



## Division of Ecology & Evolution

### Contents

<a href="#">Message from the Chair</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Message from the Program Officer</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Message from the Secretary</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Raymond B. Huey Awards</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Minutes from the Business Meeting</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Elections</a> .....	3

### DEE Officers & Representatives

Michael Angilletta  
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Michael Sears  
*Chair-Elect 2013-2015*

H. Art Woods  
*Past Chair 2013-2015*

Aaron Krochmal  
*Secretary 2013-2015*

Michael Dillon  
*Secretary-Elect 2014-2015*

Donald Miles  
*Program Officer 2014-2016*

Donald Miles  
*Program Officer-Elect 2013-2014*

Eric Riddell  
*Student/Postdoc Representative  
2014-2017*

### Message from the Chair

Michael J. Angilletta, Jr. ([Chair.DEE@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DEE@sicb.org))

DEE is on the rise.

Hello everybody in DEE. If you attended the meeting in Austin, you know that we have a lot going for our division these days.

Our second annual competition for the Raymond B. Huey Award packed the room for most of the meeting's first day. Congratulations to all seven speakers for delivering exceptional presentations! A special congratulation goes to the winner, Martha Muñoz, who was a finalist last year. Let that be an incentive for all of you other students to return next year. To be sure, DEE is on to something special with this award; other divisions are already following our lead by re-designing their competitions for best student presentation. This event should continue to be something that all members of DEE can enjoy with pride.

This year also marked the beginning of DEE's new social designed exclusively for students. **Beer and Brains**, as we call it, was a resounding success. For almost three hours, some of SICB's best and brightest professors gathered to socialize with graduate students and answer their questions about how to succeed in science. How did we manage to get their attention? With free food and beer, of course! Nearly 20 mentors—balanced by gender and expertise—spent the evening rotating among tables of students. The noise of their conversation was deafening. Anyone who was there could see that the *Beer and Brains* was something that we should repeat. Responses from both faculty and students were overwhelmingly positive. One of the senior scientists remarked that "...we never had this type of opportunity as graduate students in any of our societies." I should point out that this opportunity arose only because of the great people who gave their time so generously to our students. If you didn't have a chance to attend *Beer and Brains* this year, either as a mentor or a student, be sure to do so next year in West Palm Beach.

When I ran for the position of Chair of DEE, I promised to work with other officers to raise the profile of DEE within our society. Hopefully, I have achieved this goal to some degree since I was elected. In an ideal world, I would have another year to make good on this promise. Unfortunately, the world has never been ideal. I have been coerced by fate to take a greater administrative role in my university. Therefore, I will be handing over most of my duties until the end of my term in January 2015 to our Chair-elect, Mike Sears of Clemson University, as provided by our bylaws. Mike has graciously agreed to take on these responsibilities. As a former Program Officer of DEE, Mike helped to shape the division into its current form. I am confident that I am leaving you in capable hands. Thank you for making my time in this position so enjoyable.



## Message from the Program Officer

Don Miles ([DPO.DEE@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DEE@sicb.org))

Another meeting has passed and Austin did not disappoint. I hope you enjoyed the science, food and music. The Division of Ecology and Evolution maintained a large presence at the Austin meeting with nearly 160 oral presentations, 60 poster presentations and co-sponsored symposia. In addition, the 2nd annual Huey Competition included 7 presentations and all drew a large audience. I was impressed with the diversity and breadth of topics our members presented at the Austin meeting.

Now that we wrapped up the Austin meeting and the West Palm Beach meeting looms on the horizon, we need to start thinking about potential symposium topics for future meetings. I am pleased to announce a call for symposium proposals for the 2015 Annual Meeting to be held in Portland, Oregon. The past three years DEE has co-sponsored many symposia of broad interest to the members of SICB. A primary goal of symposia is to disseminate the research of the members within DEE. We have funds for supporting speakers who are involved in innovative research. However, we would like to have more symposia primarily sponsored by DEE.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, I request that you submit them early. The deadline for proposals reaching the society is end of August 2014. I invite anyone who has ideas or topics for potential symposium to send me an email for feedback and suggestions. In the meantime, for those of you with a desire to submit a proposal, I would like to receive preliminary proposals by mid-June, so I can provide feedback to make the proposal competitive for support. Proposals that focus on integrative and conceptual topics of broad interest to the members of SICB as well as our Division are especially encouraged. We are also interested in proposals that integrate the mechanistic approaches that are the focus of other Divisions. The division is also keen on having proposals submitted by junior members and topics that broaden diversity and participation by underrepresented groups.

Remember to mark your calendars for our next annual meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida. DEE is co-sponsoring two symposia: *Integrative Biology of the Crocodylia* and *Thinking About Change: An Integrative Approach for Examining Cognition in a Changing World*.

See you in sunny Florida!

## Message from the Secretary

Aaron Krochmal ([Secretary.DEE@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DEE@sicb.org))

About a year ago, the DEE began its new, quarterly email updates, our newest way of delivering the most current, relevant DEE news to our members in a quick, easy-to-read format. These email news blasts have been overwhelmingly successful, and have helped the DEE grow and expand during the past year. On account of their success, and to keep the clutter in your inbox down, we will be combining our email news blasts with the monthly member updates circulated by SICB. Keep your eyes peeled for important updates from the DEE in these society-wide monthly email updates.

Got something to share with DEE members? Email it to [secretary.dee@sicb.org](mailto:secretary.dee@sicb.org) to include it in a forthcoming email update.

The DEE officers have been busy updating and managing the DEE Researcher Database which we maintain to promote our division and the work of our members. If you've not checked out the database, go [here](#) to get a feel for the strength and breadth of our members and their work. To add your research profile to the DEE page, or to update an existing file, send text files (.doc, .docx or .txt), images (.tif, .jpg, .png, or .gif), or movies (.avi or .mpeg) to [secretary.dee@sicb.org](mailto:secretary.dee@sicb.org).

## Raymond B. Huey Best Student Presentation Awards

It's our pleasure to announce the winners of the second annual Raymond B. Huey Best Student Presentation Award –

**BEST ORAL PRESENTATION:** Martha Muñoz, Harvard University. Behavior simultaneously drives and impedes evolution: An empirical test using a tropical lizard, *Anolis cybotes*. Click [here](#) for the full abstract of Martha's presentation. To learn more about Martha's innovative work, click [here](#).

Martha was the top presenter from a highly competitive pool of excellent scientists. Congratulations to Martha and to all of the finalists!

**Minutes from the Division of Ecology and Evolution Business Meeting, 4 January 2014** ([click here](#))



## Candidates for Elections

### It's election time!

The DEE is currently holding elections for Chair-Elect and Program Officer-elect.

## Candidates for Chair-Elect

### Robert Cox



**Current Position:** Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, University of Virginia

**Educational Background:** B.A., Biology, College of the Holy Cross (1999); Ph.D., Ecology and Evolution, Rutgers University (2005)

**Professional Experience:** Postdoctoral Associate, The Ohio State University (2005-2006), Lecturer in Evolutionary Biology, The Ohio State University (2006), Postdoctoral Associate, Dartmouth College (2007-2011)

**SICB Activities:** Member since 2002 (DEE, DCE, DCPB); Bartholomew Award Recipient (2011); Judge for Best Student Presentation/Poster Competitions (2006-2012) for DEE, DCE, and DCPB

**Other Memberships:** American Society of Naturalists, Society for the Study of Evolution

**Research Interests:** My lab studies the evolution of sex differences and reproductive tradeoffs from a perspective that blends comparative, descriptive, and experimental approaches. We use mechanistic studies of behavior, physiology, endocrinology, and genetics to answer questions at the interface of ecology and evolution, with an emphasis on integrating proximate and ultimate causation. Our current research focuses on the evolutionary dynamics of sexual conflict, the interplay between natural and sexual selection in wild populations, and the physiological and ecological basis of life-history tradeoffs.

**Statement of Goals:** SICB has long been recognized as a leading international society for mechanistic research in comparative endocrinology, physiology, biochemistry, and biomechanics. However, what truly

makes our society unique and exciting is the integration of these fields within the framework of ecology and evolution. This is what DEE can offer that simply cannot be matched, even by the leading ecological and evolutionary societies. As chair, I would work to raise the international profile of DEE by capitalizing on our unique position to become the leading organization for addressing ecological and evolutionary questions with the mechanistic perspectives represented by other SICB divisions. Within SICB, I would emphasize the importance of co-sponsored symposia with other divisions and the growth of DEE as an integrative hub that provides the ecological and evolutionary context common to all other divisions. Outside of SICB, I would work with DEE members to identify key questions driving current research in ecology and evolution, then ask how these questions could be extended in novel directions by incorporating mechanistic perspectives from various SICB divisions. There are many vacant niches at the interface of organismal biology and evolutionary ecology, and DEE is perfectly situated to expand in this direction.

### Donald B. Miles



**Current Position:** Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Ohio University.

**Educational Background:** A.B., Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, 1978; M.Phil., Biometry, University of California, 1979; Ph.D. Population Biology, University of Pennsylvania, 1985.

**Professional Experience:** Assistant Professor, Ohio University, 1985 – 1991; Associate Professor, Ohio University, 1991 – 2005;

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Washington, 1994 – 1995; Professor, Ohio University 2005; Visiting Scholar, Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, 2007 – 2008; Visiting Professor CNRS Moulis and University Toulouse (Paul Sabatier), 2007 – 2010; Visiting Associate Professor, University of Washington

**SICB Activities:** I have been a member of SICB since 1987 (DEE, DVM, DCPB). Program Officer (2014 – 2016), Organized Symposium "Contributions of Long-term Ecological Research to Conservation Biology" (1992), Reviewer for Integrative and Comparative



Biology, Judge for Best Student Paper Awards (DEE, DCPB, DAB).

**Other Memberships:** American Ornithologists Union, American Society of Naturalists, Cooper Ornithological Society, Ecological Society of America, Herpetologists League, Society for the Study of Evolution.

**Research Interests:** My research interests focus on the general question of how species respond to environment variation. I have two themes to my research. First, I am interested in predicting organismal responses to climate change and anthropogenic stressors. This aspect of my research integrates thermal biology, reproductive mode, demographic variation and behavior in lizards with landscape variation to generate models predicting species extinction risk. Second, I am interested in the ecological and evolutionary consequences of variation in morphology and physiology in lizards. This project also entails adopting a phylogenetic perspective to determine how evolutionary diversification results in morphological and functional diversity.

**Statement of Goals:** One of the first professional meetings I attended as a graduate student was an annual meeting of the American Zoologists. The breadth of research being presented and the interactive nature of the meeting stood out from other societies. Furthermore, the activities by senior members to increase the participation of graduate students and post doctoral scholars enhanced the recruitment of junior members to society. Because the research in other disciplines in biology is enhanced by integrating ecology and evolution, as witnessed by the addition of Ecoimmunology and Disease Ecology, we should be a leading division in SICB. DEE has been at the forefront of developing innovative approaches for promoting interactions between graduate students/post-docs and senior investigators (Beer n' Brains) and recognizing excellence in student research (Raymond B. Huey Award). As chair I would continue the tradition of broadening member participation in DEE as well as increase the stature of the division within SICB. I have several goals. First, is to continue the effort for increasing member participation and recruitment to SICB and DEE. This can be accomplished by encouraging DEE members whose research spans conceptual themes central to all other disciplines in biology, to submit symposia proposals covering cutting-edge and integrative topics of general interest to Ecologists and Evolutionary Biologists beyond SICB. Second, we might consider hosting regional meetings similar to the DVM Northeast Regional

Meeting for reaching participation by individuals who ordinarily do not think of attending an annual meeting of SICB. Third, I would explore the potential for initiating a DEE sponsored distinguished lecture similar to the Bartholomew/Bern/Moore Lecture. Finally, I would to propose having a session consisting of 5-minute "lightning" talks that other divisions have established (e.g. DVM and DCB).

### Candidates for Program Officer – Elect *Christopher R. Tracy*



**Current Position:** Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Science, California State University Fullerton

**Education:** B.S., Colorado State University; M.S., University of Oklahoma; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin Madison.

**Professional Experience:** 2002-2005, NSF International Postdoctoral Fellow, hosted by Dr. Keith Christian at Charles Darwin University; 2004-2005, Postdoctoral fellow with Berry Pinshow, Mitrani Department of Desert Ecology, Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev; 2005-2011, Research fellow, Charles Darwin University; 2011-2012, Lecturer, University of Melbourne

**SICB activities:** Member since 2000 (DEE, DCPB), and regular conference attendee since 2001.

**Other Memberships:** American Society of Naturalists, Ecological Society of America, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Herpetologists' League, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Australian Society of Herpetologists

**Research Interests:** I'm broadly interested in physiological ecology and comparative physiology of vertebrates, especially reptiles and amphibians. I generally use an approach that combines field observations or experiments with lab experiments and computer modeling. In particular, I have been exploring the interactions between water balance and thermoregulation in frogs with different ecological habits (e.g. aquatic vs. arboreal) and thermal biology of desert lizards, and



using information about physiological limitations to understand how those might affect their susceptibility to climate change

**Statement of Goals:** I believe that the importance and strength of the DEE is that the Division actively encourages interaction among the many subdisciplines used by researchers to understand the ecological and evolutionary relationships among organisms. One of the things that makes SICB meeting so exciting and fun for me is how much interaction there is among the participants, and how many collaborations, workshops and other scholarly activity get spawned from these meetings. My primary goal would be to increase member participation in DEE. One way to do this is to increase opportunities for graduate students and post-docs to participate in DEE sponsored events. Recently, DEE has sponsored social programs and social events that bring new and old members of DEE together, and I would work to expand and enhance these. Another avenue to increase participation is to sponsor cross-disciplinary symposia that appeal to members of other divisions or individuals who do not normally attend SICB meetings. The breadth of talks in ecology and evolution should appeal to people from a wide range of disciplines, so I would work to promote DEE sponsored symposia that appeal across SICB divisions, and more broadly to members of other societies.

### Jennifer Sunday



**Current position:** Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Biodiversity Research Centre, University of British Columbia

**Education:** BSc Biology, University of British Columbia (2002); PhD Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University with Michael Hart (2012)

**Professional Experience:** Current postdoc at the University of British Columbia, with Christopher Harley, Mary O'Connor, and Amy Angert (2013-present)

**SICB Activities:** SICB member and conference attendee (2010, 2013, 2014); recipient, Raymond B. Huey award (2013); judge, Raymond B. Huey award (2014)

**Other Memberships:** Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution; Society for the Study of Evolution; Society of Conservation Biology

**Statement of Research Interests:** Our world is changing faster than ever, posing new challenges to organisms worldwide. My research focuses on how organisms and communities will respond to climate change, connecting three major domains of biology - organismal physiology, community ecology, and evolution. I use classic principles and theory from these fields to push forward our understanding of climate change responses. I have worked towards this goal by advancing three interrelated research directions: (1) understanding patterns in the biogeography of species' physiology (macrophysiology), (2) characterizing the mechanisms of species' range shifts in response to warming, and (3) measuring the evolutionary potential of populations to cope with multiple stressors during environmental change.

**Statement of Goals:** The Division of Ecology and Evolution is well-poised to tackle research topics of current and broad interest in ecology and evolution, by drawing on SICB's strong membership of comparative organismal biologists. I have observed this in effect with regards to climate change-related ecology, where model organisms and systems are not adequate for large-scale global questions, and the hard work of comparative biology leading to mechanistic understanding has provided critically useful insights.

I have been drawn to SICB for this exact reason, and envision further venues (e.g. symposia, workshops) for integrating the interests of other divisions of SICB with DEE to tackle questions at the forefront of ecology and evolution.

As a relatively new member (since 2010) and an early career scientist, I have benefitted from venues and social activities that recognize members of the division. Yet to a new member, the DEE can seem nebulous, particularly within a large multi-disciplinary meeting. I propose to continue the trend for creative ways to recognize DEE members (e.g. Raymond B Huey Award, Beer and Brains), particularly to include undergraduates, postdocs, and new members, and to bring character (and pride of membership) to the DEE as a whole.