



## Division of Vertebrate Morphology

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### DVM Officers & Representatives

#### **Kiisa Nishikawa**

Chair 2011-2013

#### **Alice Gibb**

Secretary 2011-2013

#### **Susan Williams**

Secretary 2012-2014

#### **Rita S, Mehta**

Program Officer 2012-2014

#### **Joanna Mandrecki**

Student/Postdoc Representative  
2011-2014

#### **Lara Ferry**

ICB Editorial Board Representative  
2011-2016

### Message from the Chair

*Kiisa Nishikawa*

Thanks to all Division of Vertebrate Morphology members for making 2011 an outstanding year for DVM, with record-breaking participation in the Charleston meeting, where DVM sponsored five intellectually stimulating and well-attended symposia: **The Impacts of Developmental Plasticity on Evolutionary Innovation and Diversification**, organized by Matthew Wund; **Novel Methods for the Analysis of Animal Movement: Spatial and Temporal Structure Across Scale**, organized by Doug Altshuler; **New Frontiers from Marine Snakes to Marine Ecosystems**, organized by Harvey Lillywhite and Francois Brischox; **Combining Experiments with Modeling and Computational Methods to Study Animal Locomotion**, organized by Laura Miller and Silas Alben; and **EvoDevo Rides the Genomics Express**, organized by Billie Swalla. Click this link to read about SICB talks highlighted in *Science*: <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/335/6066/276.1.summary>. SICB received a record number of symposium proposals for San Francisco (31!).

Spring is the season for wishing a warm welcome to our incoming DVM officers: Chair-Elect Alice Gibb, Program Officer Rita Mehta, and Secretary Susan Williams. Departing DVM officers include Program Officer, Rick Blob, who did a superb job of planning the DVM program for the Salt Lake City and Charleston meetings, and to Lara Ferry, our exemplary and efficient secretary! Thanks for your service to our Division!

Congratulations to DVM student award winners in Charleston: D. Dwight Davis Award for Best Student Paper in the Division of Vertebrate Morphology: **Ashley Heers** (University of Montana, Missoula) for her presentation, "Locomotor ontogeny and the evolution of avian flight." Best Student Poster Award in the Division of Vertebrate Morphology: **Macrina Butler** (Hendrix College) for her poster, entitled "The effect of prenatal steroids on the fast-twitch fibers of the fetal guinea pig scale-nus." And thanks to all student presenters for the high quality of presentations!

Upcoming meetings of interest to DVM members include the 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Vertebrate Morphology in Barcelona, Spain (July 8–12, 2013) at the Hotel Fira Palace (<http://www.isvm.info/index.html>). Symposium/Workshop Proposals for ICVM10 are due April 15, 2012. Check out the Friday



Harbor Laboratories Summer Courses and Workshops

<http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/studentSummer2012.html>. And don't forget to start planning your abstract submissions for SICB 2013 in San Francisco! I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

## Message from the Program Officer

*Rita S. Mehta*

I would like to thank you all for your contributions in Charleston. Our 2012 meeting was a huge success. There were 1463 abstracts total (across all divisions), a record year. DVM had 262 abstracts that selected "Morphology" as their primary topic. There were, in addition, 96 abstracts in Complementary sessions for three outstanding symposia sponsored by DVM, as well as events like the Grand Challenges and Broadening Participation workshops. We also tried out our first round of "lightening talks." These 5 minute talks were a fun deviation from our usual 20 minute presentations. Basically, if you blinked, you missed it! Thank you to the nine volunteers who presented in the lightening round. We would like to know what our members think of the lightening round so be sure to let us know as we are always open to suggestions. Another one of DVM's proud SICB moments was watching one of our own, Dr. Manny Azizi, receive the Bartholomew Award. Dr. Azizi, with "cat-like reflexes" delivered a great talk titled, "From sarcomeres to organisms: the role of muscle-tendon architecture in determining locomotor performance." Way to go Manny! We capped off the end of each day with deli-

cious southern food and well-attended socials.

Hopefully you are so busy collecting data to present next year that you don't even have time to read this newsletter. But just in case, let me tell you what we are preparing for SICB 2013 in the scintillating city of San Francisco. In San Francisco, there are 3 symposia that will be of interest to DVM members: "When Predators Attack: Sensing and Motion in Predator-Prey Interactions" organized by Matt McHenry and Stacy Combes, "Vertebrate Land Invasions: Past, Present, and Future," led by Alice Gibb, Miriam Ashley-Ross, Richard Blob, Tonia Hsieh, and "Phenotypic plasticity and the evolution of gender roles," organized by Janet Leonard. The convention center hotel is located in the historic Union Square District, walking distance to great sights such as China Town. SICB in San Francisco will be nothing short of awesome! Don't wait until the last minute to make your reservations. Also, please remember, if you want your presentation sorted with others from DVM, you should select the "Morphology" category as the primary topic for your submission.

Some other exciting events and important dates to remember are:

**1)** The deadline for SICB symposium for the 2014 SICB meeting in Austin, TX is August 24, 2012.

**2)** As mentioned by above, the 10th International Congress on Vertebrate Morphology will be held in Barcelona, Spain from July 8-12, 2013. Please see the conference website for more details: (<http://www.isvm.info/index.html>). Symposium/Workshop Proposals for ICVM are due April 15, 2012. Abstract submission will be open in the Spring of 2012 (Date TBA). However, organizers request that participants pre-register now at <http://www.isvm.info/> so that you can be updated on the meet-



ing. ICVM-10 also has a facebook page with updated information: <http://www.facebook.com/ICVM10>.

3) Also, Friday Harbor Laboratories, University of Washington is now offering their Summer Courses and Workshops. Of particular interest to DVM members is the course "Functional Morphology and Ecology of Marine Fishes" taught by Adam Summers, Lara Ferry and Andrew Clark. More information on this course, which runs in Summer Session A (June 18-July 20) can be found at (<http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/studentSummer2012.html#Suma-5>). The deadline for this course (Feb 1) has been extended.

4) Brown University will be conducting their 2012 Summer Short Course in X-ray Reconstruction of Moving Morphology (XROMM). This one-week course (June 11-15) is designed for faculty, postdocs, and graduate students who are interested in using 3D X-ray motion analysis in the field of comparative biomechanics. The course will provide hands-on instruction in marker-based and markerless XROMM animation, analysis of 3D skeletal kinematics, data management and metadata curation, and demonstrations of biplanar X-ray equipment. The course is funded by an NSF Research Coordination Networks grant, so there is no fee for participation, dormitory housing or meals. Applications for this summer short course are due March 15, 2012. The teaching staff includes: Beth Brainerd, Dave Baier, Steve Gatesy, Ariel Camp, and Sabine Moritz. To apply for the June 2012 course go to <http://www.xromm.org> and click on Research Coordination Network (RCN). Please email Beth Brainerd ([brainerd@brown.edu](mailto:brainerd@brown.edu)) if you have questions about the course. Review of applications will begin on March 15, 2012 and continue until the course is filled.

We look forward to seeing everyone in San Francisco!

## Message from the Secretary

*Susan Williams*

I'd like to thank Lara Ferry for serving as DVM Secretary for the last two years. She did an outstanding job and I will do my best to follow in her footsteps. I'd also like to thank Russ Main for coordinating the Student Prizes for DVM and the many judges who donated their time during the 2012 meeting in Charleston. Your participation in this important activity is very much appreciated! For those of you who have never judged, it's an excellent way to help students and get involved in DVM. Also, it has come to my attention recently how active DVM-ers are in broader SICB activities and on SICB committees – thanks for all of the work you do to support the Society. Special thanks to **Cheryl Wilga** for leading the Broadening Participation Committee and to the other DVM members who also serve on this committee and helped coordinate the two Broadening Participation workshops in Charleston.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Charleston meeting. As usual, I attended many outstanding talks and posters, and I very much enjoyed the lightening talks given by some of our members. Hopefully this will be a mainstay of the meetings. It was great that our Division was able to test out this new presentation format at SICB. If anyone was going to pull it off, I am pretty sure it would be DVM folks given the experience with lightening talks at our regional meetings.



You may recall my predecessor's pleas -- we need to increase our contributions to the DVM Researcher Database. I will be bugging you throughout the year to submit information on your labs and projects. So that you are warned -- I might be contacting you directly! It takes a small amount of your time and many of you already have very nice webpages that you can pull information from. It really is an important way to highlight the diversity of DVM interests.

Finally, like every spring, we have Divisional elections coming up. Take the time to look at the candidates for Secretary and Chair below, and make sure you vote in the Spring election when the ballots arrive in May!

## Minutes of the DVM Business Meeting – Jan 5, 2012

[Click here for PDF file on SICB.org](#)

## Candidates for Elections

### Candidates for Chair-Elect:



**Lance McBrayer**

**Current Position:** Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Georgia Southern University; Graduate Program Director, Department of Biology, Georgia Southern University; Curator, Georgia Southern University -Savannah Science Museum Herpetology Collection, Georgia Southern Univer-

sity

**Education:** Ph.D., 2002: Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Ohio University. MS, 1996: Biology, SUNY College at Buffalo, Buffalo NY. BS, 1993: Biology, 1993, Berry College, Rome Ga.

**Professional Experience:** 2005 – 2009: Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Georgia Southern University; 2002 – 2005: Assistant Professor, Biology Department, Stephen F. Austin State University; 2002 – 2005: Herpetology & Ichthyology Curator, Stephen F. Austin State University Vertebrate Collections; 1996 – 1997: Lecturer, Biology Department, Berry College

**SICB Activities:** 2006: Judge of the Division of Ecology and Evolution Best Paper Award; 2004: Judge for the D. Dwight Davis Award; 2004-2007: Session Chair

**Other Memberships:** Member of Herpetologists League

**Research Interests:** My research interests lie at the intersection of functional morphology, behavior, and evolution. I use lizards as a model system to study feeding, foraging ecology, and locomotion. Central to my research is the study of organismal performance, or how well organisms perform ecologically important tasks like biting or sprinting, and how animals alter their behavior and performance in different ecological situations.

**Goals Statement:** I endeavor to maintain the excellent DVM tradition of developing graduate and undergraduate student's attendance of the meetings. The DVM has recently experienced growth in participation at all levels, and continuing this progress should be a priority. Due to the integrative nature of research in vertebrate morphology, it has broad public appeal and application. Another prudent goal would be to establish, or enhance, initiatives to promote the work of DVM members across



STEM disciplines, and in the public media. Thus a session at our annual meeting, or an outreach program, that promotes how research in vertebrate morphology can be integrated into undergraduate or high school teaching would be an effective means to gain access to future students, highlight our work, and to reach a broader audience.



## Callum Ross

**Current Position:** Associate Professor, Organismal Biology and Anatomy, University of Chicago; Research Associate, Field Museum of Natural History, Department of Zoology, Division of Fishes

**Education: Ph.D.**

**1993:** Biological Anthropology and Anatomy, Duke University; **B.A. 1987:** Anthropology and Ancient History, University of Auckland

**Professional Experience:** 2004-2012: Associate Professor, Department of Organismal Biology & Anatomy, University of Chicago; 1995-2003: Program in Biomedical Engineering, Stony Brook University; 1995 - 2004: Assistant and Associate Professor, Department of Anatomical Sciences, Stony Brook University, 1994-1995: Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Anatomical Sciences, Stony Brook University; 1993 - 1994: University of the Witwatersrand Postdoctoral Research Fellow

**SICB Activities:** Judge Student Awards, 2005, 2011, 2012

**Other Memberships:** American Association of Physical Anthropology; Society for Neuroscience; International Society of Ver-

tebrate Morphologists

**Research Interests:** I study the evolution, morphology, biomechanics, and motor control of vertebrate feeding systems. My research includes comparative morphometrics, finite element analysis, electromyography, bone strain, cortical neuronal recording, and biomechanical modeling. I primarily work on primates and lizards, with lesser emphasis on fish.

**Goals Statement:** As Chair I would continue efforts to increase diversity in the Division through travel awards, recruitment at regional meetings, and outreach. This would include reaching out to organizations local to our annual meetings to arrange meeting visits and attendance by high school and undergraduate students. I would work towards an online repository of outreach materials that members have found to be effective that would be useful for school teachers and society members seeking to meet important Broader Impacts goals.

## Candidates for Secretary

### Casey Holliday

**Current Position:** Assistant Professor, Integrative Anatomy, Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, University of Missouri. <http://web.missouri.edu/hollidayca/>



**Education:** Ph.D. 2006: Ohio University (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology); B.S. 1997: University of Florida (Zoology).



**Professional Experience:** 2009-Present: Assistant Professor, Integrative Anatomy, Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, University of Missouri; 2007-2009: Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology and Anatomy, Marshall University; 2006-2007: Postdoctoral instructor, Ohio University; 2000-2006: Teaching Assistant, Department of Biological Sciences, Ohio University.

**Awards and Honors:** 2011: Curriculum Board Teaching Excellence Award: Outstanding Instructor Pre-Clerkship Curriculum, University of Missouri; 2006: Distinguished Osteopathic Commitment Award, Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine; 2003: Richard Estes Memorial Award, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

**SICB Activities:** Session chair.

**Other Memberships:** Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, International Society of Comparative Morphology; American Association of Anatomists; Sigma Xi.

**Research Interests:** Evolutionary and functional morphology of the vertebrate skull; Reptile connective tissue biology; Crocodyliform evolution.

**Goals Statement:**

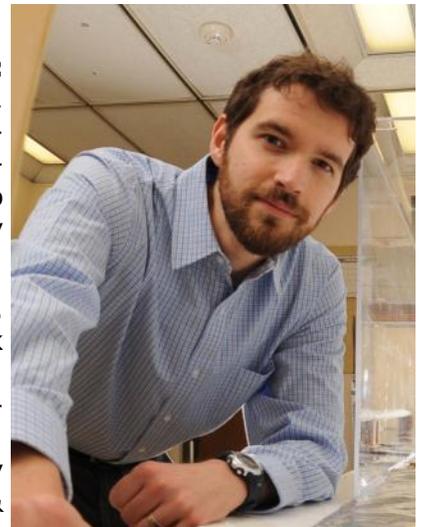
It is an honor to be nominated as Secretary of the Division of Vertebrate Morphology. There is no other group I'd rather serve. DVM is the underlying core in advances in natural history, evolutionary biology, imaging, biomechanics, skeletal physiology and morphometrics, among others, and its enthusiastic and committed membership is truly inspirational. Therefore, DVM occupies a unique and important role in modern biology. As secretary, I will fulfill its required roles as outlined by the by-laws. In addition, I will continue to champion DVM and its integrative strengths across SICB as well as among other societies in order to recruit and attract new stu-

dents and investigators. The imminent ICVM meeting will enable us to profile the most cutting-edge aspects of our members' work and I intend to help promote this event through any means possible. In particular, as secretary, I will: 1) organize a Midwest Regional DVM meeting in Columbia, MO, a location central among many institutions strong in morphology, yet underserved in regional meetings of late; 2) promote the development of new symposia that incorporate the latest advances in fields relevant to DVM; 3) continue to develop new ways of mentoring students and postdoctoral researchers as they navigate the evermore treacherous waters of modern trainee and faculty positions, and 4) coordinate DVM's output and events through more interactive, web-based media in order to highlight its successes to a broader audience.

**Jesse Young**

**Current Position:** Assistant Professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED)

**Education:** Ph. D. 2008: Stony Brook University (Anthropological Sciences); B. A. 2000: Indiana University (Anthropology & Psychology)



**Professional Experience:** 2009 - present: Assistant Professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, NEOMED; 2007-2009: Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology, UT Austin; 2004-2006: Instructor, Departments of Anthro-



pology and Biology, Hofstra University

**Awards and Honors:** Faculty/Staff Fellowship Award, Stony Brook University Graduate School, 2006; Ales Hrdlicka Prize for Outstanding Student Research, American Association of Physical Anthropologists, 2005; Normal Creel Prize for Outstanding Research in Anatomical Sciences, Dept. of Anatomical Sciences, Stony Brook University, 2005; NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, 2003-2006

**SICB Activities:** D. Dwight Davis (DVM) student prize judge: 2012; DCB student prize judge: 2011-2012; Session chair: 2011

**Other Memberships:** American Association of Physical Anthropologists

**Research Interests:** Comparative and developmental mechanics of terrestrial locomotion

**Goals Statement:** It is an honor to be nominated for the position of DVM secretary. Ever since my first year of graduate school, when a senior student advised me that SICB was where "the good science gets done," I have found SICB in general, and DVM in particular, to be a vibrant intellectual community in which I am proud to participate. As a part of this community, my primary goal as DVM secretary will be to facilitate communication at multiple levels - within the division, within the society at large, and in outreach to the wider world. Within the division, I will use the webpage and the semiannual newsletters to alert members about important developments in DVM business, ensuring that we all have a stake in the future of DVM. Within the society, I will continue to promote the breadth of DVM research by expanding the online Researcher Database and by doing my part to facilitate multi-division and society-wide symposia. Finally, I will work with the SICB secretary and the Public Affairs Committee to promote the

research accomplishments of our DVM members. However obtuse basic science research may seem at times, most people intuitively grasp the wonder of animal diversity and structure. As vertebrate morphologists, we are well-positioned to use our discipline as a means of communicating the practice and goals of scientific research to the outside world.