

Division of Animal Behavior (DAB): 2001 Spring Newsletter

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Message from the Secretary

Peter Smallwood

Best Student Paper Awards! Congratulations to Mark A Bee, of the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri—Columbia. He won the DAB's Best Student Paper Award for his oral presentation titled "Getting to know you: habituation as a mechanism for territorial neighbor recognition" (with H.C. Gerhardt).

All graduate students are encouraged to compete for these awards at the Anaheim meeting. There are actually three separate awards, each with its own cash prize: the best student poster award, best student paper award, and the A.M. Wenner Strong Inference Award (for the paper best exemplifying the use of strong inference in their experimental design). To be eligible for the DAB student paper awards, the applicant must be a member of SICB and our division. The student must indicate their intention to compete on the abstract transmittal form. Eligible papers must be original research by a graduate student or a Ph.D. whose degree was awarded no more than one year prior to the time of the meeting. Further information about support for graduate student attendance of the meeting of SICB can be found in the [Student Support Committee section](#) of this newsletter. Check it out: SICB can usually provide for your lodging in exchange for a half day of help (e.g., running the slide projector for an afternoon).

Symposia

At the Chicago meeting, DAB co-sponsored a wonderful symposium with the Division of Neurobiology (DNB): Vibration as a Communication Channel. This symposium was organized by our own out-going program officer, Peggy Hill. Many thanks to Peggy for a great symposium.

We are co-sponsoring two symposia with DNB at the up-coming meeting in Anaheim, California. Fredrick Prete and Peggy Hill are organizing a symposium on small critters: **Responding to the World with a Little Nervous System: Unique Models for Studying Perception and Behavior**. James Murray is organizing a symposium on the **Neural Mechanisms of Orientation and Navigation**. Both of these symposia will bring in good speakers.

We are a small division, but we have a tradition of putting on great symposia. We are always on the prowl for good symposium ideas. What special topic are you most interested in, what 8–12 speakers would you like to see in one meeting? If you have ideas for symposia, please contact me (psmallwo@richmond.edu) or our chair, David Pfennig (dpfennig@email.unc.edu).

DAB Candidates for Election

ELECTIONS!! PLEASE VOTE!! ELECTIONS!!

Peggy Hill has served her term as DAB–Program Officer, and is stepping down. Many many thanks to Peggy for her work as program officer. Peggy has helped the SICB Program Officer organize the oral presentation sessions of the past few meetings, recruited great symposia, organized and co–organized a few symposia herself, and generally helped look after the affairs of this Division. I have enjoyed working with her, and send her my personal thanks as well.

Paul Cupp has agreed to stand for election to be the new DAB–Program officer. Paul has been a loyal member of DAB, attending our business meetings and judging papers for several years. He is running unopposed.

PLEASE VOTE: even in uncontested elections, we need actual votes to elect the officers.

Candidate for Program Officer

Paul Cupp

Current Position: Professor, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University.

Education: B.S., M.S., Eastern Kentucky University; Ph.D., Clemson University.

Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, Georgia Southern College, 1973–74; Assistant Professor, 1974–79; Associate Professor, 1979–85; Professor, 1985–present, Eastern Kentucky University.

SICB Activities: Educational Council, 1993–96.

Other Memberships: Sigma Xi; Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles; Herpetologists' League; American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists; Association of Southeastern Biologists; Kentucky Academy of Science.

Research Interests: Reproductive behavior and territoriality in salamanders, chemical detection of predators and prey, thermal tolerance and acclimation in amphibians.

Goal Statement: I would promote programs to increase the participation of members in division activities including presentation of papers and service. I would maintain the tradition of sponsoring symposia of high quality and broad appeal.