



Division of Vertebrate Morphology

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DVM Officers & Representatives

Kiisa Nishikawa
Chair 2011-2013

Lara Ferry
Secretary 2010-2012

Richard W. Blob
Program Officer 2010-2012

Tobias Landberg
Student/Postdoc Representative
2008-2011

Melina E. Hale
ICB Editorial Board Representative

Message from the Chair

Kiisa Nishikawa

2010 was a productive year for DVM, with outstanding representation at the ICVM-9 meeting in Uruguay in July, Northeast regional DVM meeting at Harvard in October, Southeast regional DVM meeting at Virginia Tech in November, and three symposia at the Salt Lake City meeting in January 2011. DVM members also played a central role in the NSF Grand Challenges in Organismal Biology initiative.

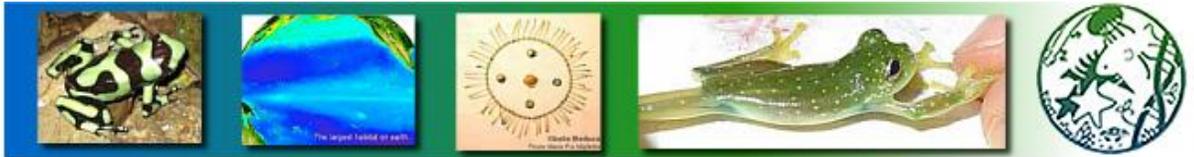
The 2011 SICB meeting in Salt Lake City was well attended by DVM members. DVM sponsored three symposia: **Synthesis of Physiologic Data from the Mammalian Feeding Apparatus Using FEED**, the Feeding Experiments End-User Database, organized by Susan Williams; **Bioinspiration: Applying Mechanical Design to Experimental Biology**, organized by Brooke Flammang; and **The Biomechanics and Behavior of Gliding Flight**, organized by Robert Dudley.

Congratulations to all students who competed for best paper and poster awards in Salt Lake City - the science was superb, as usual. Student award winners in DVM were:

D. Dwight Davis Award for Best Student Paper in the Division of Vertebrate Morphology: **Andres Carillo** from California State University at Fullerton for his presentation, **Does extended incubation affect morphology and feeding ability of larval California grunion, *Leuresthes tenuis*?** It is noteworthy that Andres received a travel award from the Broadening Participation Committee, which enabled his participation in the Salt Lake City meeting. Special thanks to **Cheryl Wilga** for her outstanding leadership of the **Broadening Participation Committee!**

Best Student Poster Award in the Division of Vertebrate Morphology: **Carolina Priester** of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington for her poster, entitled **Change in orientation of the myofibrils and cytoskeleton in white muscle fibers of large black sea bass, *Centropristis striata*.**

Thanks to our new Program Officer, **Rick Blob** for an exemplary first year as PO, and to **Lara Ferry** for a super first year as Secretary. Lara is also a new member of the *ICB* editorial board. Thanks to both for their hard work during the past year!



Mark Westneat

Special thanks to our retired Captain, **Mark Westneat**, for outstanding service to the DVM over the past two years (and for providing most of the data for this message).

The candidates for Chair-elect this year are **Audrone Biknevičius** (Ohio University) and **Alice Gibb** (Northern Arizona University). Biographical information is at the end of the newsletter, and ballots will be available soon!

On the national scene, DVM was active in the development of the NSF Grand Challenges initiative, with Kurt Schwenk and Mark Westneat joining several conference calls in the Spring, and Kurt taking the lead on the first and widely read grand challenges paper for Integrative and Comparative Biology

(<http://icb.oxfordjournals.org/content/49/1/7.full.pdf+html>).

Internationally, the ICVM-9 meeting held in July in Punta del Este Uruguay was a huge success, with plenary talks by DVM members **Melina Hale** and **Peter Wainwright** (among others), and symposia on topics ranging from evolution and development of the vertebrate ear, to development and morphology in various taxa and systems, vertebrate gigantism, computational reconstruction and x-ray motion analysis.

~~informed us of NSF-wide budget information: recall NSF is on a 'continuing resolution' and therefore operating on 85% of the FY'10 budget. She also re-~~

Message from the Program Officer

Rick Blob

Many thanks to all of our members who helped to make our meeting in Salt Lake such a success. Over 200 presentations and three outstanding symposia sponsored by DVM, as well as events like the Grand Challenges and Broadening Participation workshops, didn't leave much extra time for skiing! But now that pitchers and catchers have reported for Spring Training, hopefully your thoughts have turned to plans for the upcoming year. Here are some specifics to look forward to for DVM.

1. Coming to Charleston in 2012.

Charleston offers a beautiful, historic, and (hopefully!) warm destination for SICB to meet in January – please plan to attend and participate! Remember, when you submit your abstract in September, that if you want your presentation sorted with others from DVM you should select the "Morphology" category for your submission – otherwise, you might end up presenting against presentations you'd like to see yourself! DVM is sponsoring three exciting symposia: "Novel methods for the analysis of animal movement" led by Doug Altshuler, "Combining experiments with modeling and computational methods to study animal locomotion" led by Laura Miller, and "The biology of sea snakes" led by Harvey Lillywhite (and honoring William Dunson and ICB editor Hal Heatwole). Which leads us to...

2. Symposium Proposals for San Francisco in 2013.

These will be due on August 19, 2011. Application materials will be posted on the SICB website this spring, but if you want an early start (highly recommended!) just contact me and I'll get you the information. Both



SICB (and NSF) strongly encourage two major facets in symposium development. First, that symposia should identify important topics and help them chart the way forward in a field, with the Grand Challenges initiative in mind. Second, that symposia are a fantastic opportunity to broaden participation in a field and in the Society. This can be considered from a variety of perspectives, by including participants from historically underrepresented groups, a wide range of institutions, and a broad range of career stages. Creative planning of complementary sessions of posters or talks as part of the symposium application can further aid this objective. Also think about creative avenues for funding for your symposia: for example, if a company's equipment features prominently in your studies, they might be willing to help support your symposium – no harm in asking!

3. Regional Meetings in the Fall of 2012.

DVM has a strong tradition of regional meetings, which are a great warm up for the national meeting and an excellent venue for students to get involved in presentations. The Southeast Regional will be held at Wake Forest this year (thanks to Nick Hristov and Miriam Ashley-Ross, keep an eye out for an announcement with dates), and news on the Northeast should be coming soon. If a regional meeting isn't held in your area, consider organizing one – I'll be happy to offer pointers or contacts for ideas.

As fun as it is to look forward, I would also personally be interested in feedback on the meeting this past year, including thoughts on session organization and the new format with four full days. One upcoming consideration it would also be good to get feedback on is the potential for a new, short-format (~5 min) oral presentation. Your thoughts on how this or any other program issues might be handled

are always welcome.

So, best wishes for an exciting and productive new year that we'll all be able to hear about in Charleston!

Message from the Secretary

Lara Ferry

I hope you all enjoyed the meeting in Salt Lake. I know I did! In case you did miss it, or the Divisional Business Meeting, note that the minutes are attached after this message.

Here, again, is my now semi-annual plea for entries to our Researcher Database. All you need to do is to send me (Lara.Ferry@asu.edu) one or two pictures and a brief blurb about your research and before you know it you'll be highlighted on the SICB homepage and viewers everywhere will be enjoying your research. We are steadily increasing in our numbers on the database, but we can do better. DVM is under-represented relative to our membership numbers.

We also have some bylaws changes to propose. These are minor, just to bring us into compliance/consistency with existing practices. Look for these after the minutes.

Minutes of the DVM Business Meeting - Jan 5, 2011

2011 SCIB Meeting – Salt Lake City, UT
Called to order by Captain Mark Westneat at 5:15 pm

Mark introduced Hannah Carey, Rotating Program Manager from IOS/PSI Cluster at NSF. Hannah invited people to talk with her about proposals; always welcome. She also



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mindful of the Grand Challenges workshops via SICB, and the Research Coordination Network funding at NSF

Mark reminded us that we have to elect a new Chair-Elect for DVM. Kiisa Nishikawa takes over as chair at the close of this meeting, and we need to elect the person that will replace her in two years. We are also in need of a new member for the Student Post-doctoral Affairs Committee. A replacement will be appointed by the DVM Executive Committee. Melina Hale will retire as the DVM representative on the SICB Editorial Board and a new candidate is being nominated (to be named once approved by that committee). Harold Heatwole will continue as society wide Editor for another 5-year term.

Mark recapped the SICB Executive Committee Meeting. Fiscally we are quite sound, dues may be raised by \$5 in order to give divisions discretionary funds. DVM currently gets only \$2000, which is already fully allotted for meeting symposia and the social. These extra funds could be used to fund symposia more fully, for regional meetings, or the like. Mark noted that the Dwight Davis fund, which funds the best student paper and poster awards each year, has dwindled, and the principle is under \$2000. Members *need* to donate. Mark will find out specific information about Wiley's contribution to the fund, and send out a divisional email with those details and the specific need.

Mark introduced the SICB Executive Committee who said a few words of welcome.

Cheryl Wilga provided an overview of the Broadening Participation program. They fund grants to people from under-represented groups. They are applying for an NSF grant to increase the amount that they can provide to people. They also have workshops and socials, which are open to all levels, not just students. The Broadening

Participation social is Thursday evening – please come!

Mark discussed the notion of speed or 'lightning' talks at the meetings. There may be special sessions with these 5-minute talks. There was some discussion of this.

Program Officer's Report by Rick Blob – Rick reminded people to use the keywords. If you do not list Morphology, or something similar, as your first keyword, it won't go to your DVM PO. Rick thanked Andrew Clark for organizing the judging of the BSP awards. The social is tonight, which is a joint social using pooled funds so that there is a reasonable spread. There are three symposia at this meeting that DVM contributed to. For 2012 we are contributing to four symposia, two on locomotion, one on seasnakes (tribute to Harold Heatwole), and an Evo Devo symposia. Deadlines are mid-August for 2013 symposia. Talk to Rick soon. There is a form to be used. Ideally you can garner support not just from other divisions, but outside sources such as NSF or corporate. Try to address the Grand Challenges initiative. Try to bring in diversity (different career stages, institutions, etc.). Try to think about the organization of any associated sessions and how your symposia could contribute and maximize impact. Remember the regional meetings.

Secretary's Report by Lara Ferry – Lara thanked people who have submitted their information to the researcher database, and invited more submissions. Lara recognized Susan Williams as the Incoming Secretary in two years.

Sharon reminded everyone that the society wide meeting is tomorrow night. They will be giving out the first ever Carl Gans award tomorrow, it is going to a Vertebrate Morphologist, so go.

Mark handed the helm to Kiisa Nishikawa, and adjourned the meeting at 5:58 pm.



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Proposed By-laws Changes

~~Article XV~~**XIV. Student Award - D. Dwight Davis Award - Best Student Presentation Awards**

1. **D. Dwight Davis Award for Best Student Paper Presentation:** From the ~~D. Dwight Davis fund of the Division A \$100.00 prize~~ **An award** may be given for an outstanding paper presented by a student (or by a new Ph.D. who received the degree no more than 12 months before the meeting at which the paper is presented). The award is made only on the unanimous decision of a committee of at least three members, appointed before the meeting by the Chair of the Division. The guidelines for the award are as follows:

a. Each student shall be allowed to compete for the D. Dwight Davis Award no more than two times.

b. The work must be original, must have been carried out by the competing student, and the student must be the first author. Co-authored papers may be entered into the competition, but the student must describe explicitly the contributions of all of the co-authors as part of the presentation. Failure to make the contributions of all listed co-authors clear may be grounds for disqualification.

c. The intention of the award is to recognize significant conceptual, observational, and experimental contributions to the field of vertebrate morphology. These shall be the major criteria for selection. Only outstanding work is to be recognized.

d. Acceptable standards of visual aids and oral presentation shall be required for consideration. Spectacular presentation techniques shall not by themselves qualify a paper.

2. ~~Student Award - for Poster Presentation.~~ **Award for Best Student Poster Presentation.** A suitable prize, (~~\$100 prize~~) **An award** may be given for an outstanding poster presentation given by a student (or a new Ph.D. who received the degree no more

than 12 months before the meeting at which the paper is presented). In addition, a certificate will be given as well as an appropriate gift to reflect Vertebrate Morphology. The work must be original, and must have been carried out by the student or students. The award is made only on the unanimous decision of a committee of three appointed before the meeting by the Chair of the Division. The guidelines for the award are as follows:

a. The intention of the award is to recognize significant conceptual, observational, and experimental contributions to the field of vertebrate morphology. These shall be the major criteria for selection. Only outstanding work is to be recognized.

b. Acceptable standards of visual presentation techniques shall not by themselves qualify a poster.

~~Article XIV~~**XV. Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting of the Division by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Division voting, provided that notice has been given to all members 60 days in advance, or by a two-thirds majority of votes submitted by both paper and appropriately secure electronic ballots.

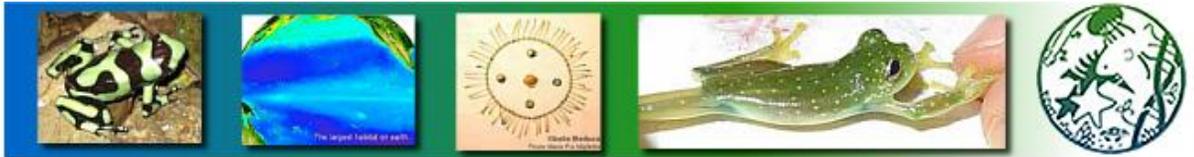
Candidates for Elections

Candidates for Chair-Elect:

Alice C Gibb

Current Position: Professor, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff.

Education: B.A., Mount Holyoke College, 1989; Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, 1997.



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Professional Experience: NSF Postdoctoral Researcher, California State University, Fullerton, 1997-1999; Assistant Professor, Northern Arizona University, 1999-2005; Associate Professor, Northern Arizona University, 2006-2011.

SICB Activities: Member of SICB and DVM since 1990; Chair, Davis Award Committee, 1999; Panel member, SICB Student Grants-in-aid-of-Research, 1999-2002 & 2009-present; SICB symposium organizer and participant: "Molecules, Muscles, and Macroevolution: Integrative Functional Morphology", 2001.

Other Memberships: Desert Fishes Council; Member Sigma Xi; President of Northern Arizona Chapter of Sigma Xi, 2001-2002.

Research Interests: Within the field of functional morphology, I use teleost fishes as a model system to address two overarching questions about the complex relationship between anatomy, physiology and behavior. First, what are the ecological ramifications of morphological specialization? Second, how does the acquisition of adult morphology during the free-swimming larval period of teleost fishes affect performance? Specific projects undertaken in pursuit of these questions include: analysis of suction feeding behavior across phylogenetically disparate fish lineages, developmental studies of larval locomotor performance, aquatic vs. terrestrial behaviors in littoral and amphibious fishes, and trophic comparisons of native vs. invasive fish species.

Goals Statement: I know from my own personal experience that a key role of the

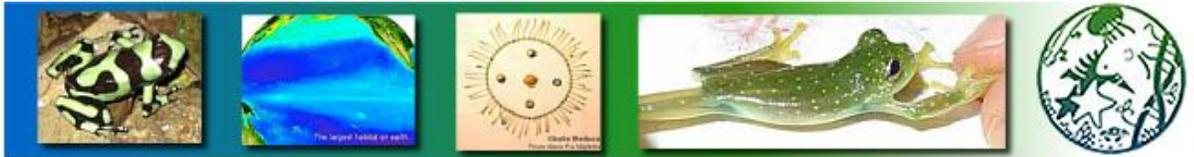
Division of Vertebrate Morphology is that it serves as a "home" within the society wherein developing scientists identify professional role models and mentors. Because of this, I would like to see the DVM encourage and recognize professional achievement at all levels of society participation. At the undergraduate level, I suggest that the DMV should take the lead in developing meeting-orientation activities and best student presentation awards for the large number of undergraduates who now regularly attend our annual meetings. At the graduate level, I envision formalized fundraising activities to ensure a stable endowment for the Davis award, as well as for any other divisional awards. Finally, I would also like to institute a DVM mentorship award; for this award, established scientists would be nominated by their peers, based on an excellent track record for bringing students to meetings, overseeing their development as professional scientists, and successfully fledging these students into the workforce.

Audrone Biknevičius

Current Position: (2000-present) Associate Professor, Ohio University, Athens, OH
(2009-present) Department Chair, Biomedical Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Ohio University, Athens, OH

Education: B.S. Biology, State University of New York at Stony Brook (SUNY-SB; 1981); M.A. Physical Anthropology, SUNY-SB (1985); Ph.D. Cell Biology and Anatomy, The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (1990)





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Professional Experience: 1989-1991 Scientific Assistant, American Museum of Natural History; 1991-1993 Postdoctoral Associate, SUNY-SB

SICB Activities: Member (DVM, DCB) since 1988; Co-organizer of DVM symposium (Craniodental adaptations of faunivorous mammals; 1993); Co-organizer of midwest regional DVM meetings (1997); DVM secretary (2000-2005)

Other Memberships: International Society of Vertebrate Morphologists

Research Interests: Locomotor biomechanics has been the focus on my lab for the last decade. Current studies explore the relationship between center of mass mechanics and gaits in tetrapods (including armoured mammals, hence, the attached photo with the echidna), reexamine how small- and large-bodied mammals navigate through gait transitions, and evaluate changes in locomotor function as mammals age ("para-sarcopenia").

Goals Statement: Promoting attendance at national and regional DVM meetings. Enhancing interactions among researchers new to DVM and more seasoned members.