SICB Meeting 2026 (Portland, OR)

Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
3 January 2026, 2:30 PM-5:00 PM PST

A109, Conference Center

https://burkinc.zoom.us/my/brettzoomroom

3 January 2026 Attendance (Appendix 1**)**

Call to Order: Welcome and introduction of Executive Committee members and guests. (Executive Committee Members 2026) — *President Nish (Michele) Nishiguchi*

1. Approval of Minutes: January 2025 Executive Committee – *Nish*

a. (SICB Executive Committee Meeting, January 2 and 6, 2025).
b. Motion: Molly Jacobs, Patricia Hernandez
c. all approved

2. Overview of the FY2026 budget (for vote at the second EC meeting Saturday, Jan 7) - *Brian Tsukimura* (2:40-3:00; *Scheduled for 20 minutes*)

a. Treasurer's report and overview
- Funds were invested conservatively and the value increased by 260,000 during the fiscal year (July 1-June 30)
- Total income for most recent fiscal year was approximately $1.3M and expenditures were $1.3M; difference: $6550 (in black)
- Net investment revenue: $260,760
- Net income: $225,665
- Divisions: increased amount for socials this year ($800 to $1500 per division); $2000 for symposia; Dues allocation based on divisional size at the end of fiscal year (June)
- Named fund updates
- Budget for next fiscal year (FY27) is like FY26

- budget but will be finalized in summer ‘26, after all expenses from SICB 2026 have been paid and before SICB2027 rates are set

3. Summary of Actions of the Executive Committee between Annual Meetings – Porter (3:00-3:05; *Scheduled for 5 minutes*)

a. Strategic Planning summary: Strategic Planning meeting October: Executive Officers worked to develop objectives and pipelines for completion. These are being shared with specific groups associated with a task. More from Patricia
b. BioLeaps training on January 8th, 2025. SICB Executive Officers and Divisional Leadership attended a day long training. Training is aimed at promoting SICB leadership and mentoring. This grant is no longer funded, but work is still moving forward. More from Nish.
c. Bylaws updates: The approved bylaws revisions divided the Executive Officers into a group with fiduciary responsibility, and the larger Executive Committee ensures the society is operating in the best interest of the members.
d. Website updates: new tab labeled ‘Leadership’

4. Publisher’s Report – *Kyle Burns*, Oxford University Press. *CONFIDENTIAL* report. (3:05-3:25; *Scheduled for 20 minutes)*

5. Journal Reports (Appendix 2) (3:25-3:45)

a. **Journal, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*** – *Ulrike Müller*
    i. Several sets of paper bundles coming in for ‘26 and ‘27
    ii. Still having problems with paper submission by symposium speakers but this is offset by the bundles
    iii. Symposia and contributed papers are still steady
    iv. Over 250 papers scheduled for 2026. With this load, the editorial board might need to be re-envisioned to deal with work load

b. **Journal, *Integrative Organismal Biology*** – *Ignacio Moore* (*Scheduled for 10 min*) –
    i. IOB still largely unknown to SICB members, so we need some more marketing even within the society
    ii. Submissions were up for 2025 with a total of 70 papers; best year so far
    iii. IOB paper goal is 65 papers/year, which is the break-even number of papers with regards to publication costs
    iv. Submissions skew towards a few divisions, with other divisions contributing fewer papers. This may be related to division size, but

great awareness of the journal might lead to more paper representation from all divisions

v. The editorial board has been going to other societies to generate interest in publishing in IOB
vi. Reach out to Brett/BAI with ideas for booth swaps/getting info out about OIB to a larger audience

6. SICB Communications update - *Suzanne Miller (3:45-3:50; Scheduled for 10 minutes)*

a. SICB media (not "social" media) - great for sharing information and intended to promote community among SICB members between annual meetings
b. This year's focus: increased communication and engagement with divisions; consistency in communication and increasing followers; major platforms are Instagram, LinkedIn, and BSKY
c. SICB on Zoom (YouTube) – the goal is to have a database/library of videos of talks. This would be a great resource for all members including those that can't or don't attend annual meeting
d. Emphasis on inclusion from all members and divisions is a priority for SICB – updates were made the website over summer and the SICB leadership need to talk about this with membership. lease share feedback and ideas with Molly

7. National Science Foundation – *Susan Marqusee*, the Assistant Director of the BIO Directorate. (*4:00-4:30; Scheduled for 30 minutes*)

- Attend in person:
    - Kathryn Dickson, Program Director of Physiological Mechanisms and Biomechanics Program
    - Colette St. Mary, Program Director in Animal Behavior
- NSF-BIO's operating status: "it's been a challenging year"
- When SICB members have an NSF-related question, ask an NSF PO; information seen on social media and other pubs not always 100% accurate
- NSF is open again! Behind due to shut-down and on a continuing resolution, as a result this year's budget is still unknown which makes it difficult to make awards
- NSF is committed to maintaining high standard of review
- SICB members are encouraged to keep submitting proposals!
- Changes: intended to make NSF more agile/flexible for future and support the administration's priorities: AI, Biotech, Quantum, and Translational Science

- NSF is reorganizing and doing away with divisions - structural change but doesn't change science
    - Driven by personnel needs - OPM mandate for change and fewer staff
    - Opportunity to reorganize proposal review across scientific topics
    - Leverage existing cross-disciplinary overlaps among existing programs
    - Create agile structures for current and future science
    - 3 thematic areas: Foundations of Life; Living Systems; Bio-innovation and Infrastructure
    - Moving forward there will be fewer and broader solicitations; members are encouraged to continue submitting to current solicitations and reach out to NSF POs with questions
- Standardizing proposal review process (but not standards for Broader impacts and Intellectual Merit)
    - Merit review reform: will maintain high standard of review but will increase efficiency, consistency, and transparency; at least 2 reviews per proposal; more use of return w/o review for inappropriate of insufficiently revised proposals
- It is taking longer to get proposal reviews to PIs; fewer reviewers and panel summary is shorter
    - Panel updates: more effective use of panel discussion time (less discussion for proposals with uniformly low or high reviews); more succinct panel summaries
- NSF is relocating to a new building

9. SICB Strategic planning- 5 year plan – *Patricia Hernandez* (4:30-4:45; scheduled for 15 minutes

a. Strategic plan dashboard linked **here**.
    i. 5yr strategic plan begins this year! See linked spreadsheet above for specific assignments and timelines for each strategy and tactic
    ii. Jake Socha is also cimer trained
    iii.
b. Post doc special session at SICB 2027
c. Post doc awards are a priority for new funding

9. Bio Leaps update – *Nish* (4:45- 4:55; scheduled for 10 minutes)

a. BIO LEAPS leadership training on Jan 8th 2026, led by Dr. Wynne Chinn, Univ. of TX Houston.

b. Part of strategic plan to get SICB leaders trained and equipped to pass knowledge down to future SICB leaders (students/postdocs)

10. Links to all reports- to be continued in EC meeting 2

Officer Reports (Appendix 3)

a. Program Officer - Janet Steven
b. Secretary - Marianne Porter
c. Treasurer - Brian Tsukimura (discussed previously)
d. Communication Editor - Molly Jacobs
e. President-Elect - Rick Blob
f. President - Michele Nishiguchi
g. Past-President - L. Patricia Hernandez

Standing Committee and Other Reports (Appendix 4)

1. Advisory – L. Patricia Hernandez
2. Educational Council – Veronica Martinez Acosta
3. Membership – Jake Socha
4. Nominating – Karen Chan
5. Editorial Board, *ICB* – Ulrike Müller (included in Journal Reports)
6. Editorial Board, *IOB* – Ignacio Moore (included in Journal Reports)
7. Student/Postdoctoral Affairs (SPDAC) – Christine Lattin
8. Student Support – Rachel Cohen
9. Finance Committee – Brian Tsukimura (included in Treasurer Report)
10. Public Affairs (PAC) – Phoebe Edwards
11. Program – Janet Steven (included in Program Officer Report)
12. Development – Terry Dial
13. Broadening Participation (BPC) – Susan Williams
14. Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUI) working group - Eric Gangloff, Jenny Uehling, and Jenn Houtz

Reports from Division Chairs (Appendix 5)

1. Animal Behavior
2. Botany
3. Comparative Biomechanics
4. Comparative Endocrinology
5. Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry
6. Evolutionary Developmental Biology
7. Ecoimmunology & Disease Ecology

8. Ecology & Evolution
9. Invertebrate Zoology
10. Neurobiology, Neuroethology, and Sensory Biology
11. Phylogenetics & Comparative Biology
12. Vertebrate Morphology

11. Adjournment at 5:00 PM PST
Motion: Marianne Porter, second- Susan Williams

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7 January 2026 7:00-9:00 AM EST

A 109, Conference Center

https://burkinc.zoom.us/my/brettzoomroom

7 January Attendance (Appendix 1)

1. Call to Order - President Michele, Nish, Nishiguchi

2. Vote on Budget for FY2026, Brian Tsukimura
- Review of any follow-up from EC1
- Executive Committee vote on the FY 2026 budget
- Fiscal year starts July 1, 20226 and goes through June 30, 2027
- Discussion:
- Motion to approve: Patricia Hernandez; second Janet Steven
Approve: all but 1
Abstain: 1

3. Vote on new Division of Physiology (DOP)
- Explain the merger procedures and society bylaws
- Named student awards: the new division eventually wants to sunset named awards and honor heroes in field each year; which would enable them to honor a lot of scientists
- The division will work with treasurer to reconcile budgets from DCE and DCPB accounts
- Motion to approve: DCE chair- Jamie Cornelius
- Second: DCPB chair- Jason Podrabsky
- Approve: all but 1
- Abstain: 1

4. Strategic plan (Hernandez)

- Seeing the strategic plan through is a goal for the past President term of Patricia Hernandez
- There is a dashboard to make sure the plan is on the track
- At the 2026 meeting, the mentoring aspects of the plan were fully on with many mentoring workshops offered
- When meeting as divisional or committee leadership over the rest of the year make sure groups are tackling their action items on the plan
    - For example, divisions need to evaluate/define mission and objectives
- A goal is to have division features on website/media every few weeks to help raise the SICB profile
- Everyone should look at dashboard and move it forward and the EC will assess progress at October meeting
- Shout-out to DIZ on following up and giving membership updates on strategic plan progress in their divisional meeting

5. BioLEAPS updates

- SICB emails for Bioleaps agenda
- Zoom link if people want to zoom in
- Bring laptops and we can all link in
- DISC assessment; personality traits
- Break at lunch, try to attend the whole thing
- Afternoon is developing tactics- working on trickle down to divisional membership
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6. Feedback from Divisional Member Meetings

- Nice to have someone around representing the EO attending the whole meeting, but some members missed seeing the whole EO
    - A suggested slide between talks to see leadership and near the registration booth could solve this problem
    - The slide could also be shown at a President and EC booth in exhibit hall; with another EOs rotating in the booth
- Changing division names: DEDE talking about scope and researchers who work on microbiomes and symbiosis would be good for DEDE, spring bylaws changes possibly- works with strategic plan goals
- Making sure all attendees know they are welcome at the member meetings - add note in program that everyone is welcome; automatically added to agenda of people identifying in divisions; make sure that socials have the divisions spelled out

- Anytime anyone needs something in the app, go to reg desk and they will send out an announcement during the meeting
- An idea was shared for adding SICB abbreviations on the back of name tag
- Meeting summary on one sheet at registration desk
- Push a daily meeting at a glance announcement everyday
- Student first timer meeting goes over everything; it might be good for all students; all Mangum students are required to go
- Know before you go emails can explain the member meetings, and acronyms
- BSP only choose one division, could make mentor matching easier by letting students only use one division

7. Recognition of Executive Committee Members: SICB Executive Committee members ending their terms at the end of the 2026 meeting in Atlanta:

Society-wide Officers:	
Marianne Porter	Secretary
Janet Steven	Program Officer
Karen Chan	Member-at-Large
Divisional Chairs:	
Jamie Cornelius	DCE, Chair
Jason Podrabsky	DCPB, Chair
Prashant Sharma	DEDB, Chair
Lauren Fuess	DEDE, Chair
Standing Committee Chairs:	
Veronica Martinez Acosta,	Education Council

8. New Business

- DIZ proposing a new endowed, named fund (John and Vicki Pearse Fund) to support postdocs like we do Mangum (structured like GIAR); plan to raise $25K to start fund over the next year; started with Auction this year ($4800; with a

match from Vicki Pearse); Working with Brett to follow policy for creating named funds
    - EC responsible for approving the fund
    - Marianne Porter motions to vote to approve fund contingent on raising the threshold amount; Nicole Danos seconded
        - Unanimous approval
- Nominating Committees need to be finding candidates – Vanessa Hilliard and Caitlin Gabor will bother you
- If divisions want to put in bylaws changes, they need to submit them to the Secretary by mid-February
- BEARR: now accepting submissions; get link to submission form - send out in email blast (member update)

9. Adjournment at 9:00 AM EST

- Motion: Brian Tsukimura; Second: Marianne Porter

Appendix 1: Attendance at Executive Committee Meetings Jan 3 and 7, 2026

	Name	Status	Term	3-Jan	7-Jan
1	Nishiguchi, Michele	President	1/2025-1/2027	X	X
2	Blob, Rick	President-Elect	1/2025-1/2027	X	X
3	Hernandez, Patricia	Past President	1/2025-1/2027	X	X
4	Porter, Marianne	Secretary	1/2024-1/2026	X	X
5	Hilliard, Vanessa	Secretary-Elect	1/2024-1/2026	X	X
6	Steven, Janet	Program Officer	1/2024-1/2026	X	X
7	McHenry, Matt	Program Officer-Elect	1/2024-1/2026	X	X
8	Tsukimura, Brian	Treasurer	1/2025-1/2027	X	X
9	Danos, Nicole	Treasurer-Elect	1/2025-1/2027	X	X
10	Jacobs, Molly	Communications Editor	7/2020-1/2026	X	X
11	Chan, Karen	Member-at-Large MAL1	1/2023-1/2026	X	X
12	Blackburn, David	Member-at-Large MAL2	1/2024-1/2027	X	X
12	Davidson, Bradley	Member-at-Large MAL3	1/2025-1/2028	X	X
13	Renn, Suzy	DAB, Chair	1/2025-1/2028	X	X
14	Paig-Tran, Misty	DCB, Chair	1/2025-1/2027	X	X
15	Cornelius, Jamie	DCE, Chair	1/2024-1/2026	X	X
16	Podrabsky, Jason	DCPB, Chair	1/2024-1/2026	X	X
17	Sharma, Prashant	DEDB, Chair	1/2024-1/2026	X	X
18	Fuess, Lauren	DEDE, Chair	1/2024-1/2026	X	X
19	Cox, Christian	DEE, Chair	1/2025-1/2027	X	X
20	Podolsky, Bob	DIZ, Chair	1/2024-1/2027	X	X
21	Gall, Megan	DNNSB, Chair	1/2024-1/2027	X	X
22	Lynch, Leigha	DPCB, Chair	1/2025-1/2028	X	X
23	Ward, Andie	DVM, Chair	1/2025-1/2027	–	X
24	Howard, Cody	DOB, Chair	1/2025-1/2027	–	X
25	Müller, Ulrike	Editor, ICB	1/2024-1/2029	X	X
26	Moore, Ignacio	Editor, IOB	1/2025-1/2029	X	X
27	Lattin, Christine	Student PD Affairs Chair	5/2024-1/2027	X	X
28	Martinez Acosta, Veronica	Educational Council Chair, online	1/2023-1/2026	X	X
29	Williams, Susan	Broadening Participation, Chair	1/2024-1/2027	X	X
30	Dial, Terry	Development, Chair	1/2025-1/2028	X	X

31	Socha, Jake	Membership, Chair	1/2025-1/2028	X	X
32	Edwards, Phoebe	Public Affairs Committee, Chair	8/2025-1/2028	–	X
33	Cohen, Rachel	Student Support Committee, Chair	1/2024-1/2027		X
	Brett Burk	Executive Director, SICB	(*ex officio*)	X	X
Committee Chairs and others not serving on the Executive Committee					
	Eric Gangloff, Jenny Uehling, and Jenn Houtz	PUI Working Group Chair	2025-209		X
	Terri Orr	Incoming Member-at-Large	02/2026-02-2029		X
	Caitlin Gabor	Incoming Secretary_Elect	2026-2028		X
	Britt Heidinger	Incoming Program Officer-Elect	2026-2028		X
	Ignacio Moore	Incoming DCE Chair	2026-2028	X	X
	Wendy Hood	Incoming DPCB Chair	2026-2028		
	Kim Cooper	Incoming DEDB Chair	2026-2028		X
	Cynthia Downs	Incoming DEDE	2026-2028		X
	Bill Ryerson	Incoming Ed Council	2026-2029		X
Others					
	Jill Drupa	BAI, SICB Manager		X	
	Suzanne Miller	ICB, IOB Managing Editor, SICB Media, online		X	
	Susan Marqusee	NSF, online		X	
	Kathyrn Dickson	NSF, in person		X	
	Colette St. Mary	NSF, in person		X	
	Kyle Burns	Oxford University Press		X	

Appendix 2: JOURNAL REPORTS - 2025

11. A. Integrative and Comparative Biology

Ulrike Muller, Editor

1 Manuscripts and Authors		
1.1 Strengths		
1.1.1 number of publications	Issue and data	Solutions (implemented)
	2022: 142 papers 2023: 118 papers 2024: 151 papers 2025: 169 projected, incl.symposia and complimentary sessions, bundles, student awardees (FGST, GIAR, BSP) and invited queried papers	to keep a steady flow of papers since symposium can be hit or miss with commitments of submission, we are building networks with other organizations who'd like to publish such as W.O.S. Women in Ocean Science, M.I.S.S. Minorities in Shark Science NSAB - National Symposium on Avian Biology (India) W.A.I.- Wild Animal Initiative & W.I.W. - Women in Wildlife As well as special groupings organized by past authors and or Assistant & Associate Eds We are also garnering these above groupings to broaden who is involved and not have SICB journals be insular , mainly sticking to SICB alone.
1.2 Growth areas		
1.2.1 Author support	Issue and data	Solutions (implemented)

	● Authors experienced difficulties and selecting the incorrect licensure	● Suzanne worked with OUP to prepare explicit instructions that appeared numerous times to help avoid this ● virtual workshops for groupings highlight information about license types
1.2.2 Author follow-through	Issue and data	Solutions (implemented)
	● Authors can have submission dates sneak up on them and miss the deadlines. (see presentation about submissions on time, though this year is better than prior years)	Our office has monthly periodic touch bases with authors once they have committed an intent to submit to our journal and with their organizers.
1.2.3 OUP Integrity initiative	Issues and data	Solution (in progress)
	● COPE checklist for publication integrity identified areas where author instructions need improvement	● Editor and Author support websites (SICB-based Google Site) have new pages on Publication Integrity, some pages are still under development or incomplete
2 Editorial team		
2.1 Strengths		
2.1.1 Handling time	Issue and data	Solutions (implemented)
	● 36 days from submission to first decision for 2 years now	N/A (remains an ICB strength) *see Kyle's report
2.1.2 Recruitment	Issue and data	Solutions (implemented)
	● number of manuscript submissions continues to increase, requiring us to grow our editorial board to keep workload constant	● 9 Associate editors + EiC to keep workload at ~20 papers ● recruited additional Assistant editor: M.I.S.S. 's Assistant Ed, Sara Asadi, to help recruit

		papers for M.I.S.S. in an ongoing capacity
2.1.3 ICB blog & social media	Details Suzanne runs a monthly author zoom with ICB and or IOB author and SICBers; she recruits them and holds pre filming meetings with them in advance. She posts several times weekly on ICB spotlighting collections by giving OUP info to spotlight them alongside her. Suzanne posts blogs, at times writes them, and coordinates blogs as well edits the blogs from the Mangum participants (8-9 students who write for the blog annually) She offers trainings and one on one zooms to the authors on their individual pieces. She has worked on garnering more video content to make ICB and it's volunteers more visible (for example, going to the Josefson lab and posting videos about lab members)	
	● We have increased our journal Linked in presence as well as maintained a healthy 1486 followers on Instagram ● A combined journal account on bsky with 3,000 followers	
2.1.4 Professional development	Details	
	● Suzanne participated in an AI tutorial and practice sessions. ● Suzanne Read and implemented Supercommunicators and Digital Body Language as well as Cal Newport's Slow Productivity to implement strategies in her trainings, social media strategy and emails and zoom meetings.	
2.2 Growth areas		
2.2.1 Citations	Issue and data	Solutions (in progress)

Clarivate changed formula to calculate Impact Factor (IF)	● 2023 Impact factor dropped slightly to 2.1 (from 2.2 for 2023; reason: Introductions to symposia and Jumpstart bundle (20+ perspective papers) received few citations	● ICB will continue to recruit groupings from affinity groups, and geographic regions that are currently not sufficiently represented ● ICB will continue to increase is rejection rate
3 Service to community		
3.1 Strengths		
3.1.1 Support early-career authors	Issue and data	Solution (implemented)
	● Students don't have the funds submit to journals with high publication costs ● Many journals will not invite students to perform peer reviews	● Invite best-student presenters and presenters from complementary sessions to publish in ICB to provide positive publishing experience and increase loyalty with ICB ● invite student awardees to not only submit a paper but garner review experience by being editorial reviewer ● provide training workshops for editorial reviewers and early-career authors ● provide comprehensive author information on author website geared toward issues encountered by early-career authors
3.2 Growth areas		
3.2.1 Publication integrity	Issues and data	Solution (in progress)
	● COPE checklist for publication integrity identified areas where author instructions need improvement	Editor and Author support websites (SICB-based Google Site) have new pages on Publication Integrity, some pages

		are still under development or incomplete
	● Peer review	EiC and ME attend OUP briefings on these virtually ME takes lead in finding reviewers for the first round given her years of experience, especially for incoming ASTEDs (based on ASTED feedback on where they want more support)
	● generative AI and papermills threaten publication integrity	EiC and ME monitor trends and report on initiatives and findings EiC attended workshops and symposia (2025 Peer Review Congress; 2025 COPE Publication Integrity Week) Updates on ICB website for authors and for editors on integrity issues ○ manipulation issues ○ authorship issues ○ review and appeal process

11.B. Integrative Organismal Biology (some of the attributes up top that are taken from the OUP report)

Ignacio Moore, Editor IOB (1/2025-1/2029)

1 Manuscripts and Authors		
1.1 Strengths		
1.1.1 number of publications	Issue and data	Solutions (implemented & successful)

	2022: 58 submissions 2023: 60 submissions 2024: 43 submissions 2025: 64 submissions	• Started a grouping w/ biology education *hosting author zooms and promotionals more frequently
1.2 Growth areas		
1.2.1 Author support	Issue and data	Solutions (in progress)
	• Time from submission to publication, can be delayed if AEs are out of contact (this showed in our handling time as well) • Author's time in revision was often extended	• Suzanne has instituted messaging AES via platforms as well as emails, and calling to leave a message at times or offering to pass the paper to the EIC if needs be *Constructive comments by AEs and reviewers to aid in a more thorough revision
1.2.2 Author follow-through	Issue and data	Solutions (in progress)
	• Authors communicating appropriately about revision extensions needed	• Touch bases with authors periodically from the journal office as emails can go to spam from scholarone more then from the office. Messaging authors via other platforms to check in and offer a better date.
2 Editorial team		
2.1 Strengths - We have had a longstanding group of AEs who have been with the journal since the beginning.		

2.1.1 Handling time	Issue and data	Solutions (implemented)
	● our handling time last year was up to 125 days,	● Suzanne utilized the methods mentioned above to help decrease handling time to 72 days this year and AEs were more timely with recommendations.
2.1.2 Recruitment	Issue and data	
Issue : AEs rotating off and we are in need of more.	○ we are being cautious to recruit the right person. *Meeting as AEs to discuss recruitment and which of them could reach out to a recruit. *Taking names from AEs who are transitioning off to see who they might know who could fill their position. *encouraging new AEs coming aboard to head up special collections	
2.1.3 IOB blog & social media	Details - We host blogs as documents on LinkedIn and as blogs on iobopen.com and both have had an increase in readership. *Up to 155 impressions per post within hours on IOB papers on LinkedIn*	
	We have monthly journal author talk ICB and IOB and SICBers to raise awareness about the journal as well. Suzanne went to a local author's lab, Adrian Smith , and filmed several segments she posted as he is heavily engaged in social media and teaches about its use at NC State. We are gradually incorporating book reviews from The University of Chicago Press and Princeton University press to raise awareness of our journal amongst not only the book's authors but the followers of those two presses.	
2.1.4 Professional development	Details - EIC and M.E. attend online OUP meetings on academic publishing We held an author session for questions and pitching concepts for SABER authors.	

2.1.5 Best student paper	● initiated a best student paper award. This will both draw attention to the journal and reward a young investigator for their work.	
2.2 Growth areas		
2.2.1 Citations	Issue and data	Solutions (in progress)
Clarivate changed formula to calculate Impact Factor (IF)	●	● focus on publishing high-quality, relevant research ● Ensure with OUP that articles are discoverable through optimized keywords ● Continue to promote content actively on academic platforms and social media ● Build strong author networks (like we are with SABER) through collaborations and special issues. (AES will be organizing more special issues when they come aboard)
3 Service to community		
3.1 Strengths		
3.1.1 Support early-career authors	Issue and data	Solution (implemented)
	● Students having more journals in a similar price range to choose from	● Best Student paper award and promotion of this awardee %30 discount for those with SICB membership still stands

		*having events for the Journal booth at SICB that introduce the student population to IOB *SVP booth last year and this year * Botany booth last year at the botany meeting
3.2 Growth areas		
3.2.1 Professional development	Issue and data	Solution (planned)
	● Staying abreast of AI changes in publishing	● our editorial office subscribes to an ongoing AI newsletter, these articles are shared with AEs and the AE team as encouraged to subscribe. Suzanne took an AI tutorial Kyle from OUP is presenting on AI in publishing to the AE team

Appendix 3. SICB EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS - 2025

12.A. Program Officer's Report

Janet Steven, Program Officer
PO-elect, Matt McHenry

The 2025 Annual Meeting in Atlanta was very well attended and included over 2000 presentations, 25 workshops, and a full day of talks on the 7th, including posters. The meeting was entirely in-person with no virtual components, and that approach seems to be what our members are most likely to engage in.

The 2026 meeting has 1850 scheduled presentations, which is good given this year's budget cuts and uncertainty. The Executive Officers and Program Committee have sought ways to continue our support of students and protect our members across the country. The Program Committee also had the opportunity to work with an abstract organization portal designed by Program Officer-Elect Matt McHenry, which made the fall programming meeting go smoothly. We are excited to bring you an engaging program full of great science and networking. We have twelve symposia that will introduce and synthesize new topics in organismal biology, and plenary speakers and workshops that will get attendees thinking about teaching, careers, and emerging fields. The funding for divisional socials has also increased this year, and will support networking and engagement.

As I end my term as Program Officer, I want to say THANK YOU to everyone who works together to make the meeting happen! Divisional leadership, the Program Committee, Executive Officers, and many willing volunteers serve as session chairs, workshop leaders, event organizers, and Best Student Presentation Judges. All of the details that I don't even know need to be done magically happen thanks to the staff of Burk Inc. And SICB wouldn't be the society it is without our members and attendees, who bring positive, collegial energy and excellent science to our meeting!

12.B. Secretary's Report

Marianne Porter, Secretary
Vanessa Hilliard, Secretary-Elect

The 2025 SICB Spring Elections were open for one month, from May 8 to June 8, 2024. A total of 171 votes for Society-wide offices were submitted during the 2024 elections, representing less than 10% of the membership eligible to vote. In addition to office elections, several divisions voted on a series of amendments to the divisional bylaws.

All bylaws amendments passed with 100% of votes cast in favor of the proposed amendments. SICB Constitution and Bylaws amendments were also passed with 100% approval. These changes clearly distinguish the Executive Officers, which meet weekly and have fiduciary responsibility to the society, from the Executive Committee, which often meets twice a year and has responsibility to represent the divisional scientific interests and members. I want to acknowledge all of the society-wide and divisional nominating committees and all the candidates who volunteered to run for elected positions.

In addition to elections, the SICB Secretary builds the Spring and Fall newsletters. Newsletters are comprehensive collections documenting the history of SICB and they include minimally 27 separate contributions from Executive Officers, Committee Chairs, and each SICB Division. Practically, the newsletters require the work of well over 100 SICB members. I want to acknowledge the efforts of all the Divisional Leadership, Committee Chairs, and Officers to make the newsletters a rich record of SICB history.

Finally, the SICB Secretary has been overseeing the BSP Competitions during the annual meeting. Recent efforts have streamlined the rubrics and developed a best practices document for judges. I want to acknowledge the efforts of all the divisional chairs and secretaries for running their competitions, and the divisional judges for evaluating the presentations. Finally, congratulations to all the students who won awards during the 2025 meeting. Award winners are recorded on the SICB webpage.

12.C. Treasurer's Report
Brian Tsukimura, Treasurer
Nicole Danos, Treasurer-Elect
Treasurer's Report, FY2024

12.D. Communication Editor's Report
Molly Jacobs, Communication Editor

12.E. President-Elect's Report
Rick Blob, President-Elect

As President-elect this past year I took part in several expected and unexpected activities. A primary responsibility was identifying volunteers for the wide range of committee positions that open each year as members complete terms or move into new roles. It was heartening to interact with so many members willing to put their effort into serving SICB in these ways. Additional expected roles included joining Strategic Plan

development and BIO-LEAPs training, and liaising between SICB committees and journals and the Executive Officer group. Unexpected activities included challenging situations. The impact of recent federal policy changes on the operation of scientific societies and participation of our members required determining steps that would allow SICB to best sustain our activities without putting members at risk of punitive actions. This included work with EOs and Committees to adjust features of our programs and web presence to continue effectively communicating the central goals of Society efforts in the current societal landscape. But other new developments included exciting opportunities. I participated in discussions with other scientific societies as part of a formation of the Scientific Societies Working Group, and individually with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, in efforts to identify areas where our groups could work together to advance common goals. New efforts working with the Development Committee (e.g. President's Reception) are also underway. With the strong support our membership has continued to show through their service and other generosity, I remain confident that we can maintain and grow SICB through the new challenges we are facing.

12.F. President's Report

Michele Nishiguchi, President

During my first year as President I was focused on how federal funding was affected by many of the changes that occurred with the new administration, which had directly impacted SICB with our BIO-LEAPS SICBEDU grant being cancelled in March. Fortunately, UCOP (University of California office of the President) legal was able to appeal many of these cancellations that occurred throughout the UC system, including some of the BIO-LEAPS SICBEDU grant that was funded. We were successful in obtaining some of the funding from our proposal, and are continuing our training this year with a full day leadership training workshop for our executive committee members. It is my hope that the tools we create from our training in Portland will then trickle down to each of the Divisions, where planning how our society will move forward in the next five to ten years will develop. I have also been involved in trainings through my position as one of the NSF Biological Integration Institute Directors (INSITE), including creating and maintaining a creative and inclusive workspace and hope to build that type of collaborative environment throughout our society. SICB is becoming a predominant leader in scientific organizations, and I hope that we can provide more opportunities for our next generation of SICB scholars to be involved in decision making as well as guiding them through the challenges that scientists face today. Finally, working with Skype a Scientist's executive director Sarah McAnulty, we have been partnering with local Portland artists for them to attend our annual meeting. They will be attending both oral and poster presentations during the entire week to obtain ideas for an artist's rendition of the science presented at the meetings. These works of art will be published

in our organization's journal, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, as a collaborative work between scientists and artists, bridging our relationship between the community where we hold our regular meetings, and to promote science education in a meaningful and creative avenue. I am excited to see what the final pieces of art will be, and look forward to hosting events such as this at our annual meeting.

12.G. Past President's Report
L. Patricia Hernandez, Past President

This last year, we put the finishing touches on our 5-year strategic plan, including more specific action items, and we will be unfurling said plan at this year's conference. Importantly, based on the recommendations of many longtime SICB members we will be including the following preamble to the strategic plan:

"The mission of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) is to foster 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.

SICB's overarching goal is to advance and strengthen our scientific work. High quality, creative, innovative, and bold scientific approaches have been the underpinnings of SICB's success, and have kept SICB scientists at the forefront of their fields. They are also the reason so many new disciplines have emerged through SICB, and through the collaborative opportunities and positive energy that are part of SICB.

During our 2024-2025 strategic planning process, we identified opportunities for SICB to take action to enhance its central mission and goals. Our first two strategic goals focus on SICB's enduring strength: its members. SICB has long been known for its excellence at helping early career scientists build their careers, and our first goal focuses on mentoring, particularly of early career scientists. This goal is critical to the future of SICB because it builds the pipeline into our society. SICB also has a longtime commitment to making sure our society encourages and fosters participation by a broad array of scientists, regardless of background, discipline or career stages. This mixture of experiences and perspectives enhances our society and strengthens our work. In our second goal SICB is focused on continuing our firm commitment to and investment in this work.

Our second two strategic goals focus broadly on the financial stability, scientific reputation, and growth of our society. SICB is financially stable, and in our third goal we commit to remaining so by diversifying our financial strategies, improving resource management, and investing in our journals. Finally, SICB has always been on the cutting edge of its scientific disciplines because of its integrative nature. Our last goal is focused on maintaining this scientific edge by investing in member retention and strategic growth in rising disciplines, and by elevating the profile of our scientific disciplines through growth and promotion of SICB's journals."

During our Fall planning meeting, executive officers worked together to drill down and assign discrete tactics to each of our broad objectives. We now have our first action items that will help guide us through the first year of this 5-year strategic plan.

Please see our detailed plan here:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BF8uzC8ckruMpFWeYvzVmuUlgtdj685fpT8eJljhxho/edit?gid=1328452747#gid=1328452747

The first dashboard tab shows an overview of all our bold steps.
The next four tabs drill down into each of our four Bold Steps.

You will notice that all specific tactics are assigned BOTH an "Owner" and "Liaison". The Owner is tasked with accomplishing the task (with the help of their division or committee) and the Liaison is the point of contact on the Executive Officer team who can help guide these efforts. The Past President will oversee the entirety of the Strategic Plan, assuring its continued success.

Going forward we will be using our annual Fall Planning meeting to assess our progress from the previous year and come up with next steps for the following year. It is our hope that this is a process that will continue in perpetuity as we strive to become a stronger and more supportive scientific society.

Appendix 4. STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS - 2025

13.1 Advisory Committee Report

L. Patricia Hernandez, Chair

NOTE: Committee meets during annual meeting

13.2. Education Council

Veronica Martinez Acosta, Chair

Members: Veronica Martinez Acosta (chair – Ed Council, DNNSB/DEDB), Amanda Chicoli (DNNSB/DAB/DEE), Haley O'Brien (DEE/DPCB/DVM), Alexandra Hansen (DCB/DNNSB), Bill Ryerson (DCB/DVM/DAB), Dara Orbach (DVM/DAB/DCB/DEE), Sara Lindsay (DIZ/DEE/DNNSB/DPCB), Stephen Ferguson (DCE/DAB/DNNSB), Dianne Baker (DCE/DCPB), Cindy Harley (DAB/DCPB/DIZ/DNNSB), Greg Pask (DAB/DNNSB), Rick Blob (president elect)

- The aim of the **John A. Moore Lecture** series is to invite a nationally recognized speaker who can provide our members with a new perspective on science education and communication. The Moore Lecturer for the 2026 SICB meeting is **Dr. Jenifer Momsen**. Jeni Momsen is exemplary as both a science educator and communicator. Dr. Momsen is a nationally recognized expert in the field of discipline-based education research. Her research goals are to gain a better understanding of the process of student learning to improve understanding of complex biological processes and systems. Much of her research has focused on how to best help students understand and develop 'systems-level' thinking. As biologists, we have developed a suite of skills that enable us to reason about complex systems. While we intuitively understand the importance of this ability to integrate information to understand complex systems, there is limited knowledge of how students best develop these skills to reason about complex systems. She will deliver a timely lecture titled, **'*Using Systems and Systems Thinking to Unify Biology Education.*'** We look forward to welcoming her insight. Moore Lecture - Oregon 201 – Wed., Jan. 7th at 3:00pm.
- The **M. Patricia Morse Award** is an annual honor given to a SICB member at any career stage for significant achievement in science education. This year's winner is **Dr. Greg Pask** (Middlebury College). Dr. Pask is an Associate Professor of Biology. He is enthusiastic about making biology approachable for learners. Greg has leveraged his enthusiasm for science education to create an engaging and inclusive classroom, as well as doing scientific outreach in both the local community and broader audiences. As one nominator writes, Greg *"... never misses an opportunity to share science with anyone who will listen and finds ways to instill this genuine appreciation for biology (especially insects) in every student. His commitment to fostering curiosity and an authentic love of learning is evident throughout everything he does at the college, both in the classroom as well as in the larger Vermont community."* Dr. Pask has also been an active member of the SICB community and has offered service to the communities he works within. We look forward to the "Experiences in Science Education" article Dr. Pask

will contribute as either a part of our Spring Newsletter or as an upcoming ICB manuscript.

- **Tues., Jan 6th – 7pm** - The Educational Council also selected a **TAL-X Workshop** for the 2026 meeting. **Aramati Casper (Colorado State Univ)** was selected as our presenter for the Teaching and Learning X (TAL-X) workshop, *"From 'completely erasure' to 'there is a place for us here': Teaching accurate and socially just sex-related biology content."* This interactive workshop will explore the experience of trans, non-binary, gender non-conforming, and intersex students with sex-related content in biology through case study activities. A variety of inclusive teaching practices from across the field of biological sciences will be discussed and the educational and science communication theory that supports them. Participants will have an opportunity to work together to develop inclusive and biologically accurate pedagogies for sex-related topics. And as always, there will be desserts! With a mix of healthier snacks this year. **Come and participate in our TAL-X workshop in Oregon 202!**
- **Teaching Table Topics at the SICB Ed Council booth** are back! Schedule of Topics:
  - o **Saturday, January 3** – Booths Open/Set Up
  - o **Sunday, January 4 (morning)** - 'BEARR and Teaching Workshops' – Bill Ryerson/SICB Ed Council Members
  - o **Sunday, January 4 (afternoon)** – 'AI in Education' – Haley O'Brien/Dara Orbach/Bill Ryerson/Lisa Whitenack
  - o **Monday, January 5** – SABER/Jaime Jensen – '*Let's Talk About Biology Education Research and SABER, the National society that supports it.'*
  - o **Tuesday, January 6 (morning)** – 'BEARR and Teaching Workshops' – Bill Ryerson/SICB Ed Council Members
  - o **Tuesday, January 6 (afternoon)** – 'So you want to write a textbook?' – Bill Ryerson/Lisa Whitenack

- Most of the Educational Council's work in 2025/26 was focused on the launch of the **B**iology **E**ducation, **A**ssessment, & **R**esearch **R**esources (BEARR). We are ready to receive your submissions – providing resources for review and ultimately publication on the SICB Ed Council webpages: https://sicb.org/bearr-resource-submission-form/

- **Note:** We continue to maintain the database of online teaching resources to support SICB members and the database of online guest lecturers that was started by Eric Tytell.

NEW BUSINESS

- New business for Ed Council in 2026 includes meeting with Jaime Jenson, President of Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER) to determine how best SABER and SICB Ed Council could support each other. SABER will offer an Ed Council 'Table Topic' at the 2026 SICB meeting so SICB members can get to know the SABER community better.
- Please note, Ed Council will offer open discussion topics at the Ed Council booth during morning coffee breaks and poster sessions. Stop by and get to know your Ed Council Members!

- We want to also offer a big welcome to **Dr. Bill Ryerson** as the incoming Education Council Chair (**2026-2029**)!
- **SEEKING MULTIPLE Ed Council Reps** – Need 2-3 to rotate on in 2026 – Nominate someone from your division today! Send an email to Chair.EdCouncil@sicb.org or President.Elect@sicb.org

13.3. Membership Committee

Jake Socha, Chair
Members: Bob Cox, Thorston Larson, Jenna Pruett, Marianne Porter, Vanessa Young

The Membership Committee considers matters relating to the recruitment of new members and the procedures and policies of membership in the Society. The committee reviews the credentials of nominees for honorary membership and makes recommendations for approval/denial to the Executive Committee.

In February of 2025, Jake Socha took over as chair from Kim Hoke, who completed her term on February 15, 2025. Kim had expressed desires of increasing the activity levels of the committee, which was also reflected in communications with Past President Patricia Hernandez. Follow-up discussions with President-Elect Rick Blob revealed a desire by the society to restore balance to membership levels.

Specifically, the issue is that the number of full members attending the annual meeting has been steadily declining. Student numbers, on the other hand, are robust and continue to rise. Although the latter trend is both intrinsically positive and a reflection of SICB's strong and continuing commitment to early-career scientists, senior members are a key component of membership for multiple reasons. In practical terms, full members pay larger membership and registration fees, and these funds help subsidize lower costs for early-career members.

The committee has been charged with coming up with new ideas that will help to reverse the trend with full members. The committee will be discussing this topic at their January 5th meeting at the annual conference, and continue onward during the remainder of 2026. Important to this task is trying to figure out what the root causes of the decline are, which could help to guide the committee's recommendations.

13.4. Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Committee

Christine Lattin, Chair

SPDAC (Student-Postdoctoral Affairs Committee) consists of faculty member Chair Christine Lattin (who began her term in January 2024) and Student-Postdoc Representatives from each of the 12 divisions. Current members are listed here; terms are ending after the 2026 meeting for Student-Postdoc Reps for **DEDB (Evolutionary Developmental Biology), DIZ (Invertebrate Zoology)** and **DPCB (Phylogenetics & Comparative Biology).**

The committee held monthly Zoom meetings over the past year, and received a $5000 budget from the SICB Executive Committee to support its efforts (increased over last year's $2000 budget).

The top priority of the committee in 2025 was preparing for the January 2026 meeting in Portland, OR. The following SPDAC events are planned:

- **Saturday 3 January 2026 - Student & First Timers' Orientation -** This session helps train students who support the sessions in exchange for Charlotte Mangum funding, and is mandatory for these recipients. It also covers how to get the most out of a SICB meeting. Will Ballentine (DIZ) and David Chang van Oordt (DEDE) will lead this orientation.
- **Saturday 3 January 2026 - General SPDAC Member Meeting -** This meeting will be immediately after the orientation, and is new for 2026. We decided to schedule a general members' meeting after several students and postdocs asked us about this at the 2025 meeting. Jessie Karr (DCPB) and Sam Lane (DCE) will lead this meeting, providing information about who SPDAC is, what we do, and how to get involved with SPDAC at the meeting and beyond. We will also provide a link to a survey for students and postdocs about what social media and communications tools they use, and how they would like to hear from us. The meeting will close with a Q&A session.
- **Sunday 4 January - Workshop: Non-academic Scientific Careers -** Scientific expertise and skills are essential in a wide range of careers above and beyond academia, but students and postdocs don't always know what other non-academic options exist. This lunch workshop, organized by Grace Zhong (DAB) and Will Ballentine (DIZ) will feature ~3 minute lightning talks from Portland-area professionals in government, industry, and non-profit scientific careers, followed by a Q&A panel moderated by Grace Zhong (DAB). Refreshments will be available "first come first serve". Planned speakers are:
    - **Chris Marshall** - Arthropod Curator, Oregon State Arthropod Museum
    - **Dylan Parker** - R&D Scientist, Arbor Assays
    - **Shayle Matsuda** - Research Biologist, Shedd Aquarium
    - **Molly Jacobs** - Vice President for Environmental Education and Outreach, Manomet Conservation Sciences
- **Saturday 3 January - Wednesday 7 January - SPDAC Booth (**during SICB Poster Sessions, 3:30-5:30 pm, and intermittent other times) - Organized by Amy Streets (DNNSB) and Melody Young (DCB), the SPDAC booth will offer candy and the prize-winning SPDAC stickers from 2026 and 2025 designed by SICB student/postdoc members. SPDAC Reps and/or the Chair will be available during all poster sessions at the booth for conversations and discussions around student/postdoc life and all things SICB. We are also collecting anonymous information about social media and communications use via survey, and will have an informational poster available designed by Emily McParland (DVM). New this year, we will also have "themed days" with special guest stars to address specific topics

    - **Jan 4: Non-academic jobs** - in partnership with non-academic scientists from the panel and others who will be present at the meeting
    - **Jan 5: PUI day** - in partnership with the PUI working group
    - **Jan 6: Applying for grad school / CV workshop**
    - **Jan 7: Applying for postdocs / CV workshop**

Several other SPDAC initiatives took place this year as well:

- **Several "Special Guest Stars" from the SICB Executive Committee attended SPDAC meetings in 2025**, including Program Officer Janet Steven, Secretary Marianne Porter, President-Elect Rick Blob, and Past-President Patricia Hernandez. Additionally, **SPDAC members Will Ballentine (DIZ) and Morgan Muell (DEE) attended an Executive Committee meeting in December**. This "cross-talk" between SPDAC and the EC has increased communication between trainees and senior SICB leadership, which was one of the major goals of the 2024 SPDAC Strategic Plan.
- Amy Streets (DNNSB) and Melody Young (DCB) organized the second-annual **SPDAC sticker design contest** that received 13 entries from SICB student and postdoc members. SPDAC Reps and the Chair voted and selected three prize-winning designs from **Eliyah Stern** (first place, $100), **Hanna Chow** (second place, $50), and **Rebecca Beneroff and Ryan Fisk** (third place, $50). The stickers were printed and will be available at the SPDAC booth in Portland, along with last year's winning designs.
- Over the past year, Morgan Muell (DEE) worked with Jessie Karr (DCPB), Amy Streets (DNNSB), Chair Christine Lattin and the EC **to finalize standardized recommendations for how to run mentoring programs** where faculty meet with student and postdoc trainees. These recommendations are available & will be used by Student-Postdoc reps using information from early bird registration **to make mentoring programs available for all divisions at the 2026 Annual Meeting**. SPDAC also created a set of recommendations for mentors and mentees on how to have a successful mentoring meeting.
    - One complication is that we wanted folks to select ONE DIVISION for mentoring, but the registration form was not set up this way and folks were able to select multiple divisions. This made our job harder and should be fixed next year!
- Tony Zhou (DPCB), and Chair Christine Lattin made several edits to the SPDAC website to update content and remove outdated information.

SPDAC social media coordinator Emily McParland (DVM) and SPDAC Chair Christine Lattin have mostly been using our new Bluesky account (@sicb-spdac.bsky.social), email, and newsletters and have moved away from using Twitter (@SICB_SPDAC) and the SPDAC Facebook account to publicize SPDAC events and initiatives. We also have a new Linkedin account. We are curious to see the results of our meeting survey to see if there are other social media platforms or ways students and postdocs want to hear from SICB.

13.5. Student Support Committee
Rachel Cohen, Chair

Last year, we received 85 grant applications between the Grant-in-Aid of Research (GIAR) and the Fellowship for Graduate Student Travel (FGST). After review, there was enough funding for the top 32 applications, totaling $38,007. 22% of the funded grants were allocated to the FGST and 78% were allocated to the GIAR. We have also included a breakdown of the grants awarded by divisional affiliations:

Division	% of total awards
DAB	16%
DCB	3%
DCE	13%
DCPB	3%
DEDB	3%
DEDE	9%
DEE	31%
DNNSB	10%
DPCB	6%
DVM	6%

This year, we received 104 grant applications for the GIAR and FGST awards. The committee is actively reviewing them at this time and will be making recommendations for funding the top grants in January.

13.6. Public Affairs Committee
Phoebe Edwards, Chair
Members: Robert Podolsky, Nicholai Hensley, Lynn Martin, Austin Garner, Victoria Farrar, Jordan Glass

In 2025, the PAC added two new members, Victoria Farrar and Jordan Glass, and Austin Garner has agreed to extend his term. We have held zoom meetings over the last few months with the main goals of planning the PAC workshop for the SICB 2026 annual meeting in Portland and establishing the next group of student journalists for 2026.

2026 PAC Workshop: Multi-Media Science Communication
Monday, Jan 5th, 2026, 12:15-1:15 PM
This workshop features panelists with expertise in a variety of types of science communication: podcasters, popular science writers, journalists, and short form video creators. Panelists will discuss how they got started in their form of science communication, their experiences, and things they wish they had known when they started. We will have an audience Q&A and interaction with the experts.

The experts listed below have agreed to participate in the workshop. We were able to draw on our SICB membership, and all panelists are existing SICB members/meeting attendees, with the exception of Virginia Gewin who is a science journalist local to Portland.

- Sonke Johnsen, book author
- Lynn Martin and Cameron Ghalambor, podcast co-hosts
- Brooke Fitzwater, Youtube and social media creator
- Virginia Gewin, science journalist

2026 PAC Student Journalism Program

Each year, students are able to apply to write journalism pieces at the annual meeting as a job for their Charlotte Mangum Student Support. The PAC selects 4-6 of the applicants for the student journalism program, and the rest of the applicants (usually ~10) work with Suzanne Miller on the ICB blog, which also qualifies as a job for Charlotte Mangum. At the annual meeting, we meet as a group twice. The journalists select three possible talks or posters that they would like to cover for their piece, and pitch them to the group at the second meeting (Jan 7th). PAC gives feedback and helps choose a presentation to cover; the journalists reach out to the presenting author for an interview and writeup, and PAC edits before pieces are published on the SICB website (usually around April). This year, we had 14 applicants, which is the same number of applicants as last year. A mix of undergraduate and graduate students applied to the program. The applicants who were selected for 2026 are listed below, and all have confirmed participation in the program.

- Megan Forcellati, Richard Gilder Graduate School, PhD student
- Jacob Johnson, UC Davis, PhD student
- Momin Ahmed, Iowa State University, PhD student
- Roxanne Armfield, Yale University, PhD student
- Katie Griffen, Georgia Institute of Technology, undergraduate student

13.7. Development Committee

Terry Dial, Chair

No 2025 report

13.8. Broadening Participation Committee

Susan Williams, Chair

2025 Annual Meeting Highlights

- Through the generous donation of The Gans Collections and Charitable Fund, the Broadening Participation Committee was able to provide 30 individuals with $500 a Broadening Participation Professional Development Awards to support their attendance at the annual meeting in Atlanta, GA (Jan 3-8, 2025). An additional 10 individuals also received $500 Broadening Participation Professional Development Awards from the BP budget.
- The BPC workshop “Strategies for disrupting division” was presented by Dr. Tanisha King, who led us in activities to develop our skills for immediately responding to divisive comments and behaviors and acts of discrimination. In addition to the high level of

engagement of workshop attendees, the openness of the participants and the teaching and mentoring that occurred, often led by the early career scientists in the room, made this a successful event.
- We had a very large turnout for the Broadening Participation Social, which was co-sponsored by the NSF BIO-LEAPS grant “Strengthening Inclusion by Change in Building Equity, Diversity and Understanding (SICBEDU) in Integrative Biology” (DBI-#2335235). During the event we recognize the 40 winners of the BP Professional development funds and the 3 winners of the DEIJ Service Awards.
- BPC also hosted the BP Meet and Greet to open the meeting.

BP Planning and Committee Work

- BP participated in a review of the SICB websites and other documents to revise DEIJ terminology on SICB websites. These changes enable SICB members, particularly those on BPC, to fully and safely participate in and support BP activities in the current climate.
- We reviewed 169 applications for the Professional Development Awards to support attendance at the 2026 annual meeting. We are pleased to support 30 individuals through this program each with $500 towards their attendance. These awards are partially funded by a generous donation from the Gans Collections and Charitable Fund Inc., a foundation established by renowned vertebrate morphologist and functional anatomist, Carl Gans.
- We reviewed 10 applications for the SICB Leadership Award and selected the following 3 awardees for 2026, each receiving $500:
    - Isabella Changsut, PhD Student in the Department of Biology at Texas State University. Isabella is recognized for her local impact and advocacy resulting in the creation of accessible, community-centered outreach programs that introduce girls—especially Latinas—to STEM through immersive, no-cost marine science activities.
    - Dr. Luis Hernandez-Nunez, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Stanford University. Dr. Hernandez-Nunez is recognized for his national and global efforts to support equitable access to STEM training.
    - Dr. Andrea Liebl, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of South Dakota. Dr. Liebl is recognized for her unwavering support of gender equity in STEM through impactful mentoring, gender-equity advocacy through scholarship, teaching, and practice.

2026 Annual Meeting - Upcoming events

- On January 5 (12:15-1:15 PM), we will have the BP Workshop, which will be a panel discussion called **Holding Space: A Panel on Change and Community for LGBTQ+ Academics** organized in collaboration with Outgroup, led by Shayle Matsuda, PhD.
- The BP Social will also be held on January 5 (6:30-8:00 PM) and is by invite only. Recipients of the SICB Leadership and BP Professional Development Awards are invited to attend to meet the committee and society leadership. They will also be formally recognized at this event.

13.9. Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUI) Action Group

Eric Gangloff, Jenny Uehling, and Jen Houtz, Chair

In 2025, Jenn Houtz, Jenny Uehling, and Eric Gangloff became the PUI Action Group Co-Chairs, replacing outgoing chair Jerry Husak. We also started a Blue Sky account: @sicb-pui.bsky.social.

The PUI Action Group hosted a number of events at SICB 2025 in Atlanta:

- The informational booth in the poster hall offered a place to connect with fellow faculty at PUIs, as well as graduate students and postdocs interested in a career at a PUI.
- Our interactive poster focused on how principal investigators can maintain robust research programs at undergraduate-focused institutions.
- Our breakfast social was attended by 35 people, where participants could meet new people, talk with old friends, and build community.
- We offered two different mentoring villages, including one for PUI-curious graduate students and postdocs to learn about PUI careers and one for pre-tenure PUI faculty to receive advice about the tenure process at a PUI. We had a ratio of 2:1 mentees to mentors for each village and discussed topics such as application components for PUI faculty jobs, teaching vs. research expectations, and variation in faculty responsibilities across PUI institutions.

Members of the PUI Action Group, lead by Liz Addis and Jerry Husak, organized and published an article about successfully conducting research at PUIs:

> Addis, EA, CM Bauer, RM Belanger, MW Butler, DC Collar, F Finseth, MD Gall, EJ Gangloff, MA Johnson, SE Lynn, JA Monroy, EM Paig-Tran, GM Pask, TK Solomon-Lane, ZR Stahlschmidt, NL Staub, JT Thompson, JF Husak. 2025. Conducting impactful research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions. *Integrative and Comparative Biology* 65: 187-197. doi: 10.1093/icb/icaf101

The PUI Action Group is planning a number of events at SICB 2026 in Portland:

- PUI Action Group booth at all poster sessions
- PUI Day at the Student Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) booth - Monday, January 5, 2026, 3:30-5:30pm
    - Representatives from the PUI Action Group will be at the booth during the poster session to offer a place to connect with fellow faculty at PUIs.
- PUI Breakfast Social - Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 7:00-8:30am
- Mentoring village for PUI-curious grad students/post-docs - Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 10:00-11:00am
- Mentoring village for untenured PUI faculty - Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 2:30-3:30pm

Appendix 5. SICB DIVISION REPORTS - 2025

14.1. DAB - Division of Animal Behavior

Suzy Renn, Divisional Chair, Chair.DAB@sicb.org;
Stephanie Campos Divisional Program Officer, DPO.DAB@sicb.org;
Caitlin Gabor, Divisional Secretary**,** Secretary.DAB@sicb.org;
Grace Zhong Student Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Elections

In 2025, DAB held an election for Program Officer that was won by **Jordanna Sprayberry** (Stony Brook University). Michael Reichert also stood for election for this office. Jordanna's term will begin 4 weeks after the second executive committee meeting in 2026. The 2025 Election Nominating Committee was Roslyn Dakin, Lara LaDage, Christopher Clark.

Devaleena S. Pradhan (Idaho State Univ.) was appointed Divisional Secretary to begin February 2026 to fill in for Caitlin Gabor who was elected to the Society Secretary position. Her term will begin in March after Caitlin concludes the work from SICB 2026. In 2026 DAB will be electing a Division Secretary-elect to fill this position for 3 years including one year as elect.

Best Student Talk Competition

We have selected 8 finalists, from a pool of 9 entrants, for the DAB Marlene Zuk BSP Award. The finalists will be presenting in a special session at SICB this year.

In addition, 27 students are competing in the Elizabeth Adkins-Regan DAB Best Student Poster competition this year.

Charlotte Mangum Extended Support

We are pleased to share that our prior DAB President, Avery Russell, has worked out a process, using DAB funds, to provide Additional Mangum Support for DAB students and postdocs attending SICB. This support is specifically intended for students and postdocs who have exhausted their initial Mangum funds but still require assistance in order to participate in the meeting. For the 2026 annual meeting DAB received 21 applications for this extended support and awarded 5 travel grants totaling $1570.

2026 Annual Meeting

DAB had 228 abstract submissions, including 112 talks spread across complementary sessions and concurrent talk sessions and 116 posters over three poster sessions.

DAB is also sponsoring or co-sponsoring 6 symposia at the 2026 meeting

(1) Animal collective movement in complex environments
(2) Behavioral and environmental monitoring with open-source, low-cost tools.
(3) Disabled and neurodivergent perception, community, and identity in the biosciences
(4) Spotlighting the role of behavior in a rapidly changing world
(5) Inverts at the interface: locomotion, sensing, and behavior between air and water
(6) Hormones at sea: New frontiers in marine mammal endocrinology and ecophysiology

Breaking with the tradition of a joint social with DCE and DNNB, at the 2006 annual meeting the DAB social will be joint with DEE, DPCB, and DOB in a new “coffee break” format.

Regional Meetings Supported

Southwest Organismal Biologists (SWOB): Saturday November 8th, 2025, University of California Riverside, Riverside CA, USA.

14.2. DOB - Division of Botany

Cody Coyotee Howard, DOB Chair

Leadership

Chair: Cody Coyotee Howard
Chair-Elect: Stephanie Crofts
Program Officer: Morgan Furze
Program Officer-Elect: Bryan MacNeill
Secretary: Aleca Borsuk
Student-Postdoc Representative: Ogonna Eli

Elections

In 2025, we held elections for Secretary, Program Officer-Elect, and Chair-Elect. Aleca Borsuk (NYBG) was elected Secretary, Bryan MacNeill (Cornell) Program Officer-Elect, and Stephanie Crofts (College of the Holy Cross) to Chair-Elect.

Best Student Presentations

We had 15 BSPs in during the 2025 meeting in Atlanta, GA. The winner for best presentation was Andrew Egesa with a talk titled, “Environmental impacts and adaptations on *Uniola paniculata* L, an ecologically important species.” The winner for best poster was Danica Belman with a poster titled, “Size selectivity in aquatic carnivorous plants: expanding predator-prey models to plant predation.”

For the 2026 meeting, we have three BSPs, which is down from last year. But there are a lot of plant-related presentations and posters during the meeting so we look forward to meeting all presenters!

14.3. DCB - Division of Comparative Biomechanics

Misty Paig-Tran, DCB Chair

Leadership

Chair: Misty Paig Tran
Chair-Elect: Jake Socha
Secretary: Cassandra M. Donatelli
Program Officer: Glenna Clifton
SPDAC rep: Melody Young

Elections

In 2025, we held an election for the DCB Program Officer and Secretary. Cassandra Donatelli (UW Tacoma) won the election for DPO and Karly Cohen (UW Friday Harbor Laboratories) for Secretary. Both will take over their respective positions after the 2026 SICB conference in Portland. The 2025 Election Nominating Committee was Monica Daley, Eric Tytell, and Craig McGowan, and we thank them for their efforts on this process.

In 2026, we will run an election for one position, DCB Chair Elect. The electee position will begin following the 2027 SICB meeting in Pittsburgh, PA.

Best Student Talk Competition

The winner of the 2025 Mimi A. R. Koehl and Stephen A. Wainwright Award for the Best Student Talk in Biomechanics was Olivia Walthus whose talk was titled: “The allometry of cutting efficiency in *Atta cephalotes* leaf-cutter ants.” The winner of the 2025 Stephen Vogel Award for Best Student Poster in Biomechanics was Heiko Kabutz for “The control of shape during laterally confined locomotion of Araneae, *Hogna carolinensis*.”

For the 2026 meeting, We received 7 applicants for best student talks and 2 applicants for best student posters. This is a reduction from last year’s numbers (2025 meeting: 16 best talk submissions and 3 poster submissions). 6 talks were selected for the DCB BSP talk session and 2 for best student posters. Students will present in Portland and the winners will be announced at the DCB business meeting.

2026 Annual Meeting

DCB has organized (or co-organized) 127 talks and 76 posters. We are also sponsoring or co-sponsoring six symposia at the 2026 meeting

- **S02**: Dinosaurs to drones: Comparative approaches to understanding flight
- **S05**: Animals at the interface: locomotion, sensing, and behavior between air and water
- **S06**: Behavioral and environmental monitoring with open-source and low-cost tools.

- **S07**: Animal collective movement in complex environments
- **S10**: Needle in the haystack: Finding tools to study puncture and injection mechanisms across biology
- **S12**: Disabled and neurodivergent perception, community, and identity in the biosciences

Regional Meetings Supported
Please see the Fall Newsletter for more details about each of these meetings

- Northeast Regional DVM/DCB Meeting: November 22th, 2025, Rhode Island College. Providence RI, USA
- Southeast Regional SICB meeting: October 25, Clemson University. Clemson SC, USA
- Southwest Organismal Biologists (SWOB): Saturday November 8th, 2025, University of California Riverside, Riverside CA, USA.
- Comparative Cartilage & Bone Biology (CCBB): June 10–13, 2025, Observatoire Océanologique de Banyuls-sur-Mer, France

Gans Awards
The winner of the 2026 Carl Gans Young Investigator Award was Dr. Armita Manafzadeh. The Manafzadeh Lab will open its doors at the School of Biological Sciences at Georgia Tech in August 2026! Dr. Manafzadeh and her team will continue to investigate the joints that hold our skeletons together. She combines high-speed X-ray imaging with comparative anatomy to uncover how joints move and evolve across vertebrates. Her work bridges biomechanics, evolution, and development to explain the remarkable diversity of motion in animals.
We would like to thank the Gans Award committee: Talia Moore, David Labonte, and Kory Evans for their thorough review of the candidates.

The significant contribution category was not awarded this year.

We are planning to slightly update the award description on the website. In the section discussing letters of recommendation, after the sentence “If a candidate for either of these awards is nominated, the nominator must arrange for these same materials to be submitted, except that the three letters of support should consist of one nominating letter and two additional letters of recommendation.” we plan to add “For the significant contribution award, we encourage letter writers to focus their letter of support to highlight why the contribution is transformative to the field of comparative biomechanics.”

Thanks to the SICB Executive team! We look forward to seeing you all in Portland.

14.4. DCE - Division of Comparative Endocrinology

Current DCE officers:
Chair (01/2024 – 02/2026) – Jamie Cornelius
Chair-Elect (01/2024 – 02/2026) – Ignacio Moore

Chair-Elect-Elect (01/2025 – 02/2027) – Maren Vitousek
Program Officer (01/2024 – 02/2027) – Britt Heidinger
Program Officer Elect (01/2026 – 02/2027) – Creagh Breuner
Secretary (01/2025 – 02/2027) – Ryan Paitz
Secretary Elect (01/2026 – 02/2027) – Carolyn Bauer
Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative (01/2025 – 02/2027) – Sam Lane
Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative Elect (01/2027 – 02/2029) - TBD

Updates on DCE activities:

- Eighteen students are scheduled to participate in Best Student Presentation competitions (8 in the Gorbman Award for Best Student Talk and 10 in the Riddiford Award for Best Student Poster).

- DCE members are presenting 49 talks and posters at the 2026 meeting. We are co-sponsoring 6 symposia at the meeting.

- We are co-hosting a joint social with DCPB and DEDE on January 5th. We are also hosting a joint mentoring event with DCPB that is replacing our normal “Lunch with a Comparative Endocrinologist” program this year. The mentoring event is titled “Meeting with a Physiologist”, and we had 47 mentees and 30 mentors sign up to participate.

- Sam Lane (grad student/postdoc representative) continues to be active on our social media accounts, creating a new DCE account on Bluesky, (@sicb-dce.bsky.social) moving us away from Twitter/X, though we still maintain both accounts. We currently have over 50 followers on bluesky and Sam has been working to grow this number with planned “Meet a Scientist” events featuring DCE members.

- DCE elected three new officers this summer. Maren Vitousek will become Chair-Elect, Creagh Breuner will become Program Officer Elect and Carolyn Bauer will become Secretary-Elect in 2026.

- Our current DCE Program Officer, Britt Heidinger, will become the SICB Executive Program Officer Elect in 2026. We will be addressing that transition at our DCE business meeting.

- Jamie Cornelius will be completing her term as Chair in 2026, but will continue to work with Arbor Assays on the collaborative effort with DCE/SICB to build an endocrine training network.

- Arbor Assays continues as a commercial sponsor, renewing their $5,000 support to the DCE fund that supports the Bern Lecture and social, and providing an additional $3,000 in drink tickets for the social. Arbor reps will be present at the non-academic career workshop for SPDAC, where we will also discuss the motivation behind the endocrine training network and ask early career researchers to complete a survey to better understand their needs and interests towards that end.

- DCE and DCPB leadership have met throughout the year to continue the merger process. We will hold a joint social and business meeting at the 2026 meeting and will work towards our new Division of Physiology (DPHYS) bylaws and merger transition plan for a planned final vote in spring.

- DCE is excited to announce that our Bern Lecturer in Portland 2026 will be Dr. Cathy Marler. The lecture will be held on the evening of January 5th.

14.5. DCPB - Division of Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry

Jason Podrabsky, DCPB Chair

Leadership
Chair: Jason Podrabsky
Chair-Elect: Wendy Hood
Secretary: Kate Wilsterman
Program Officer: Danielle Levesque
SPDAC rep: Jessie Karr

Elections
We elected Lisa Treidel into the position of Secretary starting in February 2026.

In 2026, we will be running elections for a new chair-elect and program officers.

Best Student Talk Competition
The winner of the 2025 Best Student poster in Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry was Stefane Saruhashi from Cornell University whose poster was titled: “How do frozen crickets maintain mitochondrial function?” We awarded an honorable mention to Mary Gabrielle from Davidson College for her poster “Gene expression changes reveal ground squirrels shift metabolic fuel usage prior to hibernation”, for which the research was completed at Colorado State University.

The winner of the 2025 Best Student Talk in Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry was Emily Lau from University of Chicago for her talk titled: “Repeated evolutionary recruitment of dehalogenases in luminous brittle stars and octocorals”.

For the 2026 meeting, We received 9 applicants for best student talks and chose 8 for the competition. We had 5 applicants for best student posters. All were accepted for their selected competitions.

2026 Annual Meeting

DCPB is sponsoring or co-sponsoring six symposia at the 2026 meeting:

- The evolutionary consequences of life cycle complexity
- Sex across origins: Questioning animal-centric assumptions and developing integrative frameworks
- Animal collective movement in complex environments
- Needle in the haystack: Finding tools to study puncture and injection mechanisms in parasites
- Hormones at sea: New frontiers in marine mammal endocrinology and ecophysiology
- Disabled and neurodivergent perception, community, and identity in the biosciences

George A Bartholomew Award

The winner of the 2026 George A Bartholomew Award is Dr. Michael Moore from the University of Colorado - Denver. We have made recommendations to update the award description on the website to make the award easier to review and to bring the language up to speed with the current political climate.

14.6. DEDB - Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology

Prashant Sharma, DEDB Chair (Jan 2024 - Jan 2026)

Prashant Sharma, DEDB Chair (Jan 2024 - Jan 2026)
Chair-Elect: Kimberley Cooper (Jan 2026 - Jan 2028)
Program Officer: Dave Plachetski (Jan 2025 - Jan 2028)
Secretary: vacant
Acting Secretary: Allison Edgar (Jan 2025-August 2025)
Secretary Elect: Austen Barnett (Jan 2027 - Jan 2029)
Student and Postdoctoral Committee (SPDAC) Representative: Sydney Birch (Jan 2023 - Jan 2026)

In mid-2025, DEDB held an election for Secretary. The winner of the election was Austen Barnett, who will take over the position in early 2027. After the 2026 annual meeting, Kimberley Cooper will be taking over as Chair of DEDB.

Due to illness, Heather Bruce was unable to step into the Secretary role. The previous Secretary (Allison Edgar) and Secretary-Elect (Austen Barnett) stepped in during 2025 to complete some of these duties. After completing his term as Chair, Prashant Sharma will help with the Acting Secretary role.

At the 2025 meeting, DEDB officially named our Best Student Presentation competition after Billie Swalla, in recognition of her research and service contributions. We revised our bylaws to formally name our award after Billie Swalla. The Division held two competitions. Our Best Student Presentation (oral) award winner in January 2025 was Hana Nagata (oral presentation: “The evolution of insect metamorphosis: A study on the heterochronic role of the gene, chinmo”) and Natalia Padillo-Anthemides (poster presentation: “A putative ctenophore neurogenesis GRN from scRNAseq timecourse”).

The DEDB leadership convened to discuss two initiates in early 2026: the establishment of an application-based DEDB student research fund for supporting the establishment of new model systems and the establishment of a postdoctoral best presentation award.

Symposia supported by DEDB in 2025 were:

1. Cities as a natural experiment: how organisms are finding different solutions to the same urban problems
2. Organismal Systems Biology
3. Pollinator-plant interactions in a changing landscape: embracing integrative approaches across scales
4. Integrative Organismal Biology at HBCUs: Highlighting the effectiveness of HBCUs in training the next generation of organismal biologists
5. Cnidarian sensory systems as comparative models for the evolution of complexity
6. Microbes matter: Phenotypic effects of microbiota on wild animal hosts
7. Energetics, sexual selection and ecological innovation
8. Identifying the physiological mechanisms that underlie phenotypic responses to rapid environmental change

Symposia supported by DEDB in 2026 are:

1. Integrating integration: How cellular mechanisms of trait covariation shape evolutionary patterns of phenotypic integration
2. Sex across origins: Questioning animal-centric assumptions and developing integrative frameworks
3. Disabled and neurodivergent perception, community, and identity in the biosciences
4. Holobionts across phylogeny
5. The evolutionary consequences of metamorphosis in metazoans

14.7. DEDE - Division of Ecoimmunology and Disease Ecology

Lauren Fuess, DEDE Chair (Jan 2024-Jan 2026)

- We elected a new Secretary-Elect (Jennifer Houtz) and Program Officer-Elect (Molly Simonis)
- Our Chair, Lauren Fuess, is wrapping up her term and we thank her for her service. She will continue for one year in the role of Past Chair
- Beginning in 2026, Cynthia Downs will serve as Divisional Chair

- In 2026, we will hold elections for Chair-Elect.
- Also in 2026 we will seek nominees for Social Media Rep
- We offer a big thanks to Tosha Kelly for serving as the DEDE representative and assistant editor for Integrative and Comparative Biology since 2023; also thanks to Daniel Becker for serving as assistant editor since 2023.
- At the 2025 meeting, we awarded the Lochmiller Awards (DEDE Young Investigator Award) to Drs. Erin Sauer and Jennifer Houtz
- 2026 Annual Meeting:
    - DEDE is co-sponsoring four symposia for the 2026 meeting:
        - **S05: Animals at the interface: locomotion, sensing, and behavior between air and water (Jan 5th)** Chris Roh, Margaret Byron
        - **S07: Animal collective movement in complex environments (Jan 6th)** Yangfan Zhang, Hungtang Ko
        - **S09: Spotlighting the role of behavior in a rapidly changing world (Jan 6th)** Organizers: Kimberly Sheldon, Martha Munoz, Elizabeth Derryberry
        - **S10: Needle in the haystack: Finding tools to study puncture and injection mechanisms across biology (Jan 7th)** Abby Weber, Patrick Wilson, Philip Anderson
    - Three students will participate in our BSP talk competition this year, presented during concurrent sessions (all 3 talks presented first in this single session).
        - **Session 44: Microbiomes, Parasites, and Host Immunity (Includes BSP)**
            - Managing risk with gut resilience in house sparrows - Kailey McCain
            - Impact of gut microbiome modulation on nestling house sparrow physiology - Kristen Rosamond
            - High protein diet increases susceptibility of Desert Locust- Syeda Mehreen Tahir
        - Nine posters for BSP are distributed across P2 (Monday) and P3 (Tuesday).
    - We are sponsoring 3 concurrent sessions with a total of 39 oral presentations and 28 poster presentations.
    - We will announce our 2026 Lochmiller award winner(s) at the 2026 meeting.
    - We are participating in SPDAC's centralized mentorship program in lieu of our traditional "Meet an EcoImmunologist/Disease Ecologist" program.
    - Our Annual Business Meeting will be held on Sunday January 4th at 5:45 pm

    - We will hold a joint social with DCE and DPCB following the Bern lecture on Monday January 5th at 8:30pm
- Future Symposia: DEDE will sponsor four symposia for 2027. Note the budget provided by SICB to the divisions has increased to $2000 (was $1000).
    - Feedback between host phenotypes and the microbiome: Physiological mechanisms and behavioral outcomes
    - Using evolution and development to predict phenotypic response to climate change
    - From diapause to torpor: Integrative approaches to understanding periods of low metabolic activity across taxa
    - Lost and Found: How Animals Rebuild Bodies, Brains and Behaviors

14.8. DEE - Division of Ecology & Evolution

Christian Cox, DEE Chair

Leadership

Chair: Christian Cox (2025-2027)

Secretary: Ariel Kahrl (2025-2027)

Program Officer: Kristi Montooth (2025-2027)

Program Officer-Elect: Andrea Rummel (2026-2028)

SPDAC Rep: Morgan Muell (2023-2026)

Elections

Sarah Diamond was elected as Chair-Elect.

Alexander Gunderson was elected as Secretary-Elect.

We are assembling a nominating committee to identify candidates for the Program Officer Elect position.

Raymond B. Huey Best Student Presentation Competition

2025 Raymond B. Huey Best Student Awards:

Best oral presentation winner: Isabella Burger, “Climate vulnerability is driven by physiological diversity in woodland salamanders”.

Best poster presentation winner: Rachel Bockrath, “Shrinking sparrows: How climate change impacts avian morphology and fitness”.
We have selected eight finalists for the Raymond B. Huey Best Student Oral Presentation Competition and ten finalists for the Raymond B. Huey Best Student Poster Presentation Competition for the SICB Annual Meeting in 2026.

Meeting of the Minds

The student mentoring activity was rebranded from “Beer and Brains” to “Meeting of the Minds” in order to be inclusive of those that do not drink beer at the 2025 annual meeting. This was a well-attended event, with around 100 mentees and 25 mentors. We will be holding another iteration of “Meeting of the Minds” for the 2026 annual meeting, following a similar format as the 2025 meeting.

2026 Annual Meeting

DEE is represented with over 366 presentations at the 2026 Annual meeting, with 203 talks and 138 posters. Dee is sponsoring or co-sponsoring six symposia at this meeting, with 25 presentations in complementary sessions. There will be a joint coffee break social with DEE, DCPB, DAB, and DOB.

14.9. DIZ - Division of Invertebrate Zoology

Robert Podolsky, DIZ Chair

A. Leadership
Chair: Robert Podolsky
Past-chair: Jonathan Allen
Program Officer: Adam Reitzel
Program Officer elect: Mike Nishizaki
Secretary: Kevin Kocot
Student and Postdoctoral Committee (SPDAC) Rep: Will Ballentine
Libbie Hyman Scholarship Committee Chair: Abigail Cahill
Participation Czar: Andy Mahon
Social Media Rep: Anna Klompen

B. Officer timelines

Bob Podolsky is completing his second year as chair. There will be an election for chair in 2026.
Adam Reitzel is completing his final year as DPO. Mike Nishizaki will start as DPO at the conclusion of the 2026 meeting.
Kevin Kocot is completing his first year as Secretary.
Will Ballentine is completing his final year as SPDAC representative. We are actively recruiting for a new rep.
Abby Cahill is ending the second year of her second 3-year term as Hyman Committee chair.

C. 2024 Symposia
Society wide symposia support
"Integrative Organismal Biology at HBCUs: Highlighting the effectiveness of HBCUs in training the next generation of organismal biologists"
"Cnidarian sensory systems as comparative models for the evolution of complexity"
Other symposium support
"Pollinator-plant interactions in a changing landscape: embracing integrative approaches across scales"
"Fleshing it out: recent advances in form, function and motor control of biological hydrostats."

D. Best Student Presentation Results
Mary Rice Best Student Presentation Talk
Winner: Julian Katzke, "Predation and multifunctionality in the macroevolution of ant mandibles"
Runner up: Md Shazid Hasan, "Opsin localization using HCR-FISH in scallop larvae provide new insights into larval photoreception"
Alan Kohn Best Student Presentation Poster
Winner: Katherine Kohn, "Hydrodynamics of larval urchins: ontogenetic changes and tracer influence"
Runner-up: Clara DiVincenzo, "Symbiotic plasticity in a temperate coral is connected to environment, physiology, and genetics"

E. Libbie Hyman Awards (total $10000)
Ahmani Browne, Louisiana State University. Studied interactions between salt marsh periwinkles and grasses at the Florida State University Coastal & Marine Lab.
Morgan Grant, Old Dominion University. Studied swimming behavior in squids at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Eastern Shore Lab.
Leah Kahn, Stanford University. Attended the Marine Invertebrate Zoology Course at Friday Harbor Labs, University of Washington.
Kelly Lumpkin, Georgia Institute of Technology. Studied coral tissue loss disease in the US Virgin Islands.
Cece Nielsen, Everett Community College. Attended the ZooBot quarter at Friday Harbor Labs, University of Washington.

F. Other activities

Mentorship. The division sponsored a second year of its new mentorship program, organized by Kelly Dorgan and Andrew Mahon. For the 2025 meeting the program paired 29 mentees and 24 mentors.
Social media. With Anna Klompen appointed as our representative, DIZ has been ramping up its contribution to the SICB effort being led by Suzanne Miller, to improve the reach of our division through social media. In addition to the existing Twitter/X profile (@SICB_DIZ), Anna started profiles both in Bluesky (@sicb-diz.bsky.social) and Instagram (@sicb_diz) and has been developing a standardized process for submissions.
DIZ Auction. The newly rebranded DIZ auction (formerly the Libbie Hyman auction), which happens every three years, will take place in Portland. We intend for the proceeds to go to re-establishing the Pearse fund in support of students and postdocs.

G. Plans for 2025 Meeting
DIZ is supporting five symposia. We are recruiting a nominating committee and candidates for the position of divisional Chair, with an election to be held next year. We plan to revisit items on our strategic planning document and discuss ideas about future auctions and other fundraising to support the Pearse fund.

14.10. DNNSB - Division of Neurobiology, Neuroethology, and Sensory Biology

Megan Gall, DNNSB Chair

Leadership

Chair: Megan Gall, **Chair-elect (**beginning in 2026)**:** Lorian Schwiekert
Program Officer: Jamie Theobald, **Program Officer-Elect** Rachelle Belanger
Secretary: Dan Speiser
SPDAC Representative: Amy Streets

Election Results and upcoming Leadership Changes

- Lorian Schwiekert (University of North Carolina Wilmington) was elected as our next Chair. Lorian will begin a term as Chair-Elect in the spring of 2026 and will become Program Officer in the spring of 2027, when Megan Gall ends her term.
- Jamie Theobald will be ending his term as Program Officer following the 2026 meeting and Rachelle Belanger, current Program Officer-Elect, will become Program Officer.

Upcoming Elections

- The DNNSB executive committee is actively recruiting candidates for the spring election of a new Secretary-Elect, to begin in the spring of 2027. The Secretary-Elect will become chair in 2028.

2026 Meeting and Other Activities

Best Student Talks / Posters

- We received 22 applicants for best student talks and 22 applicants for the 2026 best student poster presentations. This is a reduction from last year's record high applicant numbers (2025 meeting: 32 best talk submissions and 41 poster submissions). Eight talks were selected for the DNNSB BSP talk session. Students that were not selected for a best talked, were given the option to compete in the best student poster competition.
- At the 2025 meeting we gave a gesture of appreciation (DNNSB stickers and magnets) to members that provide service to our division (e.g. poster and talk judges). We are implementing this at the 2026 meeting as well.
- We also piloted a separate award for best undergraduate and graduate student posters, following the SICB and divisional judging criteria. We thought this worked well and we have amended our byways (passed in the last election) to continue with this program. We hope that this will encourage undergraduates and graduate students to participate in this competition.
- We are piloting a judging panel for the best student talks as well as a lunch for the speakers at the 2026. We hope that having the same 4-5 judges for all the talks will increase consistency in scores across talks. It will also let us rapidly decide on the winner and announce at the divisional social.

Program: Submitted Abstracts and Symposia

- DNNSB has organized (or co-organized) 74 talks across 10 concurrent sessions and 62 posters. This is down from last year, as well.
- DNNSB is cosponsoring four symposia at the 2026 meeting:
    - S05: Animals at the interface: locomotion, sensing, and behavior between air and water
    - S06: Behavioral and environmental monitoring with open-source and low-cost tools
    - S07: Animal collective movement in complex environments
    - S012: Disabled and neurodivergent perception, community, and identity in the biosciences

14.11. DPCB - Division of Phylogenetics & Comparative Biology

Chair: Leigha Lynch
Secretary: Ryan Felice
Secretary elect: Jennifer Hodge
Program Officer: Molly Womack
Student/Postdoc Rep: Zehua (Tony) Zhou

- Officers
    - Election in 2026 for Chair-elect
        - We've generated a nominating committee (David Blackburn, Samantha Price, Haley O'Brien, current DPCB officers)
    - Secretary will transition to Jennifer Hodge
    - Program officer elect Thornton Larson will begin

- Best Student Presentation
    - This year we again had a wonderful number of BSP session submissions, with 18 submissions for talks and 14 for posters. The abstracts were very competitive.
    - Talks: *Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology Best Student Presentation David and Marvalee Wake Award*
        - Sunday January 04, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM, Room: B117
    - Posters: *Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology David and Marvalee Wake Award*
        - Sunday January 04, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM, Room: Exhibit Hall A/A1
    - We had 24 BSP judge volunteers, again an increase in the number of volunteers in previous meetings.

- 5-year strategic planning outcomes.
    - Further facilitate knowledge transfer of cutting-edge phylogenetic comparative methods to the SICB community and beyond, through workshops and online resources
        - Ask an Expert Booth will run during the poster session January 4-6, with four experts each day for one hour each expert session.
    - Support the career development of our early career members, from undergraduate students through to new assistant professors, by developing a strong mentorship program.
        - We are building on the SICB-wide mentorship program, with 12 mentors volunteering under our specific division.
        - We host social events during the meeting coffee breaks, to ensure accessibility for students and mentors.

- Continue to build the active membership of the division and establish a distinct identity within SICB to ensure the long-term survival of the division.
  - § Our special sessions continue to be well attended and this year we're focused on birds.
    - *Division of Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology Chair's Special Session: What Birds Have Taught Us Through Organism-Focused Evolution*
    - Sunday January 04, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM, Room: B117
  - § We are continuing to host the DPCB social in collaboration with DEE, DAB, DOB
    - January 5th, 9:30–10:30 am in A106
  - § Following new guidelines and training in SICB social media, we established a new Bluesky account (@sicb-dpcb.bsky.social)
    - To be managed by the student/postdoc representative
    - Actively looking for content

14.12. DVM - Division of Vertebrate Morphology

Andie Ward, DVM Chair
Chair: Andie Ward
Secretary: Crystal Renaga
Secretary elect: Teri Orr
Program Officer: Marguerite Butler
Student/Postdoc Rep: Emily McParland

Elections

In 2025, we held elections for Chair Elect and Program Officer elect. Casey Holliday was elected Chair-Elect and Kelly Diamond was elected as Program Officer Elect. Both will take over their respective positions in 2027.

A nominating committee will determine candidates for the Secretary-Elect position that will be voted on in Spring 2026.

Awards

The Dwight D. Davis award was presented to Karrine Tennenbaum from Yale University and the Karel Liem poster award was presented to Riley Sombathy and Ada Forester.

Matt Kolman received the DVM Mentoring Award at the 2025 SICB Meeting.

For the Portland meeting, we will be reviewing presentations for 6 talks and 9 posters. We had fewer submissions for the best student presentation competitions and will encourage further submissions next year.

Regional Meetings
DVM provided support for the southeast regional meeting held at Clemson University and the Southwest Regional Meeting held at the University of California Riverside. We also provided support to the Comparative Cartilage and Biology meeting.

2026 SICB Meeting
DVM cosponsored 6 symposia for the 2026 meeting including:

- Integrating integration: How cellular mechanisms of trait covariation shape evolutionary patterns of phenotypic integration
- Disabled and neurodivergent perception, community, and identity in the biosciences
- Dinosaurs to drones: comparative approaches to understanding flight
- Holobionts across phylogeny
- Spotlighting the role of behavior in a rapidly changing world
- The evolutionary consequences of metamorphosis in metazoans

Potential new award: In recognition of the challenging times, the membership will discuss whether to create a new travel award for postdocs to attend the annual meeting by covering their registration.