



## Division of Animal Behavior

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### Winners of DAB's Best Student Oral Presentation and Best Student Poster Presentation Awards

Thank you to all of the students who participated in the 2013 Best Student Presentation program—you made it very difficult to choose a single winner in each category!

This year's Best Student Oral Presentation Award went to graduate student Bradley Carlson for his talk titled, "Behavioural variation among tadpole populations: Ecological causes and consequences." Carlson is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Penn State University. He works with Dr. Tracy Langkilde on ecological interactions and evolutionary adaptations in aquatic organisms. The work he presented at SICB was on behavioral adaptations of wood frog tadpoles to variation in predation risk and the ecological impacts of that behavioral variation.

James Crall, a Ph.D. candidate from Harvard University, won the Best Student Poster Presentation with his poster titled, "Blown in the wind: Bumblebee temporal foraging patterns in naturally varying wind conditions." Crall currently works with Dr. Stacy Combes and Dr. Naomi Pierce on the evolution of butterfly wing shape, insect flight mechanics, and pollination. The work he presented at SICB was on the flight behavior of bumblebees: surprisingly, they chose not to alter their flight behavior in different wind and turbulence conditions.

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to all of the judges—we could not give these awards without your help!

### Message from the Chair

*Diana News, [Chair.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DAB@sicb.org)*

Greetings from your Chair. I currently only have one new item to discuss with the membership. With the increase in dues, the Divisions now have some discretionary funds. The officers of the DAB will be discussing what our goals might be for use of these funds. However, we welcome input from the membership with ideas. Please send me your thoughts! We believe the amount for DAB will be around a thousand dollars. We also will plan on discussing this with the membership at the business meeting in Austin for the 2014 meetings.

### Message from the Program Officer

*Allison Welch, [DPO.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DAB@sicb.org)*

2013 Meeting Recap – Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2013 annual meeting in San Francisco, CA! Animal behavior had a strong presence at the meeting. Of nearly 2200 meeting attendees, nearly 550 (25%) listed Animal Behavior as an area of interest. The meeting featured six symposia co-sponsored by



DAB, as well as nine sessions and several poster sub-sessions on behavioral topics.

2014 Meeting Preview – Mark your calendar for our next annual meeting to be held January 3-7, 2014, in Austin, TX. We will have another exceptional set of symposia, including six co-sponsored by DAB (<http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2014/symposia>), and we expect another strong year for contributed presentations.

SICB has grown steadily over the past several years, and the program committee and executive officers are discussing and experimenting with ways to pack as much great science as possible into our four-day meeting. Some possibilities include shorter talks and/or smaller poster spaces. You can help shape these decisions by providing feedback (we really do read those post-meeting surveys!), by attending the DAB business meeting at the annual meeting, and by communicating directly with your DAB officers. On a related note, if you are in a position to give either an oral or poster presentation, please consider selecting "Either" for your presentation format. Those of you kind enough to do so give the program committee the flexibility to craft coherent sessions within the space limitations of the venue – thank you!

Call for Symposia – Please consider proposing a symposium for an upcoming meeting. The program committee is especially interested in symposia that are conceptual in focus, forward-looking and that aim to broaden participation in science. Symposium proposals for the 2015 meeting in West Palm Beach, FL will be due August 30, 2013, so now is the time to start planning! Symposium proposers are strongly encouraged to touch base with relevant program officers before submitting proposals. I would love to discuss your symposium ideas with you; please contact me at [DPO.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DAB@sicb.org).

### Message from the Secretary

Melissa Bowlin, [Secretary.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DAB@sicb.org)

DAB is considering a change in judging Best Student Oral Presentations, based on some changes made by the Division of Ecology and Evolution at the 2013 meeting. DEE now asks students to submit an extended abstract along with their actual abstract. A panel then reads these extended abstracts and chooses a group of semi-finalists to present at the annual meeting. These semifinalists are placed

in a single session, which cuts down considerably on judging responsibilities at the meeting.

DEE currently uses this format with both oral and poster presentations. Currently, DAB is only considering it for oral presentations, where judging is more difficult than at the poster sessions. If you have comments on this, please contact me at [Secretary.DAB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DAB@sicb.org) and I will pass your comments along to the rest of the DAB Executive Committee.

Finally, note that DAB is having an election for Divisional Program Officer this spring. Keep an eye on your e-mail and remember to vote!

### Minutes of the Business Meeting, San Francisco, California 2013

[Click here.](#)

### Candidate Biographies: Election for DAB Divisional Program Officer

DAB will be electing a Divisional Program Officer this spring. Below you can find biographies for both of the candidates that are running for the position.

#### Ryan L. Earley

**Current Position:** Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Alabama.

**Education:** B.S., Biology, Syracuse University (1997); Ph.D., Biology, University of Louisville (2002).

**Professional Experience:** Post-doc, Center for Behavioral Neuroscience, Biology, Georgia State University (2002-2006); Assistant Professor, Biology, California State University Fresno (2006-2008); Associate Editor, Behaviour.



Ryan Earley

**SICB Activities:** Student Support Committee; Judge, Best Student Presentation/Poster (DAB, DCE, DEE); Student Career Roundtable Participant; Meeting Participant; Symposium Co-Organizer (2012).

**Other Memberships:** American Society for Naturalists; Animal Behavior Society; Fisheries Society of the British Isles; Sigma Xi Full Member.



**Research Interests:** The central focus of my laboratory is to understand how social and physical environments exact phenotypic change during development and adulthood, primarily in fish species. My students and I address a diverse range of hypotheses related to how social experiences (winning, losing, eavesdropping) alter behavioral decisions; the adaptive function of ornamental traits in the context of mate choice and heterospecific eavesdropping; how stress and sex steroid hormones organize and activate behavioral states; how personality, parasites, and hormones interact to mold the 'current' behavioral phenotype; and how early life experiences shape adult behavior, morphology, and life history traits. Our laboratory research program is rooted by significant field-based efforts in Nicaraguan volcanic lakes and mangrove ecosystems. We integrate endocrinology, community ecology, population genetics, and genomics with behavior to understand more fully how and why animals behave the way they do.

**Goals Statement:** I have attended SICB meetings for the past eight years, and during that time I have chaired sessions, organized symposia, and had the fortune of interacting with many remarkable young scholars while judging presentations and posters. While I am broadly affiliated in the Society, I gravitate very strongly to DAB because the division is incredibly integrative, reflecting the seemingly limitless approaches to the study of animal behavior (Tinbergen would be proud!). I have witnessed the growth of DAB, and have been simply thrilled with the sessions, student poster/platform presentations, and symposia that the division has supported over the years. It is thus a true honor to be considered for the position of divisional program officer, and to have the opportunity to work with the Chair, Secretary, and Student Representatives to continue and, indeed, enhance the strong tradition of intellectual diversity, creativity, and integration; champion initiatives for student support and professional development; help to generate an organized and highly appealing meeting program each year; and streamline mechanisms for recognizing our most talented student scholars.



**Allison M. Welch**

**Current Position:** Assistant Professor, Biology, College of Charleston.



Allison M. Welch

**Professional Experience:**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Biology, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (2000-2005); Postdoctoral Fellow, Biological Sciences, University of Missouri-Columbia (2005-2007); Research Associate/Adjunct Faculty, Biology, College of Charleston (2005-2007); Visiting Assistant Professor, Biology, College of Charleston (2008).

**SICB Activities:** Student Support Committee, 2007-2009; Nominating Committee, 2009; Meeting Participant and Presenter (12 of the past 13 years); Member of Division of Animal Behavior and Division of Ecology and Evolution; DAB Student Presentation Judge several times.

**Other Memberships:** Animal Behavior Society, Society for the Study of Evolution, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

**Research Interests:** Behavioral ecology and evolutionary ecology of amphibians: evolution of mating preferences and sexual displays, genetic variation in sexual displays and other traits related to fitness, effects of environmental stressors on early life history stages in amphibians, reproductive decision making in altered landscapes.

**Goals Statement:** In a second term as Program Officer of DAB, I would continue to work to promote integrative animal behavior as a focal area within our society. My ongoing goals include facilitating excellent symposia, planning efficient, well-organized meetings and sessions, supporting strong links with other Divisions, and representing the views of DAB to the program committee. If re-elected, I will continue to encourage symposia with a strong animal behavior focus, for example by working with young researchers to develop their symposium ideas and by working with other divisions to co-sponsor symposia that highlight the integrative nature of animal behavior research.