



## Division of Animal Behavior

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DAB Officers & Representatives

**Marilyn Ramenofsky**  
Chair 2010-2013

**Jordanna D. Sprayberry**  
Secretary 2009-2012

**Alison Welch**  
Program Officer 11-2014

**Justin Henningsen**  
Student/Postdoc Representative  
2011-2014

**Diana Hews**  
ICB Editorial Board Representative  
2008-2013

### Message from the Chair

*Marilyn Ramenofsky*

Greetings to all Division Members. I would like to provide you with an update of the DAB Business Meeting at the 2011 Salt Lake SICB. At that time, we bade a fond farewell to our long standing Program Officer, Sarah C. Humfeld, who has held the post for 6 years while welcoming the new PO, Alison Welch. Also, Zachary Stahlschmidt stepped down and is replaced by Justin Henningsen as our representative on the Graduate/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee. The outgoing SICB president, Richard Satterlie, and the new treasurer, Robert Roer, dropped by to express their greetings and answer any questions of the members. They didn't stay too long. Next, John Wingfield, NSF Division Director of Integrative Organismal Systems, and Michelle Elekonich, Program Officer for Behavioral Systems, paid us a visit and provided news and updates on the programs and funding opportunities at the Foundation. Division members had ample opportunity to ask questions and make clarifications on specific aspects of NSF. Members voiced concern over the US economy and impact of the continuing resolution on NSF funding, which currently is 90% of the fiscal year 2010 budget and likely to remain at this level for fiscal year 2011. Of note, members were informed of recent additions to the proposal requirements including a postdoc mentoring statement and Data Management Plan. Further information can be obtained from the NSF.gov application guide published January 2011.

During the business meeting I presented information from the Executive Committee Meeting (1/3/2011) about the proposed motion from the Finance Committee to establish divisional dues to members of the society excluding Life and Honorary Members. This was discussed at length and was subsequently decided to table the motion to allow the committee to reformulate its presentation based on the committee's discussion and to get results from straw polls from division members concerning this issue. This we did at our meeting and voted unanimously to reject the motion based on our discussion that there was little need for extra funds as our Division was running well with that we receive currently. I presented our poll results to the Secretary of the Society.

At the second Executive Committee Meeting (1/7/2011), which I was unable to attend owing to my teaching commitments at UCD, the revised motion was presented (see below), voted upon, and approved. The motion states that for each member of SICB there would be an increase annual dues of \$5/year. The funds resulting from this increase



will be allocated to the Divisions based on proportional membership established prior to June 30, which is the end of the SICB fiscal year. This is done as members may be aligned with more than one Division. Use of these funds will be determined by each Division and controlled by its officers keeping in line with the policies of the Society and acceptable activities for non-profit organizations and legal statutes. Funds that are not spent in one fiscal year will remain with the Division and rolled over for the subsequent year.

Thus, to clarify the end result given our straw poll and the Executive Committee's decisions presented above. On the positive side, the increase in funds will provide the DAB with more opportunities for funding student participation and other worthy causes.

One final note, I want to encourage those who are contemplating organizing a symposium for the San Francisco Meeting 2013 to please get in touch with either myself, Allison, or Jordanna so we can help you move forward with your proposal.

## **Message from the Program Officer**

*Allison Welch*

SLC Meeting Recap – Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2011 annual meeting in Salt Lake City! Animal behavior had a strong presence at the meeting. Of over 1500 meeting registrants, nearly 400 (26%) listed Animal Behavior as an area of interest. The meeting featured five symposia co-sponsored by DAB, as well as ten sessions and eight poster sub-sessions on behavioral topics.

Call for Symposia – Please consider proposing a symposium for an upcoming meeting. Symposium proposals for the 2013 meeting in San Francisco will be due in mid-

August, so now is the time to start planning. I would love to discuss your symposium ideas with you; please contact me at [welcha@cofc.edu](mailto:welcha@cofc.edu).

Gratitude – Special thanks to outgoing DAB program officer Sarah Humfeld for all of her work over the past six years, helping to plan well-organized annual meetings and promoting animal behavior within and beyond SICB.

## **Message from the Secretary**

*Jordanna Sprayberry*

Best Student Presentation Judging - Well, this year was the first time DAB attempted online judging. There were a few kinks in the process, but overall it went well. I have high hopes that next year will be smooth sailing. I also plan on having judges use the online system to sign up for talks to judge next fall, to keep moving us towards a more efficient system. If you have feedback on the scoring criteria, please send it to me as I will be enacting some slight modifications before the next meeting.

Researcher Database – DAB would very much like its members to submit to the SICB researcher data base. If you are interested, please send me a photo and brief summary of your research system. I will feature the first three in next fall's newsletter.

Secretary Election – Don't forget we have an upcoming vote for the next secretary term! (end of 2012 meeting – end of 2014 meeting). Candidate bios and statements are further down in the newsletter. Don't forget to vote!



## Best Student Presentation Winners

This year we had a tie for our best student presentation:

**Erica Westerman:** "Butterflies learn to like novel wing patterns, but learning that **more is better** is easier than learning that **less is more**"



Erica Westerman

Erica received her B.S. from Yale University in 2003. After which she work with Larry Harris and Jessica Bolker at the University of New Hampshire on the effects of climate change on ascidian reproductive patterns where she received a M.S. in Zoology in 2007. Currently, Erica is pursuing a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Yale University with Ant3nia Monteiro. Her research focuses on the effect of social interactions on mating behavior and mate choice in the butterfly, *Bicyclus anynana*. It is this work for which she received the award at the 2011 SICB Meeting. Erica's interests focus on understanding how biases in learning ability relate to patterns of morphological evolution in closely related species.

**Nathan Putman:** "Loggerhead Sea Turtle Migrations and Secular Variation: Navigating Through an Ever-changing Geomagnetic Environment"

Nathan was also recently featured on NPR for his work: <http://wap.npr.org/news/front/134175104>

Nathan F. Putman is a Ph.D. student at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. Nathan graduated from the University

of Alabama with a B.S. in Marine Science and Biology. He is currently working on his PhD with Kenneth J. Lohmaan at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His work integrates the fields of sensory ecology, geospatial ecology, phylogeography, evolutionary biology, mathematical modeling, and physical oceanography. Of particular interest are (1) how do animals assess their position to orient their movements and (2) how do the mechanisms that animals use to guide their movements have cascading effects on spatiotemporal patterns of abundance, propensity for gene flow, predator-prey interactions, and anthropogenic interactions. At present, his research is based primarily on the development and application of individual-based models of long-distance migratory behavior of sea turtles, the results of which earned him this award at the 2011 SICB Meeting.

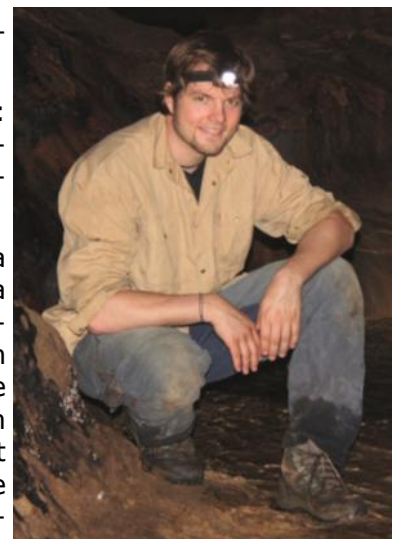


Nathan Putman

And our poster presentation winner was:

**Stefan Greif:** "Sensory basis of habitat recognition in echolocating bats"

Stefan received a MSc equivalent diploma in biology from the University of Tübingen in Germany. In 2007, he started a PhD program in Sensory Ecology at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, See-



Stefan Greif



wiesen, with a focus on bat echolocation. This work took him for several months each year to a field station in Bulgaria where the experiments were conducted. Results of this work were presented in his poster for which he garnered this award at the 2011 SICB Meeting. His research is based on Oa strong interest in behavioral ecology, morphology and evolution, with a focus on sensory systems and how animals are so effectively solve day-to-day problems.

## **Minutes of 2011 DAB Business Meeting**

Our meeting opened with comments from our chair, including an update from the SICB Executive Committee Meeting. On the business docket for the spring was confirming that DAB Best Student Presentation bylaws are consistent with the society-wide bylaws. As always, the chair solicited comments and suggestions for DAB's activities at the meeting.

We were visited by two NSF representatives, who summarized the state of affairs for animal behavior at NSF. In 2010, they received 215 proposals and were able to fund 26 (approx. 12%). Of the 74 DIG applications received they were able to fund 18 (approx 24%). The 2011 budget has not been announced, but will likely be around 85% of last year's budget. For those animal behavior investigations that have a significant neuroscience component, it was mentioned that neural systems had a slightly higher funding rate (approx. 17-18%). They also discussed the state of funding at NSF in general, with no surprising news. The funding climate has been, and will continue to be, very competitive. They also informed us of two new requirements for proposals: 1. proposals need to submit a data management and sharing plan, and 2. the project outcome report due at the end of a granting period will need a layman's version for pub-

lic consumption (part of NSF trying to help expand understanding of the role of basic research).

We also bid goodbye to Sarah Humfeld, our hard working Program Officer of many years, and welcomed Allison Welch to the job. As always we discussed the role of symposia in keeping DAB an actively contributing division at SICB. If you are at all interested in the process of putting together a symposium, contact our new Program Officer for more information. We wrapped up the meeting with a synopsis of the Executive Committee meeting. All indications are that the health of the society is good (although donations are always welcome). We also discussed the possibility of a slight increase in the registration fee (5\$), with that money being equally divided amongst the divisions to provide additional capital for division activities.

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## **Proposed Changes in Divisional Bylaws**

The following proposed changes in the divisional bylaws will appear on the spring ballot.

Change title of Article VII to be consistent with the SICB bylaws.

Adjust wording in Sections 1 and 2 to reflect the title change and that the annual meeting is actually the meeting of the SICB. All references to dollar values are eliminated.

## **Article VII. Best Student Paper Presenta-tion Awards**

### Section 1. Awards

At each annual meeting of the Division of



~~Animal Behavior~~ there may be three student ~~paper~~ **presentation** awards. There may be two Division of Animal Behavior Best Student **Presentation** 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, there may be an Adrian M. Wenner Outstanding "Strong Inference" Award of ~~\$100 and a certificate~~ presented for the best oral or poster ~~paper~~ **presentation** based upon the strong inference approach in experimental design and execution.

## Section 2. Participation Rules

The rules governing participating in the Best Student ~~Paper~~ **Presentation** Award Competition and the Adrian M. Wenner Award Competition shall be determined by the Division Executive Committee.

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## Elections

### Candidates for Secretary

#### Melissa S. Bowlin

**Current Position:** Assistant Professor, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn, MI, USA

**Education:** B.S., Cornell University (2002); M.A., Princeton University (2004); Ph.D., Princeton University (2007).

**Professional Experience:** Postdoctoral Fellow in Avian Biology, University of Montana (2007-2008); Marie Curie International Incoming Fellow, Lund University (2008-2010); Assistant Professor, University of

Michigan-Dearborn, (2010-present).

**SICB activities:** Member of various divisions including DAB, DCB, DEE, and DVM, since 2004. I organized a symposium on Integrative Migration Biology for the 2010 meeting.

**Other memberships:** As a member of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), I have served on the AOU Student Affairs Committee, the AOU Early Professionals Committee, and the AOU website committee since joining in 2001. I am also a member of the Society for Experimental Biology (SEB), the Cooper Ornithological Society (COS), the Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS), and the Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO).

**Research interests:** Linking flight performance to migratory performance, linking migratory performance to direct measurements of fitness in small passerine birds, and integrative migration biology.

**Statement of goals:** SICB is one of the only organizations that fosters truly integrative biology. It also has a history of supporting students and early professionals unrivaled by any other society; not long ago, I was one of the students receiving travel and research grants from SICB. I wish to give back to the society by becoming more involved in it. The goals of the Division of Animal Behavior are the most closely aligned with my own research interests, so I am running for the position of DAB secretary. I hope to be able to continue the work of those that have come before me by doing what I can to keep students and early pro-



Melissa Bowlin



professionals involved in the society.

## **Jordanna Sprayberry**

**Current Position:** (2008-present) Assistant Professor Muhlenberg College, Allentown PA

**Education:** B.S. Zoology, University of Rhode Island (1998), Ph.D. Biology, University of Washington (2005)

**Professional Experience:** 2005-2006 Postdoctoral Associate, University of Washington; 2006-2008 Postdoctoral Associate, University of Arizona



Jordanna Sprayberry

**SICB Activities:** Member (DAB, DNB) since 2000, Winner Best Student Presentation DAB, Winner Best Student Presentation DNB, Student Presentation Judge 2006-present, DAB secretary since 2009

**Other Memberships:** None

**Research Interests:** My research is focused on the fundamental principles of sensory driven behavior from neurophysiological, ecological and evolutionary perspectives. Currently, most of the effort in my lab is devoted to trying to understand the effects of non-insecticidal agricultural chemicals on foraging behavior in bumblebees. We have been investigating this system using lab and field behavior studies, as well as neurophysiological investigations into how/ if agricultural chemicals modify olfactory processing of floral odors.

**Goals Statement:** As secretary most of my effort has been towards running the best student presentation competition. My current goals for that program are to streamline use of online registering and scoring, so that time can be spent providing feedback to presenters from judges.