will be provided to the Chairs of each division before or during the annual meeting. At this time, Chairs should order special wording. Certificates will be printed by the business office once student award winners are known.
5. **Reporting winners to SICB.** Divisions handle the mechanisms of judging in different ways. However, the winners of the competitions should be announced on the SICB web site as soon as possible after the annual meeting. *To this end, it is the responsibility of the divisional Secretary to report the names of the winners (with the presentation number) to the SICB Secretary within two weeks after the annual meeting.*
6. **Notifying students of their award.** It is the responsibility of the divisional Chair to notify the students of the status of their awards. The Chair should announce the winners to all students in the division who entered the contest. This can be done simply by an email congratulating the student winners. In this communication, each Chair can indicate that the winners will receive a certificate, a check and a subscription to one of the Wiley journals. A list of student participants and their email addresses can be found at the following link: [Link 6](#).
7. **Certificates (and checks) will be sent to award winners by the SICB business office.** Once the student winners are known, the certificates will be completed for each division by SICB headquarters and mailed along with the check to the award winner.

Appendix 3.Treas.a - Treasurer Report

Bob Roer, Treasurer

Endowment

In 2002, SICB invested a total of \$779, 498 with a professional financial management group under the guidance of Matthew Tederick. On 31 December 2007, the account was worth \$1,160,976. The stock market crash took its toll, and by 31 December 2008 the portfolio had decreased nearly \$300,000 to end the year at \$836,475. The stock market recovery has resulted in a substantial gain in the value of our endowment and, as of 30 November 2012, it was valued at \$1,102,475. This represents an 8.39% gain since this time last year. Mr. Tederick has advised us to continue a conservative posture on our investments based upon his concern about potential sovereign defaults and the federal financial uncertainties, and we currently a substantial portion of our assets in cash and bonds.

Assets, revenues and expenses

The net assets of SICB, as of 30 June 2012, amounted to \$1,650,445.18. This is an improvement compared to 30 June 2011 when net assets totaled \$1,611,815.76. Despite an unrealized capital loss of \$23,343, this improvement in our net assets is due to the responsible stewardship of the Society's accounts by the Finance Committee and the efforts of BAI to control the costs of our annual meeting. The result was that the Society's operations ended the fiscal year \$63,492.01 in the black; with a net income of \$40,148.77 after subtracting the unrealized capital loss.

Realignment of revenue and expenses allowed for better analysis of SICB finances

With the assistance of BAI, we have made the transition that we began two years ago to bundle the revenues and expenses of the meeting (including the grants for symposia, the divisional budgets that largely support symposia and meeting socials, and that portion of the BAI fees that are directly involved with the meeting organization), and separate them out from the general ledger. This realignment is now reflected in the reports on the 2012 budget, and in the approved 2013 and proposed 2014 budget. Under the current accounting, the annual meeting in Charleston had a net income of \$38,793.

The dues that were collected in FY 2012 again did not cover the administrative costs associated with the operation of the Society to the extent of a \$141K loss this past year. The cost of operating SICB was again brought into the black, in addition to the \$39K profit from the annual meeting, largely through the \$233K revenue we realized from the publication of our journal, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*.

Status of named endowments

The restricted endowment funds showed modest growth, but donations were down across the board. Contributions to these funds should be a high priority for the Development Committee for the coming year.

Endowment Fund	FY 2012 Donations	Balance (06/30/2012)	Balance (06/30/2011)
Carl Gans Award	\$125	\$34,556	\$ 35,431
George Bartholomew Fund	\$585	\$124,469	\$123,884
Libbie H. Hyman Fund	\$1,655	\$29,292	\$27,537
Dwight D. Davis Fund	\$745	\$9,374	\$8,579
John A. Moore Lectureship Fund	\$25	\$3,638	\$3,638
Adrian M. Wenner Fund	\$0	\$9,337	\$9,337
Dorothy M. Skinner Fund	\$140	\$10,230	\$9,990
Symposium Enhancement Fund	\$155	\$125,072	\$124,817
Charlotte Mangum Fund	\$515	\$280,712	\$280,092
Grants-In-Aid-of-Research Fund	\$410	\$193,226	\$192,816
Howard Bern Lecture Fund	\$1,455	\$8,719	\$7,238
C. Ladd Prosser Symposium Fund	\$50	\$29,056	\$29,006

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology

Investment Review

November 2012

Wilbanks, Smith & Thomas Asset Management, LLC
150 West Main Street, Suite 1700
Norfolk, VA 23510
(757) 623 3676



Please note that you should receive periodic account statements directly from your custodian on no less than a quarterly basis. We urge you to compare the account statements you receive from your custodian with those statements and reports you receive from us. Also, in the event you do not receive account statements directly from your custodian on at least a quarterly basis, you should promptly notify us as well as
3 mid-January 2013 directly.

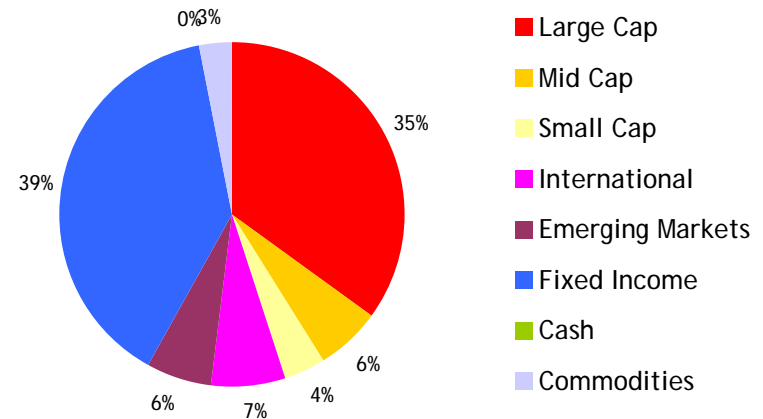
PORTFOLIO VALUE

As of 11/30/2012

Beginning Portfolio Value as of 12-31-2011	1,017,126
Accrued Interest	0
Funds invested during period	0
Funds withdrawn during period	0
Income Received	16,319
Realized gain/loss	7,659
Unrealized gain/loss	71,957
Management fees	-10,584
Change in Accrued Interest	0
Ending Portfolio Value as of 11-30-2012	1,102,475
Accrued Interest	0
Net change in value for the period	85,350

PORTFOLIO ALLOCATION

As of 11/30/2012



Note: Percentages may not equal 100% because they are rounded.

TIME-WEIGHTED RETURN

	Quarter to Date	Year to Date
Your Portfolio	-0.09%	8.39%

TOTAL ASSETS

Total Assets	Market Value	% of Total	Annual Income	% Yield
Large Cap	\$386,009	35.0%	\$8,072	2.1%
Mid Cap	\$63,015	5.7%	\$1,093	1.7%
Small Cap	\$39,857	3.6%	\$707	1.8%
International	\$74,877	6.8%	\$2,237	3.0%
Emerging Markets	\$66,809	6.1%	\$1,261	1.9%
Fixed Income	\$432,823	39.3%	\$15,214	3.5%
Cash	\$4,695	0.4%	\$0	0.0%
Commodities	\$34,391	3.1%	\$857	2.5%
Total	\$1,102,475	100%	\$29,441	2.7%

1. Annualized for periods over one year.

PERFORMANCE HISTORY BY ASSET CLASS NET OF FEES

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
From 11-10-11 to 11-30-12

Time Period	Percent Return Per Period					Cumulative TWR Basis = 100				
	Equities	Fixed Income	Cash & Equiv	Other	Total	Equities	Fixed Income	Cash & Equiv	Other	Total
11-10-11						100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
11-10-11 to 12-31-11	-0.19	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.10	99.81	100.91	100.00	100.00	100.10
12-31-11 to 11-30-12	11.42	8.73	-55.31	0.00	8.39	111.20	109.72	44.69	100.00	108.50
Date to Date										
11-10-11 to 11-30-12	11.20	9.72	-55.31	0.00	8.50					
Annualized	10.59	9.19	-53.41	0.00	8.04					

PERFORMANCE BY ASSET CLASS

Discounted Cash Flow Method Net of Fees

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
From 12-31-11 To 11-30-12

	Equities	Fixed Income	Cash & Equiv	Other	Total Portfolio
Market Value on 12-31-11	552,149.87	227,355.05	237,620.79	0.00	1,017,125.71
Purchases/Contributions	610,472.09	376,114.62	725,699.70	0.00	0.00
Sales/Withdrawals	-565,393.28	-198,842.01	-948,051.12	0.00	0.00
Transfers In	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers Out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Realized Gains	4,816.52	2,842.18	0.00	0.00	7,658.70
Unrealized Gains	56,278.60	15,678.09	0.00	0.00	71,956.69
Interest Income	0.00	0.00	10.03	0.00	10.03
Dividend Income	6,633.29	9,675.38	0.00	0.00	16,308.67
Management Fees	0.00	0.00	-10,584.31	0.00	-10,584.31
Portfolio Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Market Value on 11-30-12	664,957.09	432,823.31	4,695.09	0.00	1,102,475.49
Total Gain after Fees	67,728.41	28,195.65	-10,574.28	0.00	85,349.78
IRR for 0.92 Years	11.80%	8.93%	-8.64%	0.00%	8.39%

PORTFOLIO APPRAISAL WITH INCOME

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology

November 30, 2012

Quantity	Security	Date	Pct Assets	Total Cost	Unit Cost	Market Value	Price	Annual Income	Yield	Unrealized Gain/Loss
Cash & Equivalents										
	Schwab Government Money		0.4	4,695.09		4,695.09		0.47	0.0	
Taxable Bond Funds										
9,042.786	PIMCO Total Return CI I	07-23-07	9.5	98,220.89	10.86	105,077.17	11.62	3,266.81	3.1	6,856.28
1,631.589	Templeton Gbl Bond Adv	06-13-12	2.0	20,461.44	12.54	22,140.66	13.57	983.20	4.4	1,679.22
9,993.152	Vanguard Int Term Inv Gr	06-14-12	9.5	101,601.35	10.17	104,928.10	10.50	3,875.49	3.7	3,326.75
5,168.096	Vanguard Short Term Inv Grade	06-14-12	5.1	55,533.27	10.75	56,228.88	10.88	629.76	1.1	695.61
7,295.777	Vanguard Tot Bnd Mkt Signal	06-14-12	7.4	80,948.97	11.10	81,639.74	11.19	2,280.75	2.8	690.77
675.000	iShares iBoxx HY Corp Bond	06-13-12	5.7	59,697.85	88.44	62,808.75	93.05	4,178.12	6.7	3,110.90
			39.3	416,463.77		432,823.31		15,214.14	3.5	16,359.54
Equity Funds										
Large Cap Value Funds										
3,826.209	DFA US Large Cap Value	06-13-12	7.8	75,369.52	19.70	85,668.82	22.39	1,530.48	1.8	10,299.30
1,175.000	WisdomTree Large Cap Dividend	06-13-12	5.7	59,868.15	50.95	62,956.50	53.58	1,799.65	2.9	3,088.35
			13.5	135,237.67		148,625.32		3,330.14	2.2	13,387.65
Large Cap Blend Funds										
615.000	Guggenheim Russell Top 50	06-13-12	5.8	59,903.80	97.40	63,990.75	104.05	1,291.38	2.0	4,086.95
1,215.000	iShares S&P 500 Index	06-13-12	15.7	160,736.44	132.29	173,392.65	142.71	3,450.80	2.0	12,656.21
			21.5	220,640.24		237,383.40		4,742.18	2.0	16,743.16
Mid Cap Blend Funds										
300.000	iShares Russell MidCap Index	06-13-12	3.0	30,486.55	101.62	33,435.00	111.45	520.97	1.6	2,948.45



PORTFOLIO APPRAISAL WITH INCOME

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology

November 30, 2012

Quantity	Security	Date	Pct Assets	Total Cost	Unit Cost	Market Value	Price	Annual Income	Yield	Unrealized Gain/Loss
Mid Cap Value Funds										
600.000	iShares Russell MidCap Value	06-13-12	2.7	26,635.75	44.39	29,580.00	49.30	571.71	1.9	2,944.25
Small Cap Blend Funds										
1,151.039	DFA US Small Cap Portfolio	06-13-12	2.4	24,058.58	20.90	26,911.29	23.38	249.78	0.9	2,852.71
Small Cap Value Funds										
260.000	WisdomTree Small Cap Dvd	06-13-12	1.2	11,979.35	46.07	12,945.40	49.79	457.61	3.5	966.05
International Funds										
1,329.661	DFA International Small Co	06-13-12	1.9	18,051.72	13.58	20,490.08	15.41	551.81	2.7	2,438.36
1,837.805	DFA Large Cap International	06-13-12	3.1	30,390.91	16.54	34,366.95	18.70	1,056.74	3.1	3,976.04
1,300.000	PSHares Intl Dvd Achievers	09-05-12	1.8	19,298.23	14.84	20,020.00	15.40	628.00	3.1	721.77
			6.8	67,740.86		74,877.03		2,236.55	3.0	7,136.17
Emerging Markets Funds										
2,429.650	DFA Emerg Mkts Core Eqty	06-13-12	4.3	42,299.27	17.41	46,867.95	19.29	886.82	1.9	4,568.68
698.951	DFA Emerging Markets Value	06-13-12	1.8	18,126.37	25.93	19,941.07	28.53	374.64	1.9	1,814.70
			6.1	60,425.64		66,809.02		1,261.46	1.9	6,383.38
Commodity Funds										
5,057.445	PIMCO Cmdty Real Return D	07-03-08	3.1	49,818.77	9.85	34,390.63	6.80	857.24	2.5	-15,428.14
			60.3	627,023.41		664,957.09		14,227.64	2.1	37,933.68



PORTFOLIO APPRAISAL WITH INCOME

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology

November 30, 2012

Quantity	Security	Date	Pct Assets	Total Cost	Unit Cost	Market Value	Price	Annual Income	Yield	Unrealized Gain/Loss
TOTAL PORTFOLIO			100.0	1,048,182.27		1,102,475.49		29,442.25	2.7	54,293.22

The valuation of any non-traded real estate or other limited partnership investment is either the initial price or an estimated value (both provided by the issuer). This information is not intended to reflect the value you may realize if the issuer liquidates the security or if you sell your interests. In addition, this estimated value is reflected in the total value of your accounts.

NSF Update

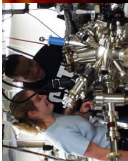
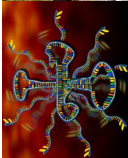
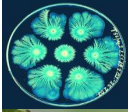
SICB Executive Committee, January 2013,
San Francisco
Bill Zamer



Budget Update

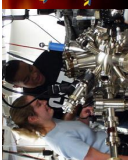
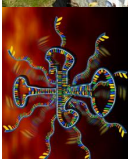
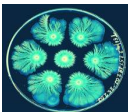
- Continuing Resolution (CR) through much of March 2013
- NSF is presently operating at 80% of FY 2012 (last year's) budget, including at the program level
 - Unknown success rates from full proposal panels, until we receive additional guidance—stay tuned!





Broadening Participation

- Ten professional societies were invited to participate in a workshop on broadening participation
 - American Physiological Society, American Society of Plant Biologists, Animal Behavior Society, Council on Undergraduate Research, International Society for Neuroethology, Leadership Alliance, Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, Society for Developmental Biology, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Society for Neuroscience
- Seven proposals requesting support for BP activities were received
 - Collaborations developed at the WS
- Two awards were made; one more award is pending



Broadening Participation

- 1238831 Marsha L. Matyas, PI; American Physiological Society.
 - *IOS BP: APS IOSP Fellows – Broadening Participation Through Research Experiences and Professional Mentoring*
- 1249925 Mary Crowe, PI; Council on Undergraduate Research.
 - *IOS BP: Integrating and Leveraging IOS Networks to Facilitate the Development of URM in IOS Career Paths*



Grand Challenges in Organismal Biology

- Progress since last year's Exec. Comm. meeting
 - IOS science WS, September 2011: Report reviewed and to be published pending revisions
 - Animal Behavior WS, April-May 2012: “Frontiers in Animal Behavior Research” http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=bio12008
 - Steering Committee, November 2012: “Understanding how organisms walk the tightrope between stability and change”



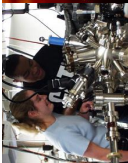
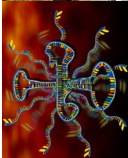
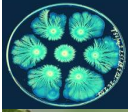
Where discovery begins!



We've Heard You!

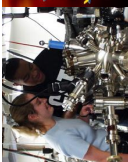
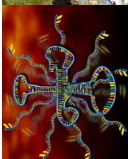
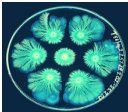
Common Themes About Community Needs

- Need for capacity building
 - Bioinformatics expertise (diverse “omics” data)
 - Facilitate lowering of conceptual, technical and language barriers across disciplines (e.g., engineering, math and computational modeling, visualization tools), and sub-disciplines (e.g., evolutionary developmental biology, functional morphology & biomechanics); work on multi-way intellectual collaborations rather than one-way collaborations
 - **Support for training—at all career stages**



NSF Support

- Budgets are uncertain, challenging in the near-term
- Potential near-term capacity-building and community-building activities
 - **Summer Schools**
 - **Mid-career fellowships**
 - Tools 2: Harnessing engineering technology
 - RCNs that lower barriers
 - Cyberinfrastructure investments for organismal science



NSF Support

- NSF 12-093
Dear Colleague Letter: Beyond the Genome: IOS Funding Opportunities FY 2012 – 2013
- *Mid-Career Investigator Awards in Integrative Organismal Science (MCA-IOS)*
 - *Grant supplements in support of tenured PIs to engage in training opportunities in genomics, bioinformatics, and/or novel technologies to answer organismal questions.*
 - *We encourage PIs to use the new tools/training to develop new courses and curricula*



NSF Support

- NSF 12-093
Dear Colleague Letter: Beyond the Genome: IOS
Funding Opportunities FY 2012 – 2013
- *Training Workshops*
 - Training in the use of modern techniques and approaches for organismal research
 - Essential to disseminate these approaches to the broader organismal community at all career stages, from graduate student to senior scientist.
 - Support one or more workshops;
 - one to three-week residential training experiences
 - **1253059 Lars Tomanek, PI; environmental proteomics training**



Grand Challenges in Organismal Biology

- Looking Ahead...FY 13 and beyond



Where discovery begins!



We've Heard You!

Common Intellectual Themes

- Some scientific themes from GCOB activities are consistent with national reports, e.g., NAS Report on “Research at the Intersection of the Physical and Life Sciences” (2010)
 - Synthetic Biology
 - Understanding Brain Function
 - **Genomes + Environment >>> Phenotypes**
 - **Understanding Organisms in a Changing Environment**
 - Biodiversity



We've Heard You!

Common Themes About Community Needs

- Need for infrastructure, broadly based
 - **Computational tools, to integrate diverse data sets and data types, and associated platforms for them (iAnimal, a generation beyond iPlant)**
 - High-throughput phenotyping tools, ideally on freely behaving individuals
 - **Standards for data collection to enable data mining and meta-analysis across studies, species**



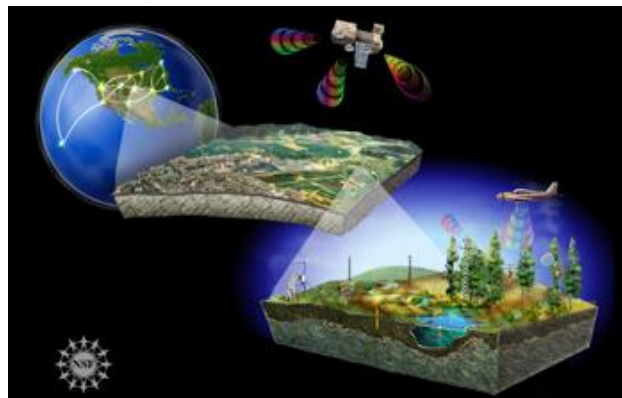
NSF Support

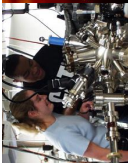
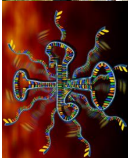
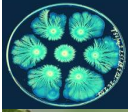
- Budgets are uncertain, challenging in the near-term
- **Community Workshops on Cyberinfrastructure**
 - Summer FY 2013, Fall FY 2014
 - Identify existing genotypic and multi-scale phenotypic data needed to address specific GCOB
 - Identify critical data gaps
 - Identify bioinformatics needs
 - An iAnimal portal is available at iPlant
 - Identify tools, modeling, simulation approaches



NEON

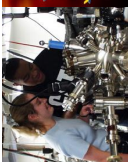
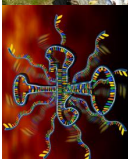
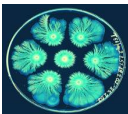
- Construction of the National Ecological Observatory Network continues





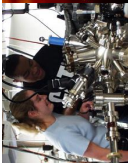
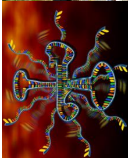
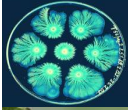
NEON

- Continental-scale observing network of geographically distributed sites
- Advanced sensor networks and platforms to yield regional to continental-scale environmental and biological data
- Experimental infrastructure
- Synthesis, computation and visualization infrastructure to develop predictive understanding of direct effects and feedbacks between environmental change and biological processes



NEON

- Explore how NEON infrastructure and data products may be useful to organismal biologists
- **Consider inviting Liz Blood, Program Director managing NEON, to SICB meeting in 2014 to present information about NEON—she's available!**
- If there is enough interest, develop spin-off symposia or workshops linking NEON to organismal biology research: *Liz will consider supporting these activities*



Finally: Community Leadership-- Have You Heard Us?

- SICB and other professional societies have an opportunity to influence your own future
- From all of the GCOB papers and discussions, there is a need for a synthesis about the science
- Develop a research agenda for one or more GCOB; this will be needed to inform CI workshops
- There is an overarching need for a “next step” - community coalescence around a few, high-priority scientific areas
- Inform NSF/BIO about your priorities

*INTEGRATIVE AND
COMPARATIVE
BIOLOGY, REPORT
FOR 2012*

By Harold Heatwole
Editor in Chief

SICB SYMPOSIA PUBLISHED IN VOLUME 52 (2012)

S1 – Novel Methods for the Analysis of Animal Movement: Spatial and Temporal Structure Across Scale. Symposium Organizers: Douglas Altshuler, Michael Dickinson

S2 - Mangrove Killifish: An Exemplar of Integrative Biology. Symposium Organizers: Edward Orlando, Ryan Earley, Brian Ring, David Bechler

S3 – Poecilogony as a Window on Larval Evolution: Polymorphism of Developmental Mode within Marine Invertebrate Species. Symposium Organizers: Emily Knott, Damhnait McHugh

S4 – Dispersal of Marine Organisms. Symposium Organizers: Vicki Martin, Sara Lindsay

S5 – New Frontiers from Marine Snakes to Marine Ecosystems. Symposium Organizers: Harvey Lillywhite, Francois Brischoux

S6 – Comparative Proteomics of Environmental and Pollution Stress. Symposium Organizer: Lars Tomanek

S7 – Combining Experiments with Modeling and Computational Methods to Study Animal Locomotion. Symposium Organizers: Laura Miller, Silas Alben

S8 – The Impacts of Developmental Plasticity on Evolutionary Innovation and Diversification. Symposium Organizers: Matthew Wund, Armin Moczek, Ian Dworkin, Fred Nijhout

S9 – Evo-Devo Rides the Genomics Express. Symposium Organizer: Billie Swalla

S10 – Barnacle Biology: Essential Aspects and Contemporary Approaches. Symposium Organizer: John Zardus

NUMBER OF PAPERS IN 2012 SICB SYMPOSIA

SYMPOSIUM	PAPERS PRESENTED	PAPERS PUBLISHED*
S1	11	0
S2	12	11
S3	10	8
S4	10	9
S5	12	11
S6	11	8
S7	12	5**
S8	11	10
S9	9	3
S10	11	9
TOTAL	109	74

*Number includes introductory papers

NUMBER OF AUTHORS BY COUNTRY

Australia	15
Belgium	6
Brazil	2
Canada	30
Chile	1
China	1
Denmark	2
Finland	3
France	7
Germany	16
Greece	1
India	1
Israel	4
Italy	2
Japan	7
Netherlands	4
New Zealand	3
Norway	1
Panama	2
Poland	2
Portugal	5
Russian Federation	1
South Africa	2
Spain	1
Sweden	2
Switzerland	2
Taiwan, Province of China	3
United Kingdom	14
United States (Puerto Rico 1)	<u>389</u>
TOTAL	531

PROJECTED FOR 2012

❖ **ELEVEN Symposia --- 124 papers**

Educational Council Report

Bob Podolsky, Chair

This year the Educational Council has been engaged in several activities to advance the educational mission of the Society. (1) In July 2012 we sent Council member Bram Lutton to a conference on “Implementing Vision and Change at the Introductory Biology Level” sponsored by AAAS and NSF. Based on his participation in that conference, Bram has been organizing our first annual TAL-X (Teaching and Learning-X) Workshop, “Teaching and Learning: Vision and Change in Introductory Biology” for the San Francisco meeting. The workshop will focus on common misconceptions of faculty and students in implementing recommendations of the Vision and Change effort to transform undergraduate biology education. It will be held over an extended lunchtime session on the final day of the meeting. (2) Another participant in the AAAS workshop, Dr. Susan Singer of Carleton College, will be our 2013 Moore Lecturer. Dr. Singer, a leader in the effort to reformulate STEM education, will deliver a lecture entitled, “Promising Practices in Undergraduate Science and Engineering Education: Why Don’t We Implement Them?” (3) Two new sections of the SICB Digital Library were launched. Initial content for a new section on “Invertebrate Biology” was provided by student-generated “Research Focus Boxes” similar in style to those in Jan Pechenik’s textbook, based on a class assignment originated by Bob Podolsky. Another new section generated by John Pilger and entitled “Great Scientists Speak Again,” features a famous and historical series of dramatic performances of famous scientists by the Berkeley biologist Richard M. Eakin. (4) We are planning for our 3rd annual informal display of undergraduate posters to start the San Francisco meeting. (5) We continue to struggle to get participation in generating a database of teaching expertise within the Society by having members add their teaching information to their profiles. We welcome suggestions about how to increase participation. (6) Finally, we have been involved in discussions to revive the long dormant SICB Award for Award for Excellence and Innovation in Science Education. We plan to present a formal proposal for discussion by the Executive Committee in San Francisco.

Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Report

Peggy Biga, Chair

In San Francisco, SPDAC will operate a booth in the Exhibitors Hall that will bring students, postdocs, and scientists alike together at one table to discuss various different topics of importance to our next generation of scientists. We are asking for support from full members by donating 30 minutes of your time at SICB 2013 to sit at the SPDAC booth! We are looking for full members that can share their experiences and expertise in the trials and tribulations that students and postdocs face when 'climbing the ladder' in science. The booth will operate from 1-4 pm on the 3 days of exhibition, as well as the coffee breaks. There is a sign in sheet on the website (Thanks Ruedi!).

In addition to the Exhibitors Booth, SPDAC will be hosting a workshop on elevator talks. Brian Tsukimura is helping to run this workshop.

The SPDAC Committee has their meeting on Monday 1/7/13 at noon.

Sean Lema will be taking over my spot at the end of this meeting.

Student Support Committee Report

Sheila Patek, Chair

Todd Oakley (UCSB) served as interim Chair of the Student Support Committee and oversaw the grant process during the 2011-2012 grant season. Sheila Patek returned as Chair of the SSC in the spring of 2012. The SSC website was destroyed in the spring, so a new website was built from the ground up. A team of reviewers plus a student representative reviewed the fall 2012 applicants (118 grants total). Twenty-eight grants were funded for a total of \$30,000 dispersed funds (5 FGST grants, 23 GIAR grants).

Public Affairs Committee Report

Jake Socha, Chair

Members: Jake Socha (Chair), Eric Tytell, Andie Ward, Molly Jacobs, Jon Harrison (Ex officio), Lou Burnett (Ex officio)

The Public Affairs Committee continues to work to connect the membership with the broader public. The committee met three times, in person on Jan. 6, and via Skype on July 31 and Aug 31. The committee engaged in the following activities during the year:

1. Press releases were written for the 2012 and 2013 annual meetings. These are appended to the end of this report. The writing of both releases was led by Eric Tytell, and edited by the committee. The press release for the Charleston meeting was distributed by the AIBS; their report is also attached. Because there is a per-word charge for the releases, we chose to keep the releases brief and focused on a few key symposia to highlight. Brett Burk has handled the requests from reporters seeking to contact specific members about their research. For the 2013 meeting, Elizabeth Pennisi from Science contacted the PAC directly for recommendations (in December). Jon Harrison is providing her with information that he has gathered from the divisions, and the chair is assisting as well.

2. Two workshops were conducted at the 2012 meeting, put on by Christie Nicholson from The Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University. The theme of the workshops was “Distilling Your Message.” The first workshop was open to the general membership; approximately 80 members attended. Lunch was provided by the committee. The second workshop was a smaller version designed specifically for the Executive Committee. Both workshops were well-received and deemed helpful. Andie Ward initiated and organized both of the workshops.

3. A workshop on citizen science was planned for the 2013 meeting, titled “Beyond Public Outreach: Citizen Science,” to be held on Jan. 5th at noon. A panel of four experts will describe their work with citizen scientists and answer questions about the design and funding of citizen science projects. Due to the higher costs of the San Francisco meeting, full lunches were not possible, but some snack food will be provided. Molly Jacobs initiated and organized this workshop.

4. The Science Journalism Internship program was successfully implemented at the 2012 meeting. Six students (from 16 applicants) were chosen in this inaugural class, and their resulting stories were posted on the SICB front page throughout the entire year. The program was well received by the students and seems to be positively viewed by the society, and so will continue on in the coming years. This December, another six students were chosen for the 2013 meeting. Coincidentally, 16 applications were received in the second year. It should be noted that the self-selection seems to be high, as the quality of the applications was high, and all of the students were appropriate to be selected.

5. With the encouragement of the executive officers, in June the committee formally invited Alan Alda to be the plenary speaker for the 2014 meeting. Unfortunately he declined the offer, with his assistant communicating that he would be unavailable.

6. Membership update: Eric Tytell is stepping down from the committee at the end of 2012. Eric has been an exemplary member, having served (very actively) on this committee for over 8 (!) years. In his place, we welcome Tonia Hsieh. Andie Ward's term was scheduled to end in 2012, but she has volunteered to serve for another year. Lastly, although not a formal member, it should be noted that Brett Burk actively assists with almost all committee activities.

SICB Press release for 2012 annual meeting in Charleston, SC

The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, one of the oldest and most prestigious interdisciplinary biological organizations, will hold its annual meeting at the Charleston Area Convention Center in Charleston, SC, from Jan. 3 to Jan. 7, 2012. More than 1500 scientists will present the latest research on animal ecology, evolution, physiology, neurobiology, and biomechanics, offering journalists a rich assortment of news and feature possibilities.

Experts from a wide array of different disciplines will convene at the meeting to discuss topics relevant to marine biodiversity, climate change, animal behavior and neurobiology, and rapid evolutionary changes. In addition to presentations of the latest research, the conference will include events with societal implications, such as a special lecture on evolution, education, and creationism over the past decades.

This year, the SICB highlights three society-wide symposia:

- *The Impacts of Developmental Plasticity on Evolutionary Innovation and Diversification*
- *Novel Methods for the Analysis of Animal Movement*
- *Dispersal of Marine Organisms*

The Impacts of Developmental Plasticity on Evolutionary Innovation and Diversification

Ecologists, evolutionary biologists, physiologists, and developmental geneticists discuss *Developmental Plasticity*—how animals grow differently, from zygote to adult, due to changes in their environment. For example, young male dung beetles with access to plentiful food supplies grow large horns to fight other males, allowing for eased access to females. Conversely, male beetles with limited food do not grow horns and instead develop alternative ways to access females. Scientists think that such plasticity helps organisms to evolve rapidly and also promotes the formation of new species. But no one fully understands what sorts of environmental changes promote plasticity, or what genetic and physiological changes actually cause animals to grow differently.

Novel Methods for the Analysis of Animal Movement

Scientists consider new ways to understand animal and cell movements, including cell movements in the earliest stages of embryo formation, insect flight, insect migration, and whales turning and diving. Experts in genetics, biomechanics, and ecology will present computational approaches that rely on data from microscopy, high-speed video, and radar and satellite imaging.

Dispersal of Marine Organisms

A diverse group of scientists talk on patterns of marine animal dispersal throughout the oceans. To explain the diversity and ecology of ocean species, these researchers will examine how tiny larval organisms can find suitable habitats in which to live. These methods of movement can include swimming or crawling, drifting with ocean currents, or hitching a ride on larger animals on drifting seaweed, or on boats. This symposium assembles an interdisciplinary group of outstanding young and established speakers to address dispersal in marine organisms in order to foster integration and cross-talk among different disciplines and to identify gaps in scientific knowledge and areas for future research.

For more information, contact Brett Burk (BBurk@BurkInc.com) or visit the conference web site at <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2012/>.

SICB Press release for 2013 annual meeting in San Francisco, CA

The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, one of the oldest and most prestigious interdisciplinary biological organizations, will hold its annual meeting at the Hilton San Francisco, Union Square, in San Francisco, CA, from Jan. 3 to Jan. 7, 2013. More than 1,500 scientists will present the latest research on animal ecology, evolution, physiology, neurobiology, and biomechanics, offering journalists a rich assortment of news and feature possibilities.

This year at SICB, experts from a wide array of different disciplines will convene at the meeting to discuss cutting edge science on multiple topics; the following symposia may be of particular interest:

- *When Predators Attack: Sensing and Motion in Predator-Prey Interactions*
- *Vertebrate Land Invasions: Past, Present, and Future*
- *Phenotypic Plasticity and the Evolution of Gender Roles*

Besides these symposia, SICB researchers will be discussing many diverse topics such as how animals tell what time and month it is, how they cope with a changing environment, and how they can pass information about the environment to their descendents—without genes. Along with these, scientists will present the latest results on the mechanics of walking, swimming, hopping, jumping, and flying, the evolution of body shape, behavior, symbiosis, and ecological interactions, and many other topics.

When Predators Attack: Sensing and Motion in Predator-Prey Interactions

Predators and their prey are engaged in a constant battle, in which finely tuned sensory abilities and split-second reaction times can mean the difference between life and death. Researchers are using cutting edge techniques and amazing high speed video footage to investigate how predators and prey process sensory information and translate it into action. Although we know a lot about how many predators and prey interact to cause populations to rise and fall, we don't know very much about how two animal opponents sense each other and react, leading to some animals getting eaten and some escaping. Through the use of cutting-edge techniques, neurobiologists, ecologists, and biomechanics researchers have recently made this a tractable area of research. The goal of this symposium is to highlight new findings that are advancing our understanding of sensing and movement in predator-prey interactions, an exciting new frontier of cross-disciplinary research.

Vertebrate Land Invasions: Past, Present, and Future

How did the first fishes start to climb out of the ocean and live on land? These early land animals, the ancestors of all modern vertebrates on land, faced numerous challenges, including moving and supporting themselves, breathing, eating, sensing, and not drying out. Although we can't study the ancients directly, there are modern species of fish and amphibians that come out on land and face many of the same challenges as the early pioneers did. These modern animals may help us to understand the early transition to land. The symposium brings together a diverse array of scientists from different fields such as paleontology, physiology, behavior, biomechanics, and robotics, to highlight their research in topics related to vertebrate land invasions.

Phenotypic Plasticity and the Evolution of Gender Roles

In many animals, gender roles are much more fluid than they are in humans. Some animals start off male and later become female, or the other way around; others can be male and female simultaneously. This is an example of phenotypic plasticity, the remarkable ability of some organisms to radically change their appearance (and even their sexuality) in response to environmental cues. This symposium will be a window into the fascinating world of animal sexuality, with presentations on the genetics, evolution, ecology, and physiology of gender in organisms ranging from barnacles to snapping turtles.

For more information, please visit the meeting website at <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2013/>, or contact Brett Burk (bburk@burkinc.com).

Development Committee Report

Emily Carrington, Chair

Members: Emily Carrington (chair), Damhnait McHugh, David Wethey, Curt Anderson, Darwin Jorgensen, Bob Roer (*ex officio*)

We continued to seek ways to support areas in need of development: raising funds for the endowments (especially Symposia and Moore), increasing member donations, and promoting advertising/sponsorship opportunities to industry partners and NGOs. Activities this year included:

1. Circulating an article about Major Gifts and Planned Giving in the Autumn newsletter, written by Robert Roer.
2. Field trip fundraiser at the annual meeting in San Francisco. A half-day bus tour and tasting to wineries Napa and Sonoma counties. Proceeds to support SICB symposia (estimated \$1000, plus raising awareness of committee activity)
3. Coffee mug Fundraiser. Selling custom SICB edition travel mugs at the annual meeting in San Francisco, proceeds to support SICB student GIAR (estimated \$2000; plus raising awareness of committee activity)
4. Developing guidelines for Branding GIAR awards. Last year, we talked about asking our vendors and other corporate contacts if they would put up \$1000 to sponsor a student award. We will discuss more details at our SF meeting.

Broadening Participation Committee Report

Cheryl Wilga, Chair

On Jan 4th, 2012, BPC members met and discussed several items regarding fine tuning the travel fellow application and administration process, workshop topics and social ideas. Regular members present were: Cheryl Wilga. Grant committee members present were Cheryl Wilga, Michele Nishiguchi, and Brian Tsukimura. Ex-Officio Members present were Billie Swalla, Brian Tsukimura, and Jon Harrison. Members that were unable to come this year were Peggy Biga, Denise Dearing, Joan Edwards, Nora Espinoza, Greg Florant, and Scottie Henderson, hopefully we see you next year. Members rotating off this year are Denise Dearing, Joan Edwards, and Scottie Henderson. We welcome new members Rita Mehta and Andrew Clark.

A budget of \$15,000 was approved for the 2013 meeting. Budget funds were used as follows: Travel Fellows, \$10,413; BP Social, \$3,600; Mentor-mentee meeting, \$330; workshop participants, \$84; and the extra SICB day for the grant writing committee, \$573.

The travel award program was very successful again this year. We had 40 applicants and were able to provide funding to 22 of the applicants totaling \$10,413. We chose 2013 workshops from the most requested topics.

The Diversity Social was very successful again this year. A wonderful spread of tasty appetizers with soft drinks, water and a cash bar kept the attendees happy and chatting with fellow SICB members well into the night. Cheryl Wilga offered a welcome. In honor of the 10th Anniversary of the Broadening Participation Committee, Past-President and organizer of first Broadening Participation Committee Marvalee Wake spoke about the importance of integrating science and diversity. John Wingfield, Past-President and Assistant Director of The Directorate for Biological Sciences at the NSF, spoke next about NSF's commitment to increasing diversity. Of course the highlight of the evening was handing out the checks to the Travel Award Fellows. Michele Nishiguchi announced a surprise gift to the Travel Fellows - Chuck Crumly, Science Publisher at the University of California Press, donated a book of their choice from the catalog to each Travel Fellow every year! We thank Chuck for his generous support of our fellows.

The most commonly requested workshops by the 2011 Travel Fellows were how to apply for grants for the beginner and mentor-mentee relationships. Therefore, the Broadening Participation Committee hosted two workshops. Science is a Two-way street: Mentorship and the Mentee" hosted by Michele Nishiguchi with Billie Swalla and Cheryl Wilga. The second workshop was "Demystifying the Grant Application Process" hosted by Cheryl Wilga. In this workshop Michele Elekonich, Program Director from the Behavioral Systems Cluster at the NSF spoke about grant writing and the review process at NSF that targets SICB members. Both workshops were very successful and well attended by around 90 members.

The SICB BP grant committee, Michele Nishiguchi, Brian Tsukimura and Cheryl Wilga, remained in Charleston for another day after the meeting ended to work on the grant proposal that was submitted to the NSF program IOS Broadening Participation Scientific Societies in April 2012. The grant proposal would fund more BP Travel Fellows, SICBmatch.com mentor-mentee match support, workshops, the BP Social, and more of our proposed activities for five years. We were not selected for funding. The reason was not clear, the two societies that were awarded used the funds for REUs.

Division of Animal Behavior (DAB)

Marilyn Ramenofsky, Chair

Diana Hews, Chair 1/2013 - 2016

Secretary: Melissa Bowlin 1/2012 – 2015

Program Officer: Allison Welch 1/2011 – 2014

Student/Postdoc Representative: Maxine Zylberberg 1/2012 - 2015 and Christine Bedore alternate representative 1/2012 – 2015.

Division Posts: My position as Chair of the DAB is ending and Diana Hews, Professor of Biology at Indiana State University Terre Haute will be stepping into the Chair's slot and I wish to welcome her and thank Greg Demas for offering to run for the position. Diana studies the physiological bases of sex differences. She has an active research program, serves as an editor for ICB, is an active member of ABS and seeks to build on the diversity and strengths of the DAB. Her interests in animal behavior are long-standing and I know she'll bring new directions and excitement to our division. I look forward to her term as well as continuing to contribute in any way and wish to extend a heartfelt welcome to Diana. If you see her at the meeting, please give her a warm welcome as well. As Diana serve on the ICB Editorial Board for the DAB she has stepped down and we have forwarded Mathew Grober of Georgia State University to the Executive Committee for approval. I wish to thank Matt for stepping up at this time.

Meeting statistics, current and future symposia (notes from Alison Welch PO):

The animal behavior division has shown steady growth over the past couple of years and is well represented at the SF meeting with: 48 oral papers in 9 behavioral-themed sessions, 54 posters, 61 presentations in other sessions with authors whose primary division is DAB or membership in ABS. A total of 63 students have entered the DAB best student paper and poster competition Table 1 lists the comparative statistics over the past 2 years, which Alison has initiated and I trust will be continued as it is helpful for monitoring the changes in the division as time goes by.

Melissa Bowlin stepped into the Secretary's position in January and immediately took hold of some problematic loose ends. She has revised the student competition scoring sheets and communication with the judges, a system from which we all will benefit.

2012 DAB Awards:

This year's Best Student Oral Presentation Award went to Ben Dantzer, a graduate student in the Department of Zoology and Ecology, Evolutionary Biology and Behavior Program at Michigan State University, East Lansing, for his presentation on the Adaptive hormone-mediated maternal effects in red Squirrels. This study approaches on the role of phenotypic plasticity and hormone-mediated maternal effects in enabling adaptive tracking of fluctuation fitness optima in North American red Squirrels in the Yukon, Canada.

The DAB Best Poster was award to Caitlin Black, a senior at the College of Charleston, South Carolina. Her presentation was titled Bird song behavior along an urban to rural gradient. Her research interest lies on the impact of urbanization on bird song in the Phoenix Valley. We wish

to thank and congratulate all the entrants into the competition and look forward to the 2013 competition.

DAB related information from the NSF

Two NSF representatives, John Wingfield, Assistant Director for Biology and Michelle Elekonich, Science Advisor for the Division of IOS, joined our Business Meeting in 2012 in Charleston to report to the Division and answer questions about funding opportunities and provide information on grant proposal for behavioral research. Of primary concern has been the new Solicitations for IOS and DEB that began with the pre proposals in January 2012. Since the first round is now complete, the NSF has produced a Webinar summarizing results of the first complete cycle and is of great interest. Michelle and John will address questions at our Business Meeting on January 4 and Bill Zamer, Program Director of IOS, will present a Webinar on the pre proposal data at the SF meeting on Saturday, January 5, 12:00 – 13:00 h, NSF workshop: “Developing proposals and the new review process” in Continental 1.

In April 2012, NSF sponsored a workshop to define the direction of future research of Animal Behavior at the NSF. Michelle and John can supply more information about the outcomes of this meeting.

The San Francisco DAB Business Meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 4 at 17:15 – 18:00 h in Continental Room 1 followed by the joint DAB/DNB social from 18:00:00-19:30 in the Cityscape Room.

Marilyn Ramenofsky, Alison Welch, Melissa Bowlin, Maxine Zylbeberg

Categories	2012 SICB	2013 SICB
No. of oral presentations/posters in behaviorally-themed sessions	70/13	48/9
No. of poster	57	54
No. of presentations given by members in other session by DAB primary affiliates or ABS members	52	61
No. of entrants in DAB’s best student awards	57	63
No. of DAB co-sponsored Society wide/regular symposia	2/2	3/3

Table 1. DAB activity over the past 2 years assembled by Alison Welch, PO of DAB.

Division of Comparative Biomechanics (DCB)

Sharon Swartz, Chair

Meetings

Our student competition in 2012 was overseen by Jake Socha for the second consecutive year. The best paper prize was given to William Stewart from the University of California - Irvine for his paper “Zebrafish larvae evade predators by sensing water flow”, co-authored with G. S. Cardenas and M. J. McHenry, with honorable mention given to Henry Astley for a paper co-authored with A. Haruta and T. J. Roberts, all from Brown University, for “The Effects of Substrate Compliance on Jump Performance in the Cuban Tree Frog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*)”. The best poster prize was awarded to Nick Gidmark from Brown University for “Pharyngeal jaw function in three cyprinid fishes”, co-authored with J. Tarrant and E. Brainerd. “Tailbot – Robot with Inertial Assisted Control by an Active Tail Inspired by Lizards”, by Evan Chang-Sui, T. Libby, R. J. Full and M. Tomizuka earned Honorable Mention. We received many judging volunteers, and the process ran smoothly, with judges each seeing 4 to 5 presentations, and each student being reviewed by at least 4 judges. Students receive detailed feedback from the judges. Jake has generously agreed to oversee our student competition again this year.

We supported three symposia in 2012, “Novel methods for the analysis of animal movement: spatial and temporal structure across scale”, organized by Doug Altshuler and Michael Dickinson, and “Combining experiments with modeling and computational methods to study animal locomotion” organized by Laura Miller and Silas Alben.

In 2013, we are not supporting any symposia; we made special efforts to elicit symposium proposals from DCB members going forward.

Elections

This year, our Division welcomes our new chair-elect Mark Denny, who will join the Executive Committee in Charleston. This spring, we held elections for our new chair, to succeed Mark Denny, who will begin his post at the close of his year’s meeting. Miriam Ashley Ross, Pat Hernandez, and Diane Kelly served as our Nominating Committee. Melina Hale was elected to be the DCB chair beginning at the close of the conference in 2015.

Carl Gans Award

The Gans Award Committee solicited nominations for the 2012 competition, chaired by Emily Carrington, University of Washington. The committee will award the 2012 Gans Award to Dr. Eric Tytell, Tufts University, at the Divisional Business Meeting at the San Francisco meeting.

DCB Website

Our Divisional website continues to undergo reorganization, reconstruction and renovation, led by our Secretary, Tim Higham.

Regional Meetings

Three regional meetings were held this fall that hosted by local groups of DCB and DVM members. On October 13 and 14, a Southwest Regional Meeting was held for the first time this year, hosted by California State University – San Bernardino, with Tomasz Owerkowicz and Stuart Sumida as local hosts and plenary talk by Dave Carrier from the University of Utah. October 27, Andrew Clark, Eric McElroy, and Jason Vance hosted a Southeast Regional meeting at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. Bill Kier, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, offered a keynote presentation, “Fast and Slow Squid Muscle: an Integrative Analysis of Fiber Evolution and Specialization”. The Northeast Regional Meeting returned to its founding location at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst on November 3, thanks to Betsy Dumont and Sheila Patek.

SPDAC

Marianne Porter steps down as our SPDAC representative at the end of this year’s meeting after three years of service. She is replaced by Nick Gidmark, postdoctoral researcher at Brown University.

Division of Comparative Endocrinology (DCE)

Stephen McCormick, Chair

Meetings

SICB 2012, Charleston, SC

At last year's meeting there were 87 contributed papers and posters by DCE members. DCE co-sponsored a society-wide symposium entitled "The Impacts of Developmental Plasticity on Evolutionary Innovation and Diversification". DCE also sponsored a very successful biostatistics workshop entitled "Survival Analysis: Not just for survival anymore," lead by Dr. Jesse Brunner (Washington State University), which was attended by 44 participants. The *Bern Lecture* by National Academy of Sciences member Dr. Lynn Riddiford summarized a lifetime of work on insect metamorphosis, and was very well attended.

Approximately 48 students participated in the DCE Best Paper competitions (oral and poster). Dr. Joe Castro, Illinois St. Univ., was chair of the judging committee. Christine Madliger (University of Windsor, Ontario Canada) won the Aubrey Gorbman Oral Presentation Award for "An investigation of the CORT-fitness hypothesis: the importance of age and environmental quality." Brittney Whitley (Bucknell University) won the inaugural Lynn Riddiford Poster Presentation Award for "Chronic stress alters stress-induced oxidative damage in domestic chickens (*Gallus gallus*)." DCE member Molly Dickens won the 2012 Dorothy M. Skinner Scholarship Award, society-wide award established to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of early-career women.

SICB 2013, San Francisco CA

DCE is co-sponsoring four timely symposia: Ecological Epigenetics, Hormone-Mediated Sex Ratio Adjustment in Vertebrates and Coping with Uncertainty: Integrating Physiology, Behavior and Evolutionary Ecology in a Changing World, and Coping with uncertainty: Integrating physiology, behavior and evolutionary ecology in a changing world. Howard Bern passed away earlier this year, and there will be special session entitled "Perspectives in Comparative Endocrinology: A Special Session Honoring Howard Bern."

This year's *Bern Lecturer* will be Professor Ellen Ketterson of Indiana University. Ellen has conducted pioneering work on the role of sex steroids in life history transitions and the trade-offs between reproduction and survival. She is strongly interdisciplinary in her approaches and is working at the interface between ecology and endocrinology. The title of her talk is "Synthesizing research on the adaptable snowbird: geographic variation, seasonality, and evolutionary endocrinology", and it will be a great talk of wide interest to Comparative Endocrinologists and the Society as a whole.

Mark Hausmann of Bucknell University will be coordinating the judging of the Gorbman (best oral) and Riddiford (best poster) Awards. DCE is also a primary sponsor of a bioinformatics workshop that complements the Transcriptomics symposium titled, “Genomics for Non-Model organisms: Custom Microarray Development and Analysis.”, led by Dr. Matthew Settles, Genomics Resources Director at the Institute for Bioinformatics and Evolutionary Studies, and organized by Erica Crespi.

Election and Appointments

Rosemary Knapp was elected to be Program Officer beginning January 2014. This is Rosemary’s second stint as Program Officer of DCE.

Molly Dickens, University of California, Berkeley, , has agreed to be the DCE representative to the postdoctoral/student affairs committee.

Henry John-Alder (Rutgers University) has graciously agreed to be the DCE representative to the Editorial Board of Integrative and Comparative Biology.

Communication

In an effort to increase communication among members, especially our youngest members, DCE has a Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/104465249680261/>

Division of Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry (DCPB)

Donald L. Mykles, Chair

Spring 2012 election results:

Stephen Secor was elected Chair-Elect and Jonathon Stillman was elected as Program Officer. Stephen will serve for 1 year as our Chair-Elect, then 2 years as Chair (beginning end of 2014 meeting), and 2 years as Past Chair. Jonathon will serve for 2 years.

In the spring will have an election to replace Rich Londrville as division secretary, for a 2 year term beginning at the end of the 2014 meeting. A nominating committee composed of Stephen Secor, Kristin O'Brien, and Rich Londrville is charged with identifying 2 candidates.

Student/postdoctoral affairs committee (SPDAC):

Chris Slay served as the DCPB representative SPDAC and he will continue in this role for 2013. The SPDAC organized a workshop, "Maximizing Your Potential Through Job Applications and Interviews," at the 2012 meeting.

Charleston 2012 meeting:

There were 187 DCPB oral and poster presentations. Four symposia were co-sponsored by the division: *Novel methods for the analysis of animal movement: spatial and temporal structure across scale*, organized by D. Altshuler; *Mangrove 'killifish': an exemplar of integrative biology*, organized by E. Orlando, B. Ring and R. Earley; *New frontiers from marine snakes to marine ecosystems*, organized by H. Lillywhite and F. Brischox; and *Comparative proteomics of environmental and pollution stress*, organized by L. Tomanek.

Dr. Emanuel (Manny) Azizi, Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine was the recipient of the 2012 Bartholomew Award. His research encompasses multiple levels of biological organization, from the sarcomere to whole muscle, to the integration of muscle and skeletal systems. Steve Secor (Chair), Doug Altshuler, Chris Guglielmo, Adam Summers, and Art Woods served on the selection committee.

Best Oral Presentation and Poster Presentation Awards. The awards were named in honor of Dr. David W. Towle (1941-2011). There were 94 entrants, split near evenly between oral and poster presentations. David Tapley and Harry Itagaki coordinated the judging.

Best oral presentation: Geoffrey Dilly. Geoff received his B.S. in Marine Biology from UC Santa Cruz in 2003, and defended his PhD thesis at Harvard in October 2011. His PhD research with Dr. Peter Girguis focused on understanding the physiological responses to environmental stress on deep-sea hydrothermal vent polychaetes – specifically *Paralvinella sulfincola* and *Paralvinella palmiformis*. The work presented at SICB 2012 focused on comparative shifts in proteomic expression to thermal stress in these two species. He is currently working as a postdoctoral researcher with Dr. Gretchen Hofmann, looking at the effects of CO₂ stress on Antarctic sea urchin development.

Best Poster Presentation: Erica Heinrich. Erica completed her B.S. in Molecular Biosciences and B.A. in History at Arizona State University in 2010. As an undergraduate she spent three years studying the effects of hypoxia on insect growth and development with Dr. Jon Harrison. Erica is currently pursuing her interests in insect physiology with Dr. Timothy Bradley at the University of California, Irvine. As part of her PhD research, she is investigating the mechanics and control of respiration in insects.

San Francisco 2013 meeting:

Program Officer Kristin O'Brien organized 227 abstracts for DCPB. Four symposia are co-sponsored by DCPB: *Keeping time during animal evolution: conservation and innovation of the circadian clock*, organized by Adam Reitzel and Ann Tarrant; *Physiological responses to simultaneous shifts in multiple environmental stressors: Relevance in a changing world*, organized by Anne Todgham; *Hormone-mediated sex ratio adjustment in vertebrates*, organized by Kristen Navara; and *Coping with uncertainty: Integrating physiology, behavior and evolutionary ecology in a changing world*, organized by Zoltan Nemeth.

There will be two special sessions supported by DCPB: One in honor of Bruce Sidell, organized by Rich Londraville and the other in honor of Ken Nagy, organized by Stephen Secor and Joe Williams.

Dr. Alison Sweeney will give the Bartholomew Lecture Jan 4, 2013. The selection committee (Stephen Secor-Chair, Adam Summers, Sheila Patek, Doug Altshuler, and Art Woods) received nine applications. Dr. Sweeney, Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, was selected for her unprecedented, multidisciplinary approaches to the study of organismal design.

Austin 2014 meeting:

DCPB is sponsoring a society-wide symposium: *Epigenetics: Molecular Mechanisms through Organismal Influences*, organized by DCPB member Warren Burggren. Other symposia supported by DCPB are: *Stress, Condition and Ornamentation*, organized by Geoffrey Hill; *The Micro and Macro Nutrient Effects in Animal Physiology and Ecology*, organized by Robin Warne and Dan Hahn; and *Methods and Mechanisms in Ecoimmunology*, organized by Cynthia Downs, Jim Adelman and Greg Demas.

Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology (DEDB)

Chris Lowe, Chair

2012 Election results

Sally Leys was elected Chair-Elect and will serve in this capacity for one year, and then as chair from 2014-2016, and 2 years as past chair. Brad Davidson will be taking over as Secretary and Louise Page as the new Program Officer at the end of the San Francisco meeting. We give our thanks to Mike Shapiro and Patricia Hernandez for their great work as Secretary and Program Officers respectively.

Charleston meeting 2012.

The Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology co-sponsored 4 very successful symposia: *The Impacts of Developmental Plasticity on Evolutionary Innovation and Diversification*, Organized by M. Wund; *Dispersal of marine organisms*, Organized by V. Martin and S. Lindsay; *Poecilogony as a window on larval evolution: Polymorphism of developmental mode within marine invertebrate species*, organized by E. Knott; and finally *EvoDevo Rides the Genomics Express*, organized by B. Swalla.

Congratulations to the DEDB student award winners. A. C. ASPIRAS, for the poster; "Sex-specific gene interactions in the patterning of insect genitalia and the oral presentation", and ZATTARA, E.E. for his presentation; *A modern view of annelid "neoblasts": live 4D imaging reveals widespread cell migration during annelid regeneration*. We also have runners up for this competition; Emi YAMAGUCHI for the presentation; "Developmental potential of embryonic cells to generate larval and juvenile eyes in the polychaete *Capitella teleta*" and A.A. BARNETT for the poster; Exploring the Loss of the Hox Gene *abdominal-A* in the Mite *Archezogetes longisetosus*.

EvoDevo Dinners

The implementation of the Evo-Devo faculty dinners continues to be a big success. This was conceived and implemented by Secretary, Mike Shapiro, and Student/Postdoc rep Jacob Musser: DEDB students sign up to have dinner during the meeting with divisional Faculty, and is a way for students to get to know and interact more with faculty. At this meeting, 20 full SICB members were paired with 40 students for dinner dates. This program will be continued at the San Francisco meeting.

San Francisco Meeting 2013

The abstract submission for the division has been very good this year with 50 contributed talks and 42 posters in addition to symposium-related presentations. We will look forward to hearing about the diverse research directions of the DEDB division.

DEDB has cosponsored 3 symposia this year: *Ecological Epigenetics* organized by Cristina Ledon-Rettig, Andrea Liebl, Christina Richards, Aaron Schrey, Armin Moczek; *Understanding First Order Phenotypes: Transcriptomics for Emerging Model Systems*, organized by Suzy Renn and Ant3nia Monteiro, and *Vertebrate Land Invasions: Past, Present, and Future*, organized by Alice Gibb, Miriam Ashley-Ross, Richard Blob, Tonia Hsieh.

Division of Ecology and Evolution (DEE)

Art Woods, Chair

DEE report on activities for the year 2012, presented at the Executive Board Meeting in San Francisco, January 2013. This report put together by Art Woods (current but out-going Chair).

1. DEE elections & officer hand-offs

In the recent elections, DEE members elected Don Miles as Program Officer-elect. Don assumes his duties at the end of the 2013 meeting and then will take over as Program Officer for 2 years starting at the end of the 2014 meeting. DEE also elected Aaron Krochmal for a second term as Secretary.

At the end of the 2013 meeting, Mike Angilletta takes over from Art Woods as Chair.

In the coming year (2013), DEE will do the following:

1. elect a Chair-Elect, who will begin the truncated “elect” term immediately upon election and begin serving a regular two year Chair term in January 2015, and
2. elect a Secretary-elect (even though we just did this) who will begin serving a one year “elect” term beginning January 2014 and then serve two years as Secretary.

These elections will put us back on track in the election cycle. The nominations committee consists of Tracy Langkilde (tracy.langkilde@gmail.com), Sammi Smoot (scsmoot@gmail.com), and Scott McWilliams (srmcwilliams@uri.edu). They were convened in October and have made good progress on identifying candidates for the spring elections, with candidates to be confirmed during the 2013 meeting.

2. Program for 2013 meeting and symposia for 2014

Elizabeth Dahlhoff, our PO, went to the PO meeting in San Francisco earlier this fall and spear-headed scheduling of the various DEE events. This turned out to be unusually complicated because of our new Best Student Presentation competitions (see Point 5 below).

We also received 12 requests for symposium support for the 2014 meeting in Austin. In September 2012, all DEE officers ranked those proposals, arrived at a consensus, and sent those to Elizabeth to take to the PO meeting. There, in consultation with the other POs, it was decided that DEE would divide its financial support between two: Epigenetics: Molecular Mechanisms through Organismal Influences (\$500) and Stress, condition and ornamentation (\$1500).

3. Changes to how DEE communicates with members

Based on feedback from members at the 2012 DEE business meeting in Charleston, we decided to initiate a new way of communicating with members. Rather than relying primarily on the SICB newsletter (which many members indicated they didn't read), we decided to start doing

emailed “News Blasts” to members several times throughout the year. The Blasts are intended to be shorter and more focused than typical DEE contributions to the Newsletter, with more links out to other online information. Aaron Krochmal has coordinated our Blasts so far (4 this year). We haven’t had a chance to get feedback yet from members at large, but our sense is that this approach works well and provides a much more flexible and timely mode of communication.

4. San Francisco (2013) activities

- **DEE Business Meeting.** Friday, January 4, 5:15-6:15pm
- **Huey Award**, student oral competition, Friday, January 4, 13.00 - 15.00, and the
- **Huey Award**, student poster competition, Saturday, January 5 in the poster hall
- **Huey Award winners** announced at DEE social (held jointly with DIZ from 6:30 - 8:30 on Sunday, Jan 6). Ray Huey to join us at the social for the award presentation.

5. Changes to the DEE student competitions

This year we undertook a complete revision of our best student competition. The new competition, which we named (with Ray’s blessing) The Raymond B. Huey Award, is a much more focused competition in which just 6 finalists in the oral competition, and 6 in the poster, are judged at the meeting itself. The winners will be determined by a single panel of 5 judges. The finalists were chosen from an initial pool of students submitting 1-page abstracts earlier in the fall. Given that the new structure is so different from what we did before, we give below a fairly detailed description of the process by which we arrived at its final form.

Outline of process.

- Spring 2012: Initial discussion among DEE officers of the basic idea (first proposed by Mike Angilletta)
- May: Initial proposal written and revised in several rounds by DEE officers
- June: changes floated by the SICB Executive Committee, which approved our efforts and also made several recommendations (esp. to get feedback from DEE members at large).
- June: Initial proposal emailed out to all members and feedback requested
- July: Suggestions from members incorporated and revised [the revised document in its entirety is pasted below]
- July: DEE officers agree to honor Ray Huey by naming the award after him. A group phone-call to Huey catches him off guard, meets some resistance which seemed to stem from his modesty, but ultimately prevails in getting him to agree to the award’s new name.
- Late July: the rules for the new Award are posted on the SICB website
- September: The initial round of student applicants submit abstracts. The total number of applicants this year (21 talk abstracts, 12 poster abstracts) was quite a bit smaller than in previous years, which we think reflects (i) the extra effort in applying for the award (an extended 1-page abstract), (ii) the scare factor of being judged in a more public way, and (iii) the novelty of the new process altogether. Once the Award becomes established and broadly known, we expect the number of applicants to increase considerably in future years.

Text of the revised document outlining the rationale and approach to the Huey Award (finalized July 2012):

Below, we outline some problems with our current program and how our proposed program would solve these problems while simultaneously enhancing the prestige of the best presentation award.

Currently, the awards for best presentations (oral and poster) are selected by a complex process that involves many non-overlapping judges. SICB members volunteer to judge 2-3 presentations each, either selected personally or assigned by the divisional secretary. Each judge attends his/her selection of presentations and provides written feedback by completing a judging form. The scores are then tabulated to determine a winner in each category.

The effectiveness of this process suffers from at least three problems. First, the secretary must round up a large number of enthusiastic and fair judges prior to each meeting. Second, the secretary must then hound everyone to submit written evaluations in a timely manner. Finally, and most importantly, we assume that each judge evaluates his or her proposals in a similar manner; in other words, a presentation rated highly by one judge should be one that would have been rated highly by all judges. As scientists, we should know better. Yet, out of sheer inertia, we use it each year to decide which student deserves one of the few honors that SICB has to bestow.

Our proposed revision to the competition solves these problems while increasing the appeal of SICB to graduate students doing ecological and evolutionary work. Specifically, we propose to elevate the award in the following ways:

- 1) Students who wish to be considered for an award must submit an extended abstract (limited to 1 page), in which the broader significance of the research should be demonstrated. These abstracts will be read by a committee of 5 DEE members: all three current officers, one full member chosen at large, and one student member (preferably one who previously won the award; note that students will only be eligible to win the award once). The evaluation of abstracts will occur within one week of the submission deadline for abstracts.
- 2) Six finalists for the best oral presentation award, chosen by the committee, will be scheduled to present their research in a special daytime session on the first day of the SICB meeting. Finalists will be given 20 minutes for their talks. Likewise, six finalists for the best poster presentation award will be scheduled to present their posters during the poster session on the first day of the meeting.
- 3) The committee will attend all talks and posters by the finalists and meet afterward to evaluate them. A winner will be chosen and announced at the DEE Social on the same evening or a following evening, helping to increase the prestige of this award.
- 4) Each award (best oral or best poster presentation) will consist of a check (up to \$1000) and a plaque. Think of this award as a way that SICB can invest in the winner's future research given the excellence of that person's past research; thus, the monetary compensation should be on par with that provided by one of SICB's graduate research

grants. The non-winning finalists in both categories will receive certificates stating that they were finalists.

5) The new award will be advertised on the web and by email (via our new approach of sending out frequent “email blasts” to members) to help boost participation in the SICB meeting. As the prestige of this award grows, SICB should attract additional student members in the areas of ecology and evolution.

6) The new award program will replace the old award program.

Division of Invertebrate Zoology (DIZ)

James B. McClintock, Chair

Briefs from the 2012 Charleston meeting

DIZ co-sponsored seven successful and well attended symposia at the annual meetings in Charleston, South Carolina: 1) The impacts of developmental plasticity on evolutionary innovation and diversification, 2) Barnacle biology: essential aspects and contemporary approaches, 3) Poecilogony as a window on larval evolution: polymorphism of developmental mode within marine invertebrate species, 4) Combining experiments with modeling and computational methods to study animal locomotion, 5) Novel methods for the analysis of animal movement: spatial and temporal structure across scales, 6) Dispersal in marine organisms.

Beth Davies-Berg did a wonderful job of organizing the judging for the Best Student presentations and poster awards in Charleston, and she has agreed to continue in this role through the San Francisco meeting in 2013. I am currently recruiting to replace Beth so that her replacement can be trained by Beth in San Francisco.

The best presentation awards winner and runner up awardees for DIZ at the 2012 Charleston meeting were:

Best oral presentation winner

Christopher J. Freeman: Determining the benefits of symbiosis: tracing the products of symbiont nitrogen and carbon metabolism to host sponges using incubations with enriched stable isotopes.

Best oral presentation runner-up

Cawa Tran: Sensory mechanisms utilized by coral palnulae to detect settlement cues

Best poster award winner

Diego Castro: Effects of elevated oceanic carbon dioxide on sperm motility and swimming speed in sea urchins: implications of ocean acidification for fertilization success\

Best poster award runner-up

Nicholas Lessios: Orientation behavior and possible visual statocyst in a crustacean found in the Sonoran Desert: *Triops* (Branchiopoda: Notostraca)

Adrien M. Wenner Strong Inference Award winner

Christopher J. Freeman: Determining the benefits of symbiosis: tracing the products of symbiont nitrogen and carbon metabolism to host sponges using incubations with enriched stable isotopes.

Student and Postdoctoral Activities Kit Yu Karen Chan did an excellent job as our representative for student and postdoctoral fellows and we are pleased she will continue in this role for the 2013 year.

Briefs from the upcoming San Francisco 2013 meeting

We are co-sponsoring five regular symposia and one society-wide symposium in San Francisco, California: 1) Phenotypic plasticity and evolution of gender roles, 2) Keeping time during animal evolution: conservation and innovation of the circadian clock, 3) physiological responses to simultaneous shifts in multiple environmental stressors: relevance in a changing world, 4) Understanding first order phenotypes: transcriptomics for emerging model systems, 5) Integrating genomics and comparative vision research of the invertebrates, and 6) Assembling the poriferan tree of life.

I have decided that our annual divisional discriminatory funds (amount to be determined) will be allocated at the DIZ business meeting in San Francisco following discussion. I have solicited recommendations via the fall 2012 DIZ newsletter. Should the funds not be expended, the balance each year will be invested in the principal of the Libbie Hyman Award fund.

The 2012 Libbie Hyman Award was awarded to Sonia Singhal, a first year PhD student in the Department of Biology at the University of Washington, who will use the \$1311 to support her participation in the 5-week Ecology of Infectious Marine Diseases course at Friday Harbor Marine Laboratories. Jennifer Burnaford has agreed to stay on for one more year in her role as Chair of the award committee. John Zardus, our current DIZ Program Officer will be replaced on the award committee following the 2013 San Francisco meeting.

A nominating committee comprised of Rachel Mertz (chair) and Amy Moran selected Jonathan Allen and Anne Boettger to run for office for the position of DIZ secretary. Jonathan Allen was nominated by our membership to be the new DIZ Secretary effective after the San Francisco meeting.

Libbie Hyman Award Auction – San Francisco

Once again, the Libbie Hyman Award auction will be held at the 2013 San Francisco meetings. The goal is to raise significant new revenue to enhance the fund's capital so as to increase interest generated revenue to support the annual student award. The auction has been and will continue to be advertised and individuals and facilities identified to ensure a successful event. The DIZ leadership team and others involved in past Libbie Hyman auctions have invested considerable effort in planning for the 2013 auction event in San Francisco. Moreover, Lou Burnett has been very helpful in ensuring society wide advertising of the event.

Grand Challenges

In my discussions at the SICB convention last year with Bill Zamer from NSF it seemed evident that he would like to encourage the SICB leadership to parse their current list of grand challenges in organismal biology down to several specific areas of research that might be emphasized in future funding cycles. While this will be difficult given the worthiness of the broad suite of grand challenges formulated to date, my sense is that this opportunity provided by NSF should not be squandered.

Division of Neurobiology (DNB)

James A. Murray, Chair

Briefs from the 2012 Charleston meeting

The program in Charleston comprised 32 talks and 45 posters associated with DNB. The DNB provided support for four symposia:

1. Novel methods for the analysis of animal movement: Spatial and temporal structure across scale.
2. New Frontiers from Marine Snakes to Marine Ecosystems.
3. Combining experiments with modeling and computational methods to study animal locomotion.
4. EvoDevo Rides the Genomics Express.

Thanks to Duane McPherson, our Program Officer, for organizing the program, and a special thanks to our 22 volunteer judges for helping with the Best Student Presentations. We had 21 students competing with some very strong presentations.

Best Student Presentation Winners

Congratulations goes to the following students for their excellent presentations.

Michael J. Bok (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) for **Best Talk**
"Ultraviolet vision in mantis shrimp"

Tiffany Love-Chezem (Georgia State University) for **Best Poster**
"Chemical defense through sensory disruption in spiny lobster sea hare interactions"

Honorable Mention:

Paul Borsuk (Saint Xavier University)
"Colocalization of aromatase and nitric oxide immunoreactive neurons
in the forebrain of the male red-sided garter snake"

Student and Postdoctoral Activities Darcy Kato Ernst is our representative for student and postdoctoral fellows and we need a replacement for the 2013 year.

This year we welcomed to Lisa Mangiamele as Secretary, and she is doing a great job. I am pleased to be handing over the gavel to Jim Belanger in San Francisco, but I will be staying active in DNB.

The members approved our suggested change the terms of our offices so that we don't elect more than one officer per year. To do this, we changed the Chair, Secretary and Program Officer terms to 3 years this year, and we would phase in the new term lengths over the next few election cycles so they elections are staggered.

Briefs from the upcoming San Francisco 2013 meeting

The Division of Neurobiology will be lending financial support to five symposia that have a neurobiology connection:

1. When Predators Attack: Sensing and Motion in Predator-Prey Interactions, organized by Matt McHenry and Stacy Combes
2. Vertebrate Land Invasions, organized by Alice Gibb, Miriam Ashley-Ross, Richard Blob, and Tonia Hsieh
3. Phenotypic Plasticity and the Evolution of Gender Roles, organized by Janet Leonard
4. Integrating Genomics with Comparative Vision Research of the Invertebrates, organized by Jeanne Serb and Todd Oakley
5. Keeping time during animal evolution: conservation and innovation of the circadian clock, organized by Adam Reitzel and Ann Tarrant

Within Neurobiology, there are 29 oral presentations scheduled and 37 posters, distributed across the four days of invited and contributed sessions. These numbers represent increases over previous years, showing that our division is continuing to grow.

We have dedicated some of our annual divisional discriminatory funds to our joint social in San Francisco with DAB. The remainder of the funds have yet to be allocated.

We will soon be announcing a loan program to provide your lab with a physiology recording system (PowerLab with LabChart software by ADInstruments). ADInstruments has generously offered to loan this system to one of our neuroscientists and the unit will change hands periodically (interval to be determined).

Division of Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology (DPCB)

Pat O'Connor, Chair

The SICB Division of Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology (DPCB) is about to turn 1 year old as we convene for the annual conference in San Francisco in January of 2013. Two divisional positions will change over during the upcoming cycle. Michael Alfaro (UCLA) will assume the chair responsibilities from Patrick O'Connor (Ohio University) and Kerin Claeson (Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine) will take over secretary duties from Todd Oakley (UC Santa Barbara).

There were no divisional elections held during 2012.

As part of the ongoing effort to bring Recent and deep time perspectives together, many members of our division were featured contributors for a symposium entitled 'Phylogenetic and Comparative Paleobiology—New Quantitative Approaches to the Study of Vertebrate Macroevolution' at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) held in Raleigh, NC in October 2012. We hope this represents the first of many cross-society interactions and thank those members of DPCB for their efforts to bring this to fruition. A number of SICB members attended SVP for the first time and we look forward to reciprocal crossover from SVP to SICB in future years. Please stop by the division business meeting where we will update you on this and other initiatives.

Best Student Presentations from the 2012 Charleston meeting:

- Kelly Markello, San Francisco State University (Best Poster): Small wonders: The phylogenetics of highly modified micro-echinoids in the genus *Echinocyymus* (Authors: K. Markello and R. Mooi).
- Christopher Laumer, Harvard University (Best Talk): A single, stepwise origin of ectolecithality in Platyhelminthes? (Authors C. E. Laumer and G. Giribet).
- Prashant Sharma, Harvard University (Runner-up, Best Talk): Upstream colonization of Australia by Neotropical Opiliones (Arachnida) (Authors P. P. Sharma and G. Giribet)

In an effort to highlight research and any related efforts (e.g., outreach) in the DPCB community, we have sent out requests for information (entitled SICB DPCB 'In the News') related to ongoing work by current members. We have tried to stress the importance to our members, including students and postdocs, for getting their work out to the biology community and general public.

DPCB in the News Contributions:

- **Fall 2012:** SICB DPCB member Luke Harmon (University of Idaho), collaborating with James Rosindell (Imperial College, London), were recently featured for their work on OneZoom, a new interactive viewer for exploring large and complex phylogenetic trees. Here are excerpts from the press release and two hyperlinks related to the paper.

- Now OneZoom, which was partly inspired by the zooming technology of mapping software such as Google Maps, makes it possible to start with a broad view of life on Earth, then zoom in on any point to explore incrementally smaller categories of life, using intuitive mouse actions.
- “OneZoom gives you a natural way to explore large amounts of complex information like the tree of life,” explained Dr Rosindell. “It’s intuitive because it’s similar to the way we explore the real world; by moving towards interesting objects to see them in more detail.”
- <http://www.onezoom.org/>
- <http://www.plosbiology.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pbio.1001406>

DPCB is a co-sponsor of the Society-wide Symposium on Vertebrate Land Invasions: Past, Present, and Future.

Division of Vertebrate Morphology (DVM)

Kiisa Nishikawa, Chair

Once again, the Division of Vertebrate Morphology has had an outstanding year, with record-breaking participation in the Charleston, SC meeting, where DVM sponsored five intellectually stimulating and well-attended symposia: The Impacts of Developmental Plasticity on Evolutionary Innovation and Diversification, organized by Matthew Wund; Novel Methods for the Analysis of Animal Movement: Spatial and Temporal Structure Across Scale, organized by Doug Altshuler; New Frontiers from Marine Snakes to Marine Ecosystems; organized by Harvey Lillywhite and Francois Brischox; Combining Experiments with Modeling and Computational Methods to Study Animal Locomotion, organized by Laura Miller & Silas Alben; and EvoDevo Rides the Genomics Express, organized by Billie Swalla.

Congratulations to DVM student award winners in Charleston: **D. Dwight Davis Award** for Best Student Paper in the Division of Vertebrate Morphology, **Ashley Heers** (University of Montana, Missoula) for her presentation, **Locomotor ontogeny and the evolution of avian flight**; and **Best Student Poster Award** in the Division of Vertebrate Morphology, **Macrina Butler** (Hendrix College) for her poster, **The effect of prenatal steroids on the fast-twitch fibers of the fetal guinea pig scalenus**.

Regional joint DCB/DVM meetings were held in both the Southeast at the College of Charleston (organized by Andrew Clark) and in the Northeast at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (organized by Elizabeth Dumont and Sheila Patek). The 1st joint DVM/DCB Southwest Regional Meeting was held at the California State University at San Bernardino (organized by Tomasz Owerkowicz and Stuart Sumida).

Our incoming Program Officer, Rita Mehta, did a superb job of planning the 2012 program for our division. DVM once again received a record number of abstracts, translating to just over 40 oral sessions (up from 27 at the Charleston meeting) and three full afternoons of posters. The 'lightening talks' session is more than twice as long this year as last year.

Our incoming secretary, Susan Williams, included revisions to our elections schedule and proposed changes to the bylaws in the fall newsletter. Our members will vote on the proposed changes at our business meeting in San Francisco.

Chair-Elect Alice Gibb created a Facebook page for posting news about our division. I'll be stepping down as DVM chair at the San Francisco meeting, at which time Alice will take the lead.

DVM received a record number of symposium proposals for San Francisco, and helped to support three symposia for the up-coming meeting: "When Predators Attack: Sensing and Motion in Predator-Prey Interactions," organized by Matt McHenry and Stacy Combes; "Vertebrate Land Invasions: Past, Present, and Future," organized by Alice Gibb, Miriam

Ashley-Ross, Richard Blob, Tonia Hsieh; and "Phenotypic plasticity and the evolution of gender roles," organized by Janet Leonard.

In summary, interest in our divisional activities continues to increase by every measure, including regional meetings organized, abstracts and symposium proposals submitted, numbers of oral and poster presentations at the annual meeting, and attendance at the annual meeting. Thanks to all of the DVM officers for their outstanding contributions.