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ASZ NEWS

letter

Fall 1993

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Message From the President - Peter R. Marler

As detailed in the report by our inspired and accomplished Treasurer, Kathy Packard, on page 2, the Society is beginning to recover its financial stability. This is due to many factors, the most important of which by far is the generosity with which you have continued to support the Society financially and with volunteer assistance during these difficult times. Your loyalty and dedication have held this organization together, and I personally thank you on behalf of the ASZ Executive Committee. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of our partners and management firm, Smith, Bucklin & Associates, for their ongoing support and dedication to the ASZ.

We are looking forward to an exciting meeting in Los Angeles this December, with an excellent scientific program. ASZ also has plans to provide financial assistance to as many students as possible this year. Our Student Support Program is an added benefit, providing further incentive for students to involve themselves in the annual meeting. Apart from the many contributions that derive from their scientific creativity, we can also view this as an investment in the future of the Society. Some members of this student generation are undoubtedly destined for leadership roles in the future.

Many positive changes are taking place with our Society, and this newly combined general and divisional newsletter is one example. We have raised the image of this newsletter and enriched the opportunities for members to further acquaint themselves with the other divisions. Secretary Mary Ann Ottinger has done a superb job working very closely with the divisional secretaries and ASZ Headquarters to make sure that this newsletter exemplifies a professional and positive profile for the Society. Our heartfelt thanks to Mary Ann for her hard work this year. Another excellent change this year is the combining of the ASZ Annual Meeting Conference Program and the abstract issue of the *American Zoologist*. The publication, to be mailed in advance of the meeting, will be the official fifth issue of the *American Zoologist*. This publication will be an essential part of the meeting, providing attendees with access to the conference schedule and corresponding abstracts in one single document. This change has saved the Society considerable expense and is being produced at ASZ Headquarters in collaboration with Program Officer Frank Moore.

I hope that you are all as pleased as I am with the many exciting changes happening to the Society as well as the Society's positive financial picture detailed in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming meeting.

Contents

SOCIETY NEWS	1-11
DAB	12-13
DCE	14-16
DCI	17-18
DCPB	19-20
ODCB	21-23
DE	24-27
DHPB	28-31
OIZ	32-40
DSZ	41-43
DVM	44-47

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Plan Now for the 1993 DAB Best Student Paper Awards

The Division of Animal Behavior offers three different best student paper awards. There may be two Division of Animal Behavior Best Student Paper Awards presented, one for the student making the best oral presentation and one for the student making the best poster presentation. When two awards are presented, each will be \$50 and a certificate. Additionally, the DAB will offer an Adrian M. Wenner Outstanding "Strong Inference" Award of \$100 and a certificate presented for the best oral or poster paper based upon the strong inference approach in experimental design and execution (see Platt, John R. 1964. Strong inference. *Science* 146:347-353. Chamberlin, Thomas Crowder. 1965 [1890]. The method of multiple working hypotheses. *Science* 148:754-759. Wenner, Adrian M. 1989. Concept-centered versus organism-centered biology. *American Zoologist* 29:1179-1199).

To be eligible for the DAB Student Paper Awards, the applicant must be a member of ASZ and the Division of Animal Behavior, and must indicate his or her intention to compete on the transmittal form. Eligible papers must be single-author oral or poster presentations of original research by a graduate student or Ph.D. whose degree was awarded no more than one year prior to the time of the meeting.

The evaluation of oral and poster presentations is based on substance and mechanics. The prudent contestant will study carefully the basis for judging oral papers, given below.

Substance: statement of problem; experimental plan or methodology; analysis of data; interpretation; originality; and significance. **Mechanics:** organization; verbal skills, tempo, clarity, etc.; no distracting behavior; illustrations, legibility; illustrations, essential point, self-contained; illustrations, not too many, nor too few; not too long; handling of questions.

Judges:

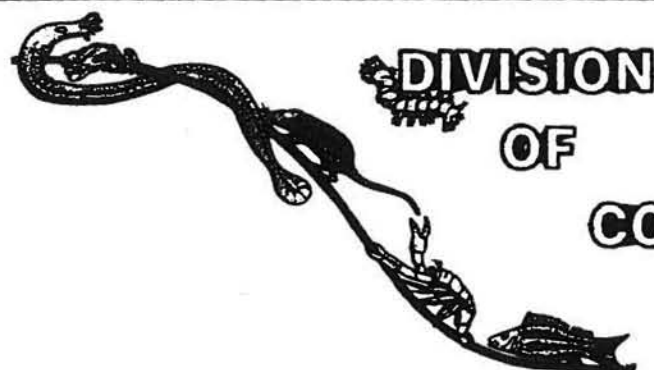
If you are interested in serving as a judge for either oral or poster papers (and if you do not have a student competing for this year's awards), please contact David Duvall, 602/543-6021.

Students Please Note:

A housing award may help you to attend an ASZ meeting. ASZ has a limited number of grants and complimentary hotel rooms to award to students who are presenting papers. Please ask the ASZ Headquarters at 312/527-6697 for further information.

1993 DAB Election

A ballot for the 1993 DAB election is enclosed for those whose primary divisional affiliation is DAB. The newly elected Secretary will serve 1 January 1994, through 31 December 1996 (a three-year term). The DAB Nominations Committee (Neil Ford, Zuleyma Tang-Martinez and David Duvall) has nominated Anna E. Ross to run against a write-in blank.



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Message From the Chair - *Paul Licht*

The forthcoming meeting of our division in Los Angeles promises to be an interesting one with a well rounded symposium on arctic endocrinology. Attendance at the symposium and our regular sessions is obviously critical to the health and future of our division and I urge all of you to attend (regular and student members) even if you have not prepared a formal presentation or poster.

Our full membership in ASZ remains robust, with about 430 primary members thus far and 800 (including those with some interest) in our division. The statistics indicate that we are still going strong and we can start building for the future. In this regard, I would like to lead some discussion at our business meeting concerning the number of papers and posters being presented and a way to return to more full faculty participation.

Remember that all members (regular and student) are both welcome and strongly encouraged to attend our business meeting in Los Angeles.

Message From the Program Officer

- *Michael C. Moore*

I have just finished arranging the program for the Los Angeles meeting. There are diverse and exciting oral and poster presentations scheduled, including many papers on reproductive and metabolic endocrinology of both vertebrates and invertebrates. In addition, the division is sponsoring a full day symposium on arctic endocrinology with 11 invited speakers and associated poster session. For the next meeting in St. Louis, plans for a symposium on Hormones, Parasites and Behavior are progressing

well. We must be thinking about symposia for the following meeting to be held in Washington, D.C. As of yet, no one has contacted me about a topic. Organizing a symposium is a rewarding way to contribute to the society and to the future of comparative endocrinology and integrative biology in general. Quality symposia focusing on integrative topics of broad interest are an important part of what makes an ASZ meeting valuable. If you think you might like to organize a

symposium at the Washington meeting, please contact me. It is especially important to contact me early, because I will not attend the Los Angeles meeting. I have instead accepted an invitation to the World Herpetology Congress being held at the same time in Australia. You can contact me at: Michael C. Moore, Department of Zoology, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-1501. Tel. 602/965-4266; Fax. 602/965-2519; Email: aomcm@asuacad.bitnet.

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Message From the Chair - Tim P. Yoshino

Last spring (divisional newsletter, Vol. 16, No. 1; April 1993), I discussed our critical need to assess the future of our division in the ASZ, and to decide whether to continue our ASZ affiliation or to reorganize outside of the ASZ. At that time, divisional members were surveyed to determine how they felt about the ASZ as a forum for comparative immunology and to what extent we wished to continue to support the division within the Society. As discussed in the newsletter, although opinions reflected a spectrum of views, the general "sense" was that affiliation of our division within the ASZ, for most of us, was not adequately serving our needs. Furthermore, the lack of membership support was making it difficult to organize quality symposia, attract new members and encourage student participation. Following a very successful comparative immunology mini-symposium on the "Evolution of Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms of Immunity" at this year's American Association of Immunologists meeting in Denver (21-25 May), I met with a group of division members (and a few past-members) to discuss our current organization and future options. After much discussion, there was again a general consensus that the ASZ was no longer serving as a viable forum for the division. A lack of interest in supporting ASZ as a primary or even secondary meeting, the pressure and rigidity of organizing quality symposia each year with a dwindling membership and decreasing funds, disappointing attendance at most symposia (despite multi-division co-sponsorships), the time of year and expense of meetings, and the perception that students/postdocs are not being exposed to relevant audiences were cited as primary reasons. Concerns raised in favor of staying with ASZ included a lack of suitable alternative forums at which students could present their research, and the need to have an acceptable alternate plan in place to avoid loss of an organized comparative immunology group in the United States. It was felt that most of our needs and concerns could be met by alignment of the division with other established immunological organizations. Also, it was pointed out that former division members could still retain their ASZ memberships and be assimilated into other divisions closely aligned with their research areas. This latter option would be a mechanism for maintaining the disciplinary crossfertilization some feel may be lost as a result of our division's departure from ASZ.

The Denver meeting resulted in a subsequent balloting of the entire divisional membership in which each member was asked to respond to a question regarding the continued association of the division with the ASZ. At the time of this writing, Tom Koppenheffer, division Secretary, had received 32 responses out of 57 ballots sent (56% return). Of the 32 responses, 28 voted to transfer comparative immunology out of the ASZ (88%), three voted to retain affiliation with the ASZ and one had no opinion. We will continue to collect ballots through the next week, but currently feel there is a strong "trend" towards a future reorientation of our division.

The immediate implication of this vote is that Los Angeles may be the last meeting of our group as a formal ASZ division. However, since the above vote is not a final tally, I am still working under the assumption that our division will continue to be associated with the ASZ for the foreseeable future. With that in mind, I am making plans for being in Los Angeles in December, seeing my colleagues old and new, meeting students and hearing the latest on the research front. I hope that you will all join me there!

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Message From the Chair - Linda H. Mantel

As you can see, I have relocated to the scenic northwest, where I am Dean of Faculty and Professor of Biology at Reed College. This move does put me in closer contact with Los Angeles, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. A committee consisting of Warren Burggren, Ross Ellington, Ray Huey and Lynn Riddiford has chosen the first winner of the George A. Bartholomew Award, Dr. Barbara Block. She will give a special presentation and receive the award at the meeting in Los Angeles. Further details will be available at the meeting, and we hope you will attend this special event. Our journal survey received approximately 35 replies. Preliminary results have been tabulated, but if any of you still have your blue sheet from the Spring newsletter and would like to reply, please do so by 1 November. I will present a summary of the results at the business meeting.

One item of international business we will wish to consider at the meeting is the selection of a successor to Michele Wheatly to serve as our representative to IUPS. This is a good position for a mid-career person to learn how the field functions in a broader context. If you have any suggestions for a nominee to take office as of 1 January 1994, please contact me or Lou Burnett. Also on the international front, Malcolm Gordon is now our representative to the Interunion Commission on Comparative Physiology, which includes representatives from IUBS, IUPS and IUPAB. He will report on this groups activities at the meeting. Finally, I have just heard that Ann Kammer died at the end of August after a long illness. She was one of the mainstays of this division in my early years as a physiologist. I ask that you think about suitable ways of honoring her and let me know what you have in mind. See you soon.

Message From the Program Officer - William B. Stickle

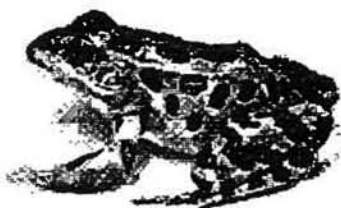
One hundred and thirty abstracts were submitted for the Los Angeles meeting; 54 were submitted for oral presentations, 64 for posters, and 12 for either presentation medium. In addition, the DCPB will sponsor two symposia; "Invertebrate Neuromuscular Organization: Peripheral Contributions to Variability" organized by R.A. Satterlie, and "Life with Sulfide" organized by A.J. Arp and C. Fisher. The DCPB will co-sponsor two symposia at this meeting; "Physiology and Adaptation of Crayfish" (organized by

B.R. McMahon and M.E. Fingerman) with the Division of Invertebrate Zoology and the Crustacean Society, and "Acoustic Communication in Anurans and Insects" (organized by J.A. Doherty and H.C. Gerhardt) with the Division of Animal Behavior. The DCPB will sponsor or co-sponsor two symposia at the January 1995 meeting in St. Louis; "Molecular Approaches to Zoology and Evolution: A Short Course" (organized by Joan Ferraris) and "The Biology and Physiology of Zebra Mussels (*Dreissena*

polymorpha) which will be organized by R.F. McMahon and J. L. Ram. Let's show up in record numbers to support these symposia and the altered meetings dates!

Two other upcoming meetings of note are the joint meeting with the American Physiological Society to be held in Tuscon, Arizona, in the Fall of 1994 and the 4th International IUBS International Congress of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry to be held in Birmingham, England, from 6-11 August 1995.

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Message From the Chair - Jo Ann Cameron

Dear colleagues,

We are eagerly anticipating the 1993 Los Angeles meeting. I am pleased to encourage you to attend the integrative symposia that we are co-sponsoring with two other divisions: "The Role of Cell-Cell Interactions and Environmental Stimuli in the Development of Marine Invertebrates" co-sponsored with the Division of Invertebrate Zoology; and "Evolutionary Morphology of Marine Invertebrate Larvae and Juveniles," co-sponsored with the Division of Systematic Zoology. The first symposium is organized by Fraser Shilling from the University of Connecticut in Farmington, and the second symposium is co-organized by Richard Emlet from the University of Southern California and Edward Rupert from Clemson University. I would like to thank the organizers for their efforts. I am sure these symposia will attract successful participation from diverse disciplines.

A very modest number of abstracts for presentations in our division has been received. I encourage all members, interested colleagues and students, especially those from the Los Angeles area, to consider participating in the meeting and making presentations, even if you have not submitted your abstracts for publication.

Please plan to attend the division business meeting and bring your opinions, concerns and ideas with respect to the division and to the Society in general. If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to express a concern or idea, please call or write to me. I am more than willing to bring the topic to our divisional meeting or the Executive Committee meeting. I direct your attention to the general newsletter for possible items of interest from the other divisions. Don't forget to vote for candidates for our division offices of Chair-Elect and Program Officer (see enclosed ballot).

I am pleased with our divisional efforts to recruit new ASZ members this past year, and I am looking forward to speaking with both the long-standing members and the new members in attendance at the Los Angeles meeting in December.

Best Student Paper Award

The division will sponsor a prize for the best paper presented by a student at the 1993 ASZ Annual Meeting. In addition to a certificate, the prize carries with it a monetary award of \$100. Students who have not yet been awarded their Ph.D.'s are eligible, as are new Ph.D.'s who have received their degrees no more than 12 months prior to the Annual Meeting and are presenting a paper on their graduate work. The work must be original and carried out principally by the student.

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Message From the Chair - Richard Grosberg

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of the membership, along with the astute planning and analysis (not to mention boundless enthusiasm) of the Treasurer Kathy Packard and the staff, ASZ is once again on solid financial ground. The good news means we can focus our attention on the future of the Society, rather than impending doom and bailouts. In the very immediate future, I ask you to cast your vote and return the enclosed ballot, so that the Division of Ecology can elect a new Chair and Secretary. And I urge you to attend the divisional business meeting in Los Angeles so that officers can hear first-hand your concern and suggestions for how we might change the mission and governance of ASZ.

By now, most of you also know that the news has not been good: Ralph Smith died earlier this year, leaving us all an unparalleled legacy of the joys and scholarship of an extraordinary invertebrate zoologist and natural historian. For me, Ralph will always be sitting in the front row of every talk I have ever given (and will ever give), eyes closed, impishly honing the one question that will open my eyes. I look forward to seeing all of you this December in Los Angeles.

News of Interest

Biodiversity from 1986 to the 21st Century: Inaugural Symposium of the Consortium for Systematics and Biodiversity, 18-19 November 1993, The Ripley Center, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Consortium members and co-sponsors are: Agricultural Research Service, USDA; Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History; University of Maryland at College Park; Maryland Biotechnology Institute; and American Type Culture Collection. The application of systematics, ecology, and evolution to biodiversity assessment will be a primary emphasis for the Consortium. Consortium members have agreed to cooperate in developing and enhancing research and training programs and facilities for systematics and biodiversity. Registration fee of \$10 may be sent to the Office of the Dean, College of Life Sciences, Symons Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; Tel. 301/405-2071; Fax. 301/314-9949. Information about the symposium may be obtained from: Marjorie Reaka-Kudla, Department of Zoology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; Tel. 301/405-6944.

Estuarine Research Federation will hold its 12th international conference 14-18 November 1993, at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Benthic Meetings: The 1994 meetings are tentatively scheduled for 18-20 March in Connecticut, with co-sponsorship by the University of Connecticut Avery Point Campus and Williams College Maritime Program at Mystic Seaport.

Estuarine and Marine Shallow Water Habitats Conference in the Mid-Atlantic Region: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 15-18 March 1994, at Absecon, New Jersey. Management and research on: defining shallow water habitat; functions and values of shallow water habitats; impacts and assessments in shallow water habitats; and management practices for shallow water habitats. For information contact: Ralph Spagnolo, Environmental Scientist, Wetlands Protection Section, U.S. EPA Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, PA, 19107; Tel. 215/597-3642; Fax. 215/597-7906.

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Message From the Chair - Charles E. Dinsmore

Zoologists, being such hearty beasts, seem to be weathering the recent and unfortunate financial drought and should be able to regenerate their population to a healthy and stable core during the next few years. When the history of the epoch appears (and I expect an archivist from our division to be taking notes now for that study!), analogies with overspecialization and dependence may arise. Precedents will be rediscovered and once more we will appreciate the value of studying history to avoid repeating its mistakes... and it will be our responsibility to keep the lessons from the experience alive for succeeding generations.

Permit me to suggest a possible mechanism for achieving that goal. Institutional memory should not be the burden of the elders alone. Our Society, through the Division of History and Philosophy of Biology, has a unique structure by which it can justifiably examine its own history for the lessons resident in that history; data from those studies might become essential reading for the Executive Committee and its staff. Also, the two volumes on the history of American Biology, edited by Benson, Maienschein and Rainger for our centennial, as well as a couple of papers that appeared at about the same time in the *American Zoologist*, provide insights into the early workings of our Society. Comparable and continuing examinations of its more recent history would seem warranted.

Let me now add an observation on pedagogy, and suggest that in the not too distant future the division organize a symposium and workshops on the use of history and philosophy of biology in all aspects of zoology teaching.

Diatribes follow: Are we really too busy to take the time and make the effort to reveal to our students (and rediscover for ourselves) how science arises from all our all-too-human endeavors? Biology is an unapologetically historical science; nothing in the structure and function of organisms makes sense except in the light of their evolutionary histories. How, then, can we expect our students to understand, truly to comprehend the richness and beauty of our current knowledge about living nature other than through a dialog illuminated by discussion of the evolution of that knowledge base? We have all, to a greater or lesser extent, embellished lectures with anecdotes about "the late and great." I would challenge the Division of History and Philosophy of Biology to initiate a continuing project on the use of history in teaching biology. This may entail creating a database of curricular outlines and course materials, for example, documenting successful classroom experiences in that domain. The History of Science Society may offer guidance here. Access by members of the ASZ and their students would constitute the immediate goal. Networking the database through communications systems to anyone having an interest in these issues would constitute the ultimate goal. Fortunately, this issue is one of the many areas of interest and expertise of our Chair-Elect, John Jungck, and I would urge anyone with a burning desire to help coordinate a program in this domain to contact him for a bit of brainstorming.

As an adjunct and in the interest of encouraging colleagues in all of the divisions to share their experiences relative to the use of history and philosophy in their zoology curricula, may I propose the following. It may be generally useful for several reasons to have the Chairs of each of the other divisions identify (or accept offers from) an individual or individuals in

(continued on page 28)

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Message From the Chair - Jim Carlton

In this issue of the DIZ Newsletter, we're asking DIZ members to take a few moments and consider a number of current and upcoming activities. All indications are that the DIZ-sponsored symposia, contributed papers and other invert-activities will be well-attended in the upcoming Los Angeles meeting. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

- Please vote for the Chair-Elect and Program Officer of the division: The too-short half-life of the Chair's job being what it is, the Chair-Elect is nominated and voted for surprisingly soon after the new Chair is passed the peraeopod-shaped gavel (if there were such a gavel). We have four superb candidates for these two positions, all of whom have been involved in ASZ and DIZ activities over the years. My thanks to the Nominating Committee (Betsy Brown Chair, Rachel Merz and Sally Woodin) for their fine efforts.
- I am pleased to announce that Dr. Ladd Johnson, a Post-Doctoral student in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of California, Santa Barbara, has agreed to serve as Graduate/Post-Doctoral Student Representative for 1994-1996, and will serve as interim Representative until then. We look forward to working with Ladd on issues of concern to Graduate and Post-Doctoral students.
- Notice that we are proposing a revision to the division bylaws. It has come to our attention that the DIZ guidelines for the Best Student Paper awards do not allow the dissertation research of a recent Ph.D. to be considered. This is at odds with the guidelines of all other ASZ divisions, and requires a change in our Bylaws. Please read the proposed change, and be prepared to discuss and vote on this issue at the DIZ business meeting in Los Angeles.
- Please announce the Libbie Hyman Memorial Scholarship to your students: This is an important and prestigious award in a "larval" biologist's career. This fall we plan upon increasing awareness of the award through Email and possibly through poster distribution. It is my great pleasure to extend the Society's and the division's thanks to former DIZ-Chair Joe Simon for his superb efforts and many long hours as Chair of the LHMS Committee; Joe has stepped down as Chair of the Committee this year, and Claudia Mills has accepted the Chairship. Special thanks, too, to Joe's committee, Bob Higgins and Judy Winston, for their hard work. Please advise your students to write to Claudia (who is assembling her new committee) for LHMS information and application forms. Also in this issue we are excerpting a letter to Joe Simon from Jennifer Frick, our 1993 scholarship winner, which underscores the kind of impact that this award can have.
- We are pleased to welcome an increasing association with our invertebrate colleagues in the American Microscopical Society, and note with excitement the advent of the "new" journal, *Invertebrate Biology*. In this issue Ron Dimock, AMS President (and ASZ/DIZ member) and Vicki Pearse outline some of the new developments in AMS. We have been talking with Ron and other AMS members about increasing collaboration between our division and the AMS, and towards this end we have jointly scheduled an AMS/DIZ bonding social at the Los Angeles meeting on Tuesday, 28 December, at the pre-dinner hour of 5:30-7:00 p.m. In particular, we can play a strong and proactive role in supporting AMS's efforts by rallying to both Ron and Vicki's call for broad support from DIZ — which I am confident they can expect. AMS's offer for their re-named journal to be published in collaboration with DIZ is a particularly exciting development, about which I will say more at our division meeting in Los Angeles.

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Message From the Chair - *Marvalee H. Wake*

The wonderful loyalty of the membership of the American Society of Zoologists is already facilitating its longevity. However, the Division of Systematic Zoology has its own set of problems and challenges, and it must focus its attention upon its future at our divisional business meeting at the Society's Annual Meeting in Los Angeles this December. The division, too, has a loyal constituency, not just in its primary membership, and we must get together to determine the goals of the division. I have talked with many people in the last year about what the division is, and what it should/might be. Opinions range from conceding that there is no need for a Division of Systematic Zoology, since other divisions are interested in featuring sections of contributed papers on systematics, to a determination that a division is essential, so that real emphasis on systematics as a progressive and dynamic discipline is advanced in the society, so that systematics is not made the "hand-maiden" of other parts of biology.

My own opinion involves both pragmatic and philosophical considerations. I believe that we have a clear role to play in advancing the perspective of systematics, and introducing our colleagues to the role it might play in their science. However, we cannot do this effectively without sufficient personnel to mount good symposia, contributed paper sessions, and poster sessions if we are to provide a focused orientation on systematics. I consider that we should provide that emphasis both within the Society, and extending from it, if we are to be an entity. To facilitate such goals, if we chose to continue our role, I have taken some steps. The modifications of the Bylaws, sent to you in the Spring newsletter and reprinted herein, are suggestions to provide better continuity of leadership of our division. In addition, I have been working to have the division have more of a visible role in other efforts. I have been in touch with the leadership of Systematics Agenda 2000, to try to have the division made one of the several co-sponsors of the effort, and especially to define a clear role for its participation in this important effort. Further, I also chair the United States National Committee for the International Union of Biological Sciences, which has adopted a program called "Diversitas" as its theme for the next decade. IUBS is especially involved in the part of the program that emphasizes monitoring and inventorying biodiversity. I have been emphasizing the need for a clear understanding of the role and participation of systematics and systematists in such efforts. I believe that the membership of the division has a great potential to contribute to such efforts, as it seeks to define its own mission and expertise.

We must have a directed, open and wide-ranging discussion of what the division can do effectively, as it chooses to rebuild, or as it decides to direct the efforts of its membership to the emphasis of systematics within the preview of other divisions. My own concern is that if we are to mount effective sessions, we need to recruit more explicit person-power. We can do it, but the task should not be left to a few dedicated individuals. We have a splendid set of candidates standing for election as Chair of the division in Rich O'Grady and Lynne Parenti. I am especially delighted that our able Secretary, Stan Rice, is willing to be considered for election to a second term. Our responsible and energetic Program Officer, Peter Wainwright, will serve for another year.

I hope that members of the Division of Systematic Zoology, and those of other divisions who share our concerns, will join us at our business meeting in Los Angeles to determine the future of this division. We must decide either to rehabilitate ourselves in a positive and proactive way, or to decide to dissolve the division. We cannot imperil our perspective on biology by letting it slide into oblivion.



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Message From the Chair - James Hanken

I would like to use the few column-inches allotted to me in this newsletter to promote two aspects of our annual meetings, both upcoming (Los Angeles) and farther down the line. First, I want to invite all students who give either oral contributed papers or posters in DVM sessions to participate in our student prize competitions. DVM awards two prizes: the D. Dwight Davis Award for the best oral paper, and a comparable award for the best poster (descriptions of each award are contained in the advance registration materials for the Los Angeles meeting). Both prizes have real substance to them, i.e., cash. Each includes \$100, an award certificate, and "an appropriate gift," which again this year will be \$100 worth of books published and generously donated by the University of Chicago Press (thank you, Susan Abrams). However, in addition to providing the chance to take home an award, each competition offers all participants equally if not more valuable feedback regarding their research and how it was presented. One of the jobs of the divisional chair is to appoint judges for the prize competitions, and I will be asking this year's panel to provide each student with a brief written summary of the judges' evaluation of each paper or poster—what aspects worked, and what aspects might need improvement. I encourage anyone who has comments about our student prize competitions, and especially suggestions regarding how it might be improved, to get in touch with me. Also, if there are any students who are planning to present a paper or poster in Los Angeles and who, for whatever reason, did not ask to be considered for a prize but would like to be, please contact me right away and I will try to have your name added to the appropriate list.

The second aspect of our annual meetings that I want to highlight is divisional symposia. I especially want to urge every member of DVM to consider organizing a symposium for a future meeting. Our division has maintained for many years a string of informative, enjoyable, and well-attended symposia, but our streak will continue only if we continue to receive good proposals from members willing to carry them to fruition. The ongoing need for symposia was a dominant theme at last year's divisional chair's meeting in Vancouver, but even more obvious was the preference for symposia that address broad themes in comparative and integrative biology, rather than focusing on narrow subdisciplines. Anyone who has suggestions regarding symposium topics or who would like more information about any aspect of the sponsorship process should call Rebecca German, DVM Program Officer, or seek her out in Los Angeles. Finally, I want to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season. I look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles.

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