

# SICB Newsletter

Spring 2010 Issue

## Division of Ecology and Evolution

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### DEE Officers & Representatives

**Michele Kiyoko Nishiguchi**  
Chair 2009-2011

**H. Art Arthur Woods**  
Chair Elect 2009-2011

**George S. Bakken**  
Past Chair 2009-2011

**Michael S. Finkler**  
Secretary 2007-2011

**Michael W. Sears**  
Program Officer 2009-2012

**Sarah Kosting Berke**  
Student/Postdoc Representative  
2008-2011

**Dianna K. Padilla**  
ICB Editorial Board Representative  
2007-2012

### Message from the Executive Committee

Chair *Michele Nishiguchi*

Chair-Elect *Art Woods*

Program Officer *Michael Sears*

Secretary *Michael Finkler*

Greetings from DEE!

January's meeting in Seattle came off extremely well, with high rates of attendance, an excellent slate of talks and symposia, and good progress at the various DEE & SICB meetings. In Seattle, DEE cosponsored five symposia:

1. Animal Regeneration: Integrating Development, Ecology, and Evolution.
2. Metabolism, Life History and Aging.
3. Advances in Antarctic Marine Biology
4. Marine Ecosystem Engineers in a Changing World: Establishing Links Across Systems.
5. Identifying the Architectures that Regulate the Development, Function, and Evolution of Fish Body & Fin Shape: a Truly Grand Challenge.

Look for symposium papers in upcoming issues of [Integrative and Comparative Biology](#).

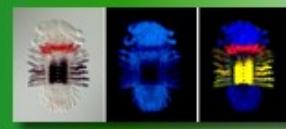
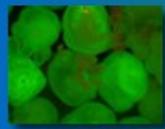
### Best Student Presentations

It's our pleasure to announce the Best Student Talk and Best Student Poster from the 2010 meeting.

**BEST TALK:** **Graham Ferrier**, UCLA, [gferrier@ucla.edu](mailto:gferrier@ucla.edu) "Chemical communication, keystone molecules, and forces structuring natural communities" co-authored by C.A. Zimmer and R.K. Zimmer. Abstract [here](#).

**BEST POSTER:** **Nicole Marchetto**, Bucknell Univ., [mfh008@bucknell.edu](mailto:mfh008@bucknell.edu) "Red Hot: Lipid peroxidation and color based assortative mating in black guillemots (*Cephus grylle*)" co-authored by E.D. Carlton, R.A. Mauck, and M.F. Haussmann. Abstract [here](#).

Graham and Nicole were the winners out of a large and excellent pool of competitors—58 for Best Talk and 29 for Best Poster. Congratulations! We also thank a large and dedicated pool of judges: Stephen Adolph, Paulina Artacho, George Bakken, Lauren Chan, Allison Churcher, Robert Cox, Jon Davis, Hector Douglas, William Ellis, Craig Frank, Daniel Hahn, John Hranitz, Jennifer Jost, Taewon



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Kim, Simon Lailvaux, Peter Marko, Patrick Martone, Justin McAlister, Loren Merrill, Donald Miles, Michael O'Connor, Jennifer Page, Elizabeth Perotti, Aaron Place, Jeanne Robertson, Erin Seney, Christopher Tracy, Shannon Wells, Robbie Wilson, Diana Windsor, Jen Wortham, Peter Zani, and Eduardo Zattara. Dedication from the DEE community at large is what lifts all boats, and given SICB's focus on student development, making this award is one of the most important things we do as a Division!

## DEE and Grand Challenges

Step up to the challenge of identifying DEE's Grand Challenges. DEE is looking for someone to write a Grand Challenges manuscript, and the time frame is short! This is an opportunity to put your intellectual stamp on the field.

*A message from President Rich Satterlie:* "Your division has not yet contributed a commentary paper to the Grand Challenges in Organismal Biology series in the society journal. This is not required, but we want to give every division a chance to do so. So I am enlisting your help in trying to organize a group (or a single person) to write a commentary paper. We are operating on a very short fuse this time around--April 15 is the absolute, no exceptions, drop dead date. Keep in mind the papers are not long and they deal with the big picture of the Grand Challenges through the eyes of DEE."

The currently published Grand Challenges papers are available [here](#). If you are interested, please contact Michele Nishiguchi ([nish@nmsu.edu](mailto:nish@nmsu.edu)) and Michael Finkler ([mfinkler@iuk.edu](mailto:mfinkler@iuk.edu)) right away.

## A reminder

The DEE webpage features the research of division members (<http://www.sicb.org/divisions/dee.php3>). Please consider contributing material to the site, which you can do by submitting text files (.doc or .txt), images (.tif, .jpg, .png, or .gif),

and movies (.avi or .mpeg) to Michael Finkler ([mfinkler@iuk.edu](mailto:mfinkler@iuk.edu)).

## Candidates for Election

### It's time to elect a new secretary for DEE!

Our two candidates are [Robert Cox](#) and [Aaron R. Krochmal](#). Their biographical information and statements follow below.

#### Robert Cox

##### Current position:

Postdoctoral Researcher, Dartmouth College, Hanover NH

**Education:** B.A., Biology, College of the Holy Cross, 1999; Ph.D., Ecology & Evolution, Rutgers University, 2005

**Professional experience:** Lecturer, Ohio State University, 2006; Research Associate, Dartmouth College, 2007-2010; Guest Lecturer, Dartmouth College, 2008-2010

**SICB activities:** Member since 2002; Recipient of Best Student Paper Award from DEE in 2005; Judge for Best Student Paper and Poster competitions in DEE, DCE, and DCPB from 2006-2010; Contributor and referee for SICB journals.

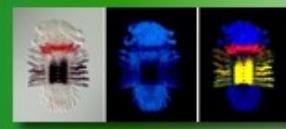
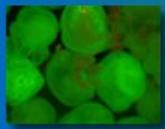
**Other recent memberships:** American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists; American Society of Naturalists; Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles; Society for the Study of Evolution

**Research interests:** evolution and endocrine regulation of sexual dimorphism, sexual conflict, life-history evolution, physiological ecology, experimental studies of natural and sexual selection in wild populations, herpetology

Further details:

[www.dartmouth.edu/~robertcox/home.html](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~robertcox/home.html)





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**Statement of Goals:** By promoting the integration of diverse biological methodologies, sub-disciplines, and taxonomic groups, SICB plays a vital and unique role in the scientific community. Because the study of ecology and evolution inherently requires integration along each of these fronts, DEE should provide a focal point of integration within the Society. My goal is to increase the visibility of DEE within the Society and advance the overarching goal of SICB by promoting an environment in which diverse methods and perspectives are integrated to answer fundamental questions in ecology and evolution. To this end, I hope to work with DEE officers and members to create symposia and opportunities for collaboration that meld the existing expertise in other SICB divisions within the larger context of ecological and evolutionary phenomena. By broadening the areas of scientific inquiry represented within DEE, I also hope to attract new students and professionals to the Division and the Society as a whole. Finally, by promoting DEE as a focal point for diverse research perspectives, I hope to draw attention to the emerging role of SICB as the leading society for integrative research in ecology and evolution.

### Aaron R. Krochmal



**Current Position:** Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Washington College, Chestertown, MD

**Education:** B.S., Union College (Schenectady, NY), 1996; M.S., New York University (1998), Ph.D., Indiana State University 2003

**Professional Experience:** Visiting Assistant Professor, Whitman College (Walla Walla, WA) 2003-2004; Assistant Professor, University of Houston – Downtown (Houston, TX), 2004-

2008; Assistant Professor, Washington College (Chestertown, MD) 2008-present.

**SICB Activities:** Member since 2001; Judge for Best Student Paper Committee, Division of Ecology and Evolution, 2007.

**Other Memberships:** American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

**Research Interests:** Sensory biology of reptiles, particularly infrared vision in snakes; Carrion utilization in snake foraging ecology; Ecology and natural history of herptiles in disturbed and urban habitats.

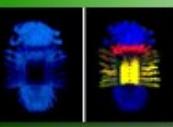
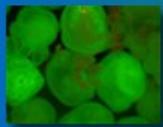
**Statement of Goals:** The unique nature of the broad discipline of evolutionary ecology makes this discipline, and thus, our division, central to SICB. This central position makes the DEE poised to be a leader within the society, promoting new collaborations among divisions for research, legislation and outreach, spearheading the development and implementation of new programming, and advancing the overall aims of the society. As the secretary of the DEE, I will be vested in societal and divisional aims, engaged in promoting these aims, and proactive in developing new and progressive goals. To this end I will promote and enhance communication both within our division and among all societal divisions, provide insight into novel programming, and expand recruitment efforts by marketing the society through education and outreach. By doing so, I hope to further and foster both the society itself and interaction and collaboration among its members.

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### Minutes of the DEE Business Meeting, Jan. 4, 2010, Seattle, WA

The meeting was called to order at 17:00 local time with 9 attendees, including Michele Nishiguchi (chair), Art Woods (chair-elect), Michael Finkler (secretary) and Michael Sears (program officer).

The chair began with an overview from the divisional chairs meeting. She reported that



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the financial health of SICB was quite good, and that large increase in registration seen in last year's meeting in Boston had been sustained this year. The chair noted that there were discussions on how to better accommodate the surge in the number of presentations in future meetings while limiting the meeting length to 3.5 days. Possibilities such as reducing presentation times from 20 min to 15 min, or limiting the oral presentations to more junior members of the Society were noted.

The chair also noted that there has been some discussion of revamping guidelines for the best student presentation program to make the bylaws among divisions more uniform. Some restrictions on the participation of students in the competition program (for example, ensuring students participate in only one division for the competition in a given year, and that students who win in one year should not compete in subsequent years) were discussed. The chair also noted that the awards are open to both undergraduate and graduate students, and that the awards (best student paper and best student poster) include a \$150 cash award and a subscription to an Oxford Univ. Pr. Journal (*Ecology Letters* in DEE's case).

The chair discussed the "Grand Challenges in Organismal Biology" initiative being spearheaded by the society and the need for DEE to identify its particular "Grand Challenges". She also noted some initiatives in enhancing undergraduate education in areas of the biological sciences related to ecology and evolution, including programs for enhancing minority involvement.

The chair concluded with an observation that some of the endowments sponsored by the Society was running critically low on funds, and noted that any contributions from the membership would be most appreciated.

The secretary, who directs the DEE's best student presentation program, provided an update on the competition. Participation in this year's competition is the highest to

date, with 58 student talks and 29 student posters up for consideration. Despite the high number of competitors, the development of an online system for assigning volunteer judges and enabling those judges to submit their ratings and comments online has made managing the competition far smoother than in previous years.

The secretary also noted that this spring the division will run an election for secretary-elect. He provided description of the responsibilities for the position and asked any and all interested to consider their candidacy.

The chair-elect made a brief comment on issues of fund spending inflexibility, and noted that the Division may be able to conduct more outreach to its membership and develop more activity participation if less restricted in how it can use its funds.

Bill Zamer, our liaison with NSF, provided an update on developments in the foundation that should be considered by members seeking funding. First, the NSF will no longer accept two page updates on proposals prior to panel submission, as the policy office sees it as a means of circumventing the 15 p. maximum for proposals, and it elevates the workload of records management. Second, as there are no more stimulus funds available, success rates for funding, which have been high recently, will probably go back to historical norms. Third, the NSF has increased its portfolio in climate change-related research. Finally, Bill recommends members sign up for NSF alerts to keep abreast of new developments.

The program officer noted that although DEE has co-sponsored numerous symposia, no one has initially submitted symposia for sponsorship through DEE in recent times. Encourage DEE membership to submit symposia to the division. He also encouraged development of a seminar on grand challenges.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:00 local time.