

# SICB Newsletter



Volume Fall 2005

## SICB Fall 2005 Newsletter

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### **Message from the President**

As I think all of you know, this has been the year of the journal for your officers. We have signed a letter of intent with Oxford Press which means that they are now advertising ICB and making arrangements with people who bundle journals and talking with abstracting services. I am very happy to announce that Harold Heatwole has accepted the position as editor-in-chief. [\[Read more\]](#)

### **Message from the President-Elect**

It is time to enact our strategic plan so ably initiated by Martin Feder 5 years ago, then initially drafted by Marvalee Wake, and after further tweaking, finally approval at last year's meeting. Of the many formidable objectives in the strategic plan, I hope to focus on four, in particular, during my term, and will begin addressing them next year, my second year as President-Elect. [\[Read more\]](#)

### **Message from the Treasurer**

The audit for 2004 is complete, and the Society finished the year with a modest increase in net assets. Our invested funds continue to be a highlight of the overall financial picture. One area of fiscal concern is the very real prospect for diminishing support from NSF for Society symposia at the annual meeting. [\[Read more\]](#)

### **Message from the Program Officer**

We have a very exciting program planned for our annual SICB meeting in Orlando in January 2006. There will be nine symposia, sixty-six contributed oral sessions, three afternoons of poster presentations, as well as special lectures, workshops, and socials. We continue to attract a large number of presentations (1053 submitted abstracts; even more than in San Diego). [\[Read more\]](#)

### **Message from the Secretary**

The secretaries have been working on three initiatives

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[Ecology and Evolution \(DEE\)](#)

[Invertebrate Zoology \(DIZ\)](#)

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[Vertebrate Morphology \(DVM\)](#)

over this year. First, revision of divisional bylaws has been ongoing. Second, the secretaries and webmaster have started a bulletin board for discussion of divisional business – including the bylaws. Finally, many divisions have spiced up webpages. **[Read more](#)**

## Message from the President

*Sarah A. Woodin*

As I think all of you know, this has been the year of the journal for your officers. We agreed in January to investigate moving from a printer, Allen Press, to a publisher as our partner in publishing *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. The committee charged with doing this consisted of myself, John Pearse as President-elect, Ron Dimock as Treasurer, Dave Borst as the Editorial Board representative, and Brett Burk as Executive Director of SICB. We released the RFP to publishers in March and spent most of April, May and early June dissecting their responses. As you know we nominated Oxford Press as the publisher to the Executive Committee and they agreed. We have signed a letter of intent with Oxford Press which means that they are now advertising ICB and making arrangements with people who bundle journals and talking with abstracting services. Brett and Ron and I met with Dr. Cathy Kennedy, the Senior Editor of the Oxford Journals Division, plus the North American staff of Oxford including Elizabeth Gardner, the Production Team Leader of Oxford Journals, in early September and finalized many of the remaining details. I anticipate that we will sign a contract with Oxford within the next two weeks. Before anyone gets excited, SICB retains ownership of the journal, the membership lists etc.

I am very excited to have Oxford onboard as our partner. They bring a long and distinguished history of scientific publishing to us and are in the forefront of modern day academic publishing. As part of our agreement with Oxford SICB members will accrue a number of benefits including online access to all past and current issues of both *American Zoologist* and *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, a significant discount on books published by Oxford, and online publishing of papers in ICB once they have completed copy editing. Additionally as we join Oxford in partnership, all manuscripts will be dealt with electronically so that authors can track their progress, deal with reviewer comments, communicate with the editor in charge etc easily from anywhere. This will greatly increase the transparency of the editorial process. I am in particular looking forward to papers being published online as their editorial process is completed. Thus if you submit a paper from a symposium and it is through the editorial process within a few months, it will be available online at that point. When the rest of the papers for the symposium are ready, the symposium will appear in print but no longer will one paper delay the others.

As John Edwards announced in January 2005, he will be stepping down as Editor-in-Chief of ICB. John has served ICB well and capably and kindly agreed to remain as Editor-in-Chief while we searched for a replacement and during the transition period. Claudia deGruy and Jenn Tousley are working very hard with Oxford to make this transition a smooth one. You begin to see why this was the year of the journal. The Editorial Board acted as the search committee for a new editor-in-chief with Dave Borst as the Chair. They nominated Harold Heatwole of North Carolina State University and the Executive Committee has voted in favor of that nomination. I am very happy to announce that Harold Heatwole has accepted the position as editor-in-chief and has already met with the folks from Oxford and started setting up the necessary protocols for manuscript submission and evaluation via the internet. As I said before, I am very excited that this is happening and that we have both Harold Heatwole and Oxford onboard.

The Core Officers and the Divisional Program Officers met in Orlando in early October to finalize plans for the January 2006 meeting. The details of the Program Officer meeting are in Kate Loudon's newsletter component but suffice it to say that the venue is extremely nice, great space, lots of room to talk, all on one floor, easy access to the outside world etc. The restaurant food is even good. The symposia look great as do the contributed papers and posters. One change about which we have already told you is that the printed book of Abstracts is no longer available UNLESS you check the box on your registration form and request it (and pay \$25). Instead in addition to online access before and after the meeting, when you register you will receive a CD containing the abstracts plus a booklet containing the program, titles and locations, map of the facility, etc. A number of members have been pressing for this for several years; so, let us know how you like it. I

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personally think it will be great. My shoulder feels better already.

SICB continues its history of investing heavily in its students by subsidizing their attendance at the meeting (approx. \$48,000), having low membership dues (currently \$36 for students), financing student research and student travel awards (approx. \$30,000), and sponsoring a variety of meeting activities aimed at students in particular. One of those activities however is no more. We will no longer pay for the Student and Postdoctoral Lunch. The cheapest box lunch was \$31.85. If 600 attend, that is over \$19,000.

An area of concern to SICB for which we are searching for solutions is the great reduction in federal grant funding for symposia and in particular for support of foreign speakers. In the past this support has been in the range of \$16,500 per symposium and many symposia have had such support; so, the potential loss is huge, over \$150,000 per meeting. SICB currently contributes about \$20,000 to \$30,000 in support of symposia. We are looking for ways to increase this support via other avenues such as corporate support. Stay tuned to this station. If you have experience with this, please call me or Brett and tell us about it.

Finally, what is the status of SICB? I find the society to be growing, active intellectually, supportive of its young scientists, moving forward into exciting new arenas, and full of wonderful smart people who help make SICB work. I am looking forward to the meeting in Orlando, to initiating our association with Oxford and hearing about fantastic science.

See you there,

Sally

## Message from the President–Elect

*John Pearse*

In my time as President–Elect this year, I have enjoyed working with Sally and Ron, our President and Treasurer, and learning how strong our society has become since the crisis of the early 1990s. This reassuring situation is the result of a lot of very hard work by our earlier leadership; we owe them major thanks. Not only have we emerged from a huge and crippling debt, but are now managed by the very capable and easy–to–work–with folks at Burk and Associates. We have undergone a name change to better reflect our role in the new century, and our journal, also with a new name, is changing and going electronic. Our meetings have been reorganized to better present an integrated program, and we continue to reach out to other like–minded organizations, both here and abroad. Being part of the selection process for both a publisher of our journal and a new editor has been particularly rewarding .

Clearly, it is comforting for me to look forward to following Sally as President in 2007 knowing how well she is managing the Society and preparing the way for further progress. It is time to enact our strategic plan so ably initiated by Martin Feder 5 years ago, then initially drafted by Marvalee Wake, and after further tweaking, finally approved at last year's meeting (see <http://www.sicb.org/handbook/plan.php3>).

Of the many formidable objectives in the strategic plan, I hope to focus on four, in particular, during my term, and will begin addressing them next year, my second year as President–Elect. Three have to do with our membership:

- 1) Increasing ethnic diversity. The dominance of European–Americans at our meetings is conspicuous and increasingly unacceptable in our multi–ethnic culture. Various attempts to diversify our membership for a number of years have had some success, but hardly enough. Our own monotony is in contrast to the broadening ethnic diversity in academia, especially of Asian–Americans and Latinos, as well as African–Americans. I welcome any and all assistance in bringing this trend to our Society.
- 2) Expanding our scope, especially to include more plant scientists. We have a legacy of being a zoological society, but clearly we gain much by extending the power of comparative biology beyond animals to integrate our work with biology in general. The past half century, focusing on molecular approaches with model organisms, has gone beyond compartmentalization of biology into microbiology, botany and zoology, or for that matter into things like molecular and cell versus ecology and evolution. We can do more to live up to our new name.
- 3) Increasing the international character of our Society. Marvalee Wake, in particular, took major steps in this direction, and I hope we continue to find ways to participate with like–minded societies in other countries and regions.
- 4) Finally, as the primary society integrating research and teaching in biology, we need to join others to address the re–emergence of faith–based thinking as it encroaches into science and an enlightened worldview. Currently, the charade of "intelligent design" as science needs to be countered. Although painfully distracting from productive activity, it is now threatening to interfere with how we teach and do research. This was recognized in our "Resolution on the Teaching of Evolution," approved on 6 January 2001, but that appears dated and weak today. However, it is not obvious how to approach this anachronism. Debating seems counterproductive, as does any attempt at educating those who have closed minds. But ignoring them makes us look elitist. Ridicule is hard to resist, but almost certainly misguided as well. My feeling is that for beginners we should insist that those who claim to be doing science do so. Indeed, such insistence could be an unusual opening to teach what science is, and what it is not. Any advice or assistance would be most welcome.

And truly finally---

is anyone reading these officers' messages in our newsletters?! I know I rarely did so in the past, except when I was program officer and wondered whether other officers mentioned me. But I did read through a lot of them before writing this, just to get a flavor of what people write. There are lots of thoughtful and informative messages. But does anyone read them? I'm not sure I want to engage in a major dialog about this now, but I am curious about how effective these messages are for reaching our membership. **Drop me a note:** [pearse@biology.ucsc.edu](mailto:pearse@biology.ucsc.edu). Just "I read it" would be enough for now; if I don't hear from many of you, it might be worthwhile to think of more productive ways for your officers to spend their time.

## Message from the Treasurer

*Ron Dimock*

The audit for 2004 is complete, and the Society finished the year with a modest increase in net assets (about \$44,000). However, this figure incorporates unrealized capital gains from our mutual funds and REIT investments; the actual annual budget was about \$20,000 in the red. This deficit was about \$13,000 greater than had been projected. There was no single part of the budget that was responsible for this overage, but rather actual expenses exceeded budgeted figures by a few 100 or an occasional 1000 dollars here and there. One bright spot in the budget was the Annual Meeting, which finished with a modest positive net balance of \$1900, the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year that the meeting has been in the black.

Our invested funds continue to be a highlight of the overall financial picture. After the down market for much of 2004, at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2005, the Year-To-Date return on all investments was 9.5%. Overall the portfolio has increased 19% since April 2002 while the S&P 500 has increased 5%. With money market funds and CDs only now approaching 2–3% after hovering at or below 1% for much of 2004, these YTD and overall figures are encouraging.

These are exciting times for the Society, and when you read President Woodin's report, you'll see that much of the recent focus concerns the journal. Beginning in January 2006, *Integrative and Comparative Biology* will be published by Oxford University Press. This new association between SICB and OUP will bring professional marketing to *ICB*, and should in the long term reverse the steadily declining income from the journal that the Society has experienced. One area where there is particular optimism for growth is with international institutional subscribers, a sphere in which *ICB* has not been well represented. However, in the short term, the profit sharing arrangement with OUP will result in further erosion of the net income from *ICB*. Therefore, the budget is going to be further constrained.

Another area of fiscal concern is the very real prospect for diminishing support from NSF for Society symposia at the annual meeting. Some retrenchment by NSF has already occurred, and the Society must anticipate further difficulty in securing extramural support. Providing financial assistance to international speakers is an especially difficult issue. It seems obvious that the Society will have to increase its current level of approximately \$20,000 per year in direct support of symposia (through the Program Officer) plus subsidizing nearly all registration fees for symposia participants, and will have to seek creative ways to fund these sessions in the future. Since *ICB* depends upon a steady influx of high quality manuscripts from symposia presented at the annual meetings, sustaining those symposia is vital to the Society not only for the quality of science at the meetings but also for the very survival of the journal.

President Woodin, following the efforts initiated by Past-President Wingfield, intends to reconstitute the long-dormant Development Committee whose charge it will be to explore other avenues for generating financial support for SICB. However, further cost-cutting and revenue-producing adjustments to the annual budget also will have to be considered carefully.

The pre-meeting figures in respect to abstract submittals indicate that the upcoming meeting in Orlando will be another success. Program Officer Kate Loudon and the DPOs have assembled an outstanding program. Each of us should encourage colleagues to attend, and more importantly, recruit new (and old) colleagues to become members of our unique society.

## Message from the Program Officer

*Catherine Loudon*

### I. Program for 2006 SICB annual meeting in Orlando

### II. Description of Program Planning meeting

### III. Recognition of helpful individuals

#### I. Program for 2006 annual SICB meeting in Orlando

We have a very exciting program planned for our annual SICB meeting in Orlando in January 2006. There will be nine symposia, sixty–six contributed oral sessions, three afternoons of poster presentations, as well as special lectures, workshops, and socials. We continue to attract a large number of presentations (1053 submitted abstracts; even more than in San Diego), and there will be about a dozen simultaneous sessions in Orlando during the mornings and early afternoons. Scheduling the posters in the late afternoon without any other competing events has worked so well in recent meetings that we will continue this format in Orlando. All symposia, contributed talks and posters have been arranged into sessions, and will be posted on the SICB website for your perusal by early November. The grid will be posted earlier. Workshops and social events are still being scheduled, so check the grid for their times and locations.

Our meeting begins Wednesday, Jan. 4, with a plenary address from SICB Past–President John Wingfield, who will be speaking on "Control of reproduction in diverse habitats: multiple pathways for environmental signals." A society–wide welcome social for the Orlando meeting will be held that same evening following the plenary talk.

In addition to the plenary session, there will be three other special lectures at the Orlando meeting. On Thursday evening, the DCPB Bartholomew Awardee, Dr. James Gillooly, will present the Bartholomew Lecture on "Linking Biological Currencies in Ecology and Evolution." The following evening (Friday), Dr. Stacia Sower will give the fifth Bern Lecture in Comparative Endocrinology. There will also be a talk organized by the American Microscopical Society, at which Dr. Kevin Ecklebarger will give a historical account of influential invertebrate biologists of the recent past.

Symposia are the heart of the annual meeting, and there will be a broad and thought–provoking array of symposia in Orlando. There will be two Society–wide symposia: "Ecological Immunology: Recent Advances and Applications For Conservation and Public Health" (organized by Kelly Lee, Bram Lutton, and Martin Wikelski), and "Metamorphosis: A Multi–Kingdom Approach" (organized by Andreas Heyland, Jason Hodin, Cory Bishop, and Leonid Moroz). The other seven symposia are "Recent Developments in Neurobiology," "Genomic and Proteomic Approaches in Crustacean Biology," "Integrating Function over Marine Life Cycles," "Movers and Shakers: The Evolution and Development of Mesoderm," "EcoPhysiology and Conservation: The Contributions of Energetics," "Biomechanics and Neuromuscular Control," and "Zebrafish in Comparative Context." For more information about these symposia, please see their web pages which are accessible from the SICB website.

#### II. Description of Program Planning meeting

The Program Planning meeting (started three years ago by Stacia Sower, Past Program Officer, and Sue Burk, SICB Meeting Director) continues to be extremely important in pulling together the entire program for the

upcoming annual meeting and to select symposia for the following meeting (over a year hence). This Program Planning meeting (which was held Oct. 8 and 9 in Orlando) includes all of the divisional program officers, representatives from associated societies (AMS and TCS), the SICB program officer, Program Officer-Elect, Meeting Director, and Assistant Meeting Director (the last two from Burk Associates). This annual planning meeting allows the divisional program officers to be more actively involved in the annual meeting and in long-term programmatic planning for the society.

### III. Recognition of helpful individuals

It has been a pleasure to work with a group of outstanding individuals during my two years as the Program Officer for SICB: the Past Program Officer (Stacia Sower), all of the hardworking members of the Program Committee, the members of the Executive Committee (especially John Wingfield, Sally Woodin, Ron Dimock, and Sunny Boyd), and all of the symposium organizers and participants who have worked constructively within the programming constraints. My job has been made much easier by the pleasant and efficient input and assistance from the SICB webmaster (Ruedi Birenheide) and the terrific people at Burk Associates (Sue Burk, Lori Strong, and Brett Burk).

I look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando.

**Message from the Secretary**

*Sunny K. Boyd*

2005 has been a busy year for the secretaries! The elections this year were a resounding success. Many fine members will take office over the coming year, so be sure to welcome aboard the new folks in your divisions. We all appreciate those who are willing to run for office – whether ultimately elected or not. Their personal sacrifice makes SICB the thriving enterprise it is.

The secretaries have been working on three initiatives over this year. First, revision of divisional bylaws has been ongoing. Hopefully, soon all divisions will be in compliance with their own bylaws! Second, the secretaries and webmaster have started a bulletin board for discussion of divisional business – including the bylaws. Please see <http://sicb.org/phpBB2/index.php> . Finally, many divisions have spiced up webpages. You can see particularly fine examples in the "researchers' databases" at the DEE, DIZ and DCPB webpages. We welcome even more contributions to the databases. Contact your division secretary for details.

As a reminder, a draft of the minutes from the 2005 business meeting in San Diego has been posted in the Spring newsletter (<http://sicb.org/newsletters/n104-2005/secretary.php3#minutes>). Please read the minutes and write me ([boyd.1@nd.edu](mailto:boyd.1@nd.edu)) if you have corrections, additions, or other comments. We will vote on acceptance of the minutes at the 2006 business meeting.

Finally, as I leave office after the 2006 meeting, I would like to thank the many people with whom I have worked. To the division secretaries, society officers, webmaster Ruedi, and many other friends and colleagues in SICB – Thank You. I have enjoyed myself and you all made that possible.

## **SICB Fall 2005 Newsletter News & Announcements**

- Meetings & Conferences
  - International Journal of Zoological Sciences
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### **Meeting Announcements**

**The Third International Symposium on Aero Aqua Bio–Mechanisms – ISABMEC 2006** July 3–7, 2006  
Okinawa Convention Center  
Ginowan, Okinawa  
Japan

The Study Group of Aero Aqua Bio–Mechanisms (ABMECH), Osaka University, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and Northeastern University Marine Science Center (NUMSC) are organizing the Third International Symposium on Aero Aqua Bio–Mechanisms (ISABMEC 2006). The symposium will be held on 3–7 July in 2006 at Okinawa Convention Center in Ginowan–city, Okinawa, Japan. Original papers on the theme of this symposium are invited for submission.

For more information visit <http://abmech.org/isabmec2006/>.

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### **International Journal of Zoological Sciences**

The re–establishment of International Society of Zoological Sciences was approved by an overwhelming majority in the General Meeting of 19th International Congress of Zoology. The Society unites individual scholars and educators with national and professional organizations to promote an integrative study of animal organisms. The Society will promote co–ordination, collaboration and co–operation between the different specialized fields of zoological sciences. To encourage everybody to join the Society, the membership of the first 4 year period (2004–2008) is free of charge.

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The major activities of the Society will be maintaining a website for information exchange, publishing a journal and host the Congress. We had a meeting with representatives from Blackwell Publishing about the International Journal of Zoological Sciences. We've reached an agreement to publish the 1st issue in March, 2005. We are now calling paper for this new Journal, please find the details on the ISZS website: [www.globalzoology.org](http://www.globalzoology.org).

## Committee Reports

- Student Support Committee
  - Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee
- 

### Student Support Committee

*Brian Tsukimura, Chair*

The Student Support Committee (SSC) wishes to announce 2 award opportunities this Fall, 2005. A similar letter has been sent out to each graduate student member of the SICB in early October. The membership of the SICB has generously set aside funds to provide two forms of research awards, the **Grants-In-Aid-of-Research** (GIAR) and **Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel** (FGST). Students can apply to only **ONE** program per year. Students have a "lifetime eligibility" to receive only one award (FGST or GIAR). To apply for both the GIAR and FGST, please visit the Society website, <http://www.sicb.org/awards.php3> and complete the online application. Please read the instructions carefully. Please understand that the SICB requires the applicant to contact their recommenders and arrange that letters be sent. The **Deadline** for applications and Letters of Support is **November 21, 2005**.

In Fall 2004, 80 applications were submitted for the GIAR. The SSC reviewed these at the San Diego meeting (January, 2005) and made 26 awards (32%) for a total of \$24,000 to students from the 9 different divisions of the Society. In Fall 2004, 15 applications were received for the FGST and the SSC granted 4 (27%) FGST for a total of \$6000. Both award categories have a good level of funding percentage, and the SSC encourages all graduate student members of the SICB to apply.

Support for students presenting at the Orlando meeting (2006) have the opportunity to apply for the Student Support Program, which offers either housing accommodations or registration costs in exchange for half day services at the conference. The **deadline is October 28, 2005**. Apply at: <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2006/studentssupport.php3>

The SICB has a strong history of supporting students. This being illustrated by the awarding of \$30,000 in student research grants every year. In addition, the SICB, through the SSC, provides housing for students making presentations at annual meetings. In San Diego (2005), 249 students were housed at a cost of \$36,700. In addition, 70 students received registration waivers at a cost of \$2,660. Thus, the total expended on student support in 2005 was **\$69,360**.

As this is my last year on the SSC, I wish to thank the current and numerous past members of the SSC who have made serving on this committee a great pleasure. Their hard work has epitomized the SICB commitment towards encouraging and promoting our next generation of research scientists. After the Orlando meeting, I will leave the SSC in the very competent hands of Adam Summers, who will be able to continue to improve and expand our future support for our students.

**Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC)**

*Shea R. Tuberty, Chair*

As the SPDAC chair, I have the honor of leading a team of very enthusiastic divisional representatives to develop a new orientation format at the Orlando SICB meetings in January. Please see the list of new and returning divisional reps and the agenda for the SPDAC workshops below. After reading over the workshop ideas, if you know of anyone that you would like to nominate for a workshop panel position *please* forward that name to myself or your division rep. This would be a great way to provide some well-deserved kudos for your hard-working faculty mentors or provide a venue to show off your favorite professor, postdoc, or mentor with the rest of the SICB student membership— sense of humor is appreciated!

This year SPDAC will revamp the "First-timers Orientation" and make it a more informative program for both returning members and newbies. It will be entitled "The SPDAC Welcome and SICB Meeting Orientation" and will occur beginning at 5:30pm on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have been granted a student registration/housing award — *you must attend!* Please see the list of material to be covered below. Suggestions for further materials to be included are welcome!

**Membership**

*Chair:* 2004–'07

Shea Tuberty Appalachian State University

Assistant Professor [tubertysr@appstate.edu](mailto:tubertysr@appstate.edu) ; (828) 262–6857

***Divisional Representatives***

Animal Behavior: 2005–'08	Lawrence Spezzano Graduate student	Miami University (of Ohio) <a href="mailto:spezzalc@muohio.edu">spezzalc@muohio.edu</a>
Comparative Endocrinology: 2004–'07	Darren Lerner Graduate student	University of Massachusetts, Amherst <a href="mailto:dlerner@forwild.umass.edu">dlerner@forwild.umass.edu</a>
Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry: 2005–'08	Joanna Joyner–Matos Graduate student	University of Florida <a href="mailto:jjoyner@zoo.ufl.edu">jjoyner@zoo.ufl.edu</a>
Developmental and Cell Biology: 2004–'07	Candace McGuinness Graduate student	University of South Carolina <a href="mailto:timcandace@bellsouth.net">timcandace@bellsouth.net</a>
Ecology and Evolution: 2004–'07	Sofia Hussain Graduate student	University of South Florida <a href="mailto:smhussai@mail.usf.edu">smhussai@mail.usf.edu</a>
Evolution and Developmental Biology: 2005–'08	Nathan Bird Graduate student	George Washington University <a href="mailto:nbird@gwu.edu">nbird@gwu.edu</a>

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Invertebrate Zoology: 2003-'06	Ben Miner Postdoc	Bodega Bay Marine Lab <a href="mailto:bgminer@ucdavis.edu">bgminer@ucdavis.edu</a>
Neurobiology: 2004-'07	Mark Frye Postdoc	California Institute of Technology <a href="mailto:frye@caltech.edu">frye@caltech.edu</a>
Systematic and Evolutionary Biology: 2005-'08	Rena Bryan Undergraduate	University of Florida <a href="mailto:renabr@ufl.edu">renabr@ufl.edu</a>
Vertebrate Morphology: 2005-'08	Russell Main Graduate Student	Harvard University <a href="mailto:rmain@oeb.harvard.edu">rmain@oeb.harvard.edu</a>

### WORKING AGENDA FOR THE 2006 SICB MEETINGS IN ORLANDO FLORIDA

#### **The Student and Postdoc Affairs Committee Welcome and SICB Meeting Orientation. (Wednesday, First day of meetings)**

A) We will discuss some tried and true ideas on "*How to get the most out of your SICB meeting.*" Powerpoint presentation with bulleted info including:

- i. How to find relevant talks/posters during the meetings
- ii. How to find everyone at the meetings --- This should focus on the importance of schmoozing with the PIs, hobnobbing/socializing
- iii. How to approach a "big guy or gal"
- iv. How to enter or leave a room/move between rooms
- v. How to plan your meeting
- vi. How to get involved in SICB or attend business meetings and the importance of attending the meetings (exposure, recognition).

B) Lightning round of 1<sup>st</sup> timers' questions.

**SPDAC Free Lunch (Second day of meetings) --- this 20K lunch has been canceled this year due to budget constraints --- sorry!!**

#### **Workshops (Last Evening of meetings)**

Two workshops are being planned and will be held one after the other

6:00–7:00pm

Workshop #1: "*Optimizing Your Graduate School Experience*"

- i) dealing with funding your graduate studies (even after TAships expire)

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- ii) finding a good mentor (CUR, COS, societies, web listservers)
- iii) getting research funding as a graduate student
- iv) getting to meetings and making future connections (aka, networking)
- v) building your CV to impress future hirers
- vi) how to get the "right" postdoc for the "right" job

Perhaps this will be paneled by postdocs? We definitely encourage students to attend both.

7:00–8:00pm

### Workshop #2: *"Strategies for Landing an Academic Job/Postdoc"*

- i) Differences in the requirements for an RO1, comprehensive, and undergraduate liberal arts college (or hybrid of the above) resume.
- ii) Paneled by new and senior faculty SICB members from each of the 3 levels of academic institutions.
- iii) Each group will give a basic level of research/teaching/service expected at their college or university.
- iv) A question and answer session will follow up the panel discussions.

### **SICB Society–Wide Evening Social in Honor of Students and Postdocs**

Join your fellow SICB members for a Society–Wide Social on Saturday, January 7, from 8:00–9:30 pm. Coffee, desserts and fruit will be served and a cash bar will be available.

### **USEFUL WEBSITES FOR SICB's STUDENT AND POSTDOC MEMBERS**

- SICB's Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (this site currently only lists contact information of the Committee Members, so look for future developments!):  
<http://www.sicb.org/committees/studentpostdoc.php3>
- Sigma Xi : Grants–In–Aid of Research -- March 15 and October 15 deadlines annually.  
(<http://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/giar/appopen.shtml>)
- Natl. Acad. Sci. USA: Web Guide to Enhancing the Postdoctoral Experience:  
<http://www4.nas.edu/pd/postdoc.nsf>
- Natl. Acad. Sciences USA "Postdoc Resources":  
<http://www4.nas.edu/pd/postdoc.nsf/web/resources?OpenDocument>
- "Postdoctorate.net": <http://www.postdoctorate.net/>
- "Postdoc Jobs Online" (& University Job Bank): <http://www.post-docs.com/>
- "University Job Bank": <http://www.ujobbank.com/>
- Science Careers webpage: <http://recruit.sciencemag.org/>

If you know of other useful sites for the student/postdoc membership or you would like additional information, contact the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Chair ([tubertysr@appstate.edu](mailto:tubertysr@appstate.edu)) or see the Committee's SICB webpage (given above)

## Division of Animal Behavior (DAB): 2005 Fall Newsletter

- [Message from the Chair](#)
  - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
  - [Message from the Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative](#)
- 

### Message from the Chair

*Scott MacDougall-Shackleton*

I hope everyone is looking forward to a stimulating meeting in Orlando. We plan to hold a joint business meeting / social as we did last year, so please check the program for this event and be sure to attend.

I have only a few points I'd like to bring to your attention. The first is a call for participation in the division. Many of us in DAB are active in other divisions. However, animal behavior is perhaps the most integrative of fields and it is important that we maintain an active presence in the society. How can you become active? First, consider proposing a symposium. Organizing a symposium can be a great boost to an area of research and also to your career. Second, consider becoming active in the nomination and election process for the division. If you or someone you know would like to be more active in the division do please let us know. Beyond serving as chair, secretary or program officer of the committee we also need lots of help judging the student poster and oral presentations. If you'd like to help out in this regard please contact the division program officer.

Best wishes for a productive autumn, and see you poolside!

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### Message from the Program Officer

*Sarah Humfeld*

The SICB and Divisional Program Officers recently met in Orlando to schedule over 1000 abstracts for the upcoming meeting in Orlando! DAB was chosen as the primary affiliation for over 100 of those papers, and many more papers of interest were organized by DNB and DCE. Unfortunately, DAB is not sponsoring any symposia at this year's meeting, so I would like to renew the call for symposia ideas relating to topics of animal behavior. We will be co-sponsoring a symposium at the 2007 meeting in Phoenix entitled "Ecological dimorphisms in vertebrates: proximate and ultimate causes." As you prepare for this year's meeting, please consider topics you would like to have as the focus of a symposium and email your ideas to me. Your suggestion will not be automatically treated as an offer to organize a symposium, but I would like to get our collective creative juices flowing. I would like to challenge the members of DAB to propose at least two symposium topics for the 2008 meeting in San Antonio, TX!

This is my first year as Program Officer for DAB. So far, I've found the position to be extremely interesting

and I've greatly enjoyed working with the other program officers. But ultimately, my job should reflect the interests of DAB members. During and after the upcoming meeting, please feel free to contact me with suggestions and comments. I welcome your feedback!

See you in Orlando!

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### Message from the Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative

*Lawrence C. Spezzano Jr.*

Hello to all DAB graduate students and post docs!

With the SICB meeting in Orlando quickly approaching, I'd like to take this opportunity to update current and future members. Yes, January is around the corner and the final details for the workshops and group social will be ironed out soon via "cyber discussion". Some highlights of this upcoming meeting include the Plenary Session that will feature a Past President Address by John Wingfield entitled: "*Control of reproduction in diverse habitats: multiple pathways for environmental signals.*" In addition, society-wide symposia topics such as "*Ecological immunology: Recent advances and applications for conservation and public health*" and "*Metamorphosis: a multi-kingdom approach*". Both promise to be interesting and promote stimulating discussion.

Also, as many of you are well aware, the Student Support Committee of SICB announced 2 research award opportunities including **Grants-In-Aid-of-Research** and **Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel**. To apply for or learn more about both the GIAR and FGST, please visit the Society website, <http://www.sicb.org/awards.php3>. Remember, the deadline for applications and letters of support is November 21, 2005 so don't delay!

Other funding opportunities include:

SICB Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship, which provides assistance for students to take courses or to carry on research on invertebrates at a marine, freshwater, or terrestrial field station. Generally due in March. <http://sicb.org/grants/hyman/>

Fall 2005 EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellowships, which fund grants and graduate fellowships in numerous environmental science and engineering disciplines. Closing Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>  
[http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2004/2005\\_star\\_grad\\_fellow.html](http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2004/2005_star_grad_fellow.html)

Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research Program provides funding for the purchase of specific equipment necessary to undertake the proposed research project and travel to and from a research site. Proposals are due October 15th and March 15th. <http://www.sigmaxi.org>

As I am relatively new to SPDAC and the DAB, I encourage anyone with questions or an interest to just say hello to email me or stop me at the next conference. Though the meeting is at the Wyndham Palace Resort & Spa located across the street from Downtown Disney, I will be making a strong effort to be available during the meeting.

See you in Orlando!

Lawrence

## Division of Comparative Endocrinology (DCE): 2005 Fall Newsletter

### Message from the Officers

**Dave Borst**, Chair ([dborst@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:dborst@mail.ucf.edu))

**Kyle Selcer**, Program Officer ([selcer@duq.edu](mailto:selcer@duq.edu))

**Kevin Kelley**, Secretary ([kmkelley@csulb.edu](mailto:kmkelley@csulb.edu))

**Darren Lerner**, DCE Rep to Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee ([dlerner@forwild.umass.edu](mailto:dlerner@forwild.umass.edu))

### News on the Upcoming Annual Meeting

Planning is well underway for the 2006 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. A total of 1050 abstracts were submitted for symposia, talks and posters. Again this year, the talks and abstracts were sorted by general theme, rather than divisional affiliation. Many of the abstracts from DCE members will be in the Regulatory Biology sessions, for which there are about 75 abstracts. Other DCE member talks are scheduled in Physiology and Biochemistry sessions and in Ecology and Environmental Biology sessions.

There are a number of exciting and interesting symposia again this year. Two symposia have been designated as "society-wide". The first is entitled "**Ecological Immunology: Recent Advances and Applications For Conservation and Public Health**" organized by Kelly Lee, Bram Lutton, and Martin Wikelski, and co-sponsored by DCE. The second is entitled "**Metamorphosis: A Multi-Kingdom Approach**" organized by Andreas Heyland, Jason Hodin, Cory Bishop, and Leonid Moroz. DCE is also co-sponsoring a regular symposium, entitled "**EcoPhysiology and Conservation: The Contributions of Energetics**" organized by Robert Stevenson.

Make plans to attend the DCE Business Meeting, which will be held Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:15 to 6:15 pm. This will be followed by the Howard Bern Lecture, which will be given by Stacia Sower. Her address will be entitled "*Insight into the Molecular Evolution of Gonadotropin and its Receptor in the Hormonal Regulation of Reproduction*". After the lecture, we will hold the DCE Social.

We need judges for the Aubrey Gorbman Student Presentation Awards given out by DCE. We also need a chair of the Student Awards Committee. If you are willing to serve as a judge for the student awards, or as chair of the committee, please email Kyle Selcer ([selcer@duq.edu](mailto:selcer@duq.edu)). The student presentation competition is an important part of the annual meeting, so please help out.

### Recent DCE Election Results

Once again, it is time to pass the baton. Dave Borst (Chair) and Kyle Selcer (Program Officer) will be stepping down from their positions this January. Kevin Kelley (Secretary) and Darren Lerner (SPDAC Representative) will remain for another year of service. Dave and Kyle have both expressed that they enjoyed their time as divisional officers and were proud to have a chance to serve SICB and DCE. Bob Denver and Mike Romero will become the new DCE Chair and Program Officer, respectively, in January. We know that they will do a great job. Also, congratulations to Stacia Sower and Catherine Propper, who were recently elected as the new Chair-elect and Secretary-elect, respectively. And, importantly, our "emphatic thanks" go to all of the candidates this year, as DCE cannot do its excellent work without your willingness to participate. To those not serving this year, we hope you will come forth again.

### Noteworthy!

- 1) Important changes have been added to the DCE webpage! Thanks to Anne McNabb for designing an excellent new section on Careers in Comparative Endocrinology, of importance to our student and postdoctoral members and other visitors of the SICB website. See <http://www.sicb.org/careers/endocrine.php3>. This should continue to be a good resource for those interested in our field. Secondly, we now have a link to the Job and Fellowship Postings page, a new online feature of the Society (<http://www.sicb.org/jobs.php3>). Thanks also goes to Ruedi Birenheide, SICB Webmaster, for making these a reality! Check them out!
- 2) You will see below our *new newsletter feature*, the Report of the DCE Representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC). For student and postdoc DCE members, there are several worthwhile events at the Orlando meetings that are being organized on your behalf. Read on, below!
- 3) You will also now see in our newsletter a message from the Chair of the SICB Student Support Committee. DCE students and post-docs take note! This is about money for you. Read on, below!
- 4) **GET YOURSELF ON THE SICB WEBSITE!** In the last Newsletter, you were encouraged to send information for inclusion in the **DCE Researchers Database** on the SICB Website. This is a fantastic opportunity to provide some visibility for your research program. Send a ~paragraph describing your program (include a link to your university website!), a short title and include any digital files that can be used on the website, from jpgs, to mp3, to video (qt, mpg, wmv). *We comparative endocrinologists are way behind – see the DEE Researchers Database!* <http://sicb.org/divisions/DEE/researchers.php3>. Send your files to Ruedi Birenheide, SICB Webmaster ([webmaster@sicb.org](mailto:webmaster@sicb.org)), and if you have any further questions, contact Kevin Kelley ([kmkelley@csulb.edu](mailto:kmkelley@csulb.edu)).

**Message from the DCE Representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC),  
Darren T. Lerner**

Hello to all DCE graduate students and postdocs!

There are a number of events that you should be sure to attend, some of which are specifically designed for students and postdocs. These include the **Student First Timer Orientation** (immediately following the "Welcome to Orlando Reception"), the **Student/Postdoctoral Luncheon**, and two **SPDAC Workshops**, "*Optimizing Your Graduate School Experience*" and "*Strategies for Landing an Academic Job/Postdoc*". The workshops will be immediately followed by the **Society–Wide Social in Honor of Students and Postdocs**. I also encourage you to attend the SICB and DCE business meetings. Please look at the meeting website (<http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2006/index.php3>) for details.

SICB offers a generous student support program for the annual meeting, and details of this program are given on the website (<http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2006/studentssupport.php3>). To be eligible for the program you need to be a member of SICB, a presenting author, and be willing to provide one half–day of assistance during the meeting. The program provides financial support in the form of housing or registration fees. The **deadline for this program is October 28**. See below the message from Brian Tsukimura, the Chair of the Student Support Committee.

Attention!! DCE offers two Best Student Paper awards at the Annual Meeting, one for the best oral presentation and one for the best poster presentation. Undergraduate students and graduate students who have

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not yet been awarded a PhD are eligible for these award, as are new PhD's who have received the degree no more than 12 months prior to the meeting. The work must be original and must be carried out principally by the student presenting the paper or poster. In any one year, a student can enter either the oral or the poster competition.

SICB and a number of other organizations offer student grants and fellowships. DCE students may want to consider the following funding opportunities:

- SICB Grants in Aid of Research, due Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. See also message below from the Student Support Committee Chair. <http://www.sicb.org/awards.php3#giar>
- SICB Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel, due Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, which provides funds for travel and other expenses at distant research laboratories, museums or field sites. See message below from the Student Support Committee Chair. <http://www.sicb.org/grants/fgst/index.php3>
- SICB Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship, which provides assistance for students to take courses or to carry on research on invertebrates at a marine, freshwater, or terrestrial field station. Generally due in March. <http://sicb.org/grants/hyman/>
- Fall 2006 EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellowships, which funds research grants and graduate fellowships in numerous environmental science and engineering disciplines. Closing date Oct 18<sup>th</sup>. [http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2006/2006\\_star\\_fellow.html](http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2006/2006_star_fellow.html)
- Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research Program provides funding for the purchase of specific equipment necessary to undertake the proposed research project and travel to and from a research site. Proposals are due October 15th and March 15th. <http://www.sigmaxi.org>
- The National Science Foundation offers fellowships for new students (Graduate Research Fellowship [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=6201&org=DGE&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=6201&org=DGE&from=home) , due early-November) and for doctoral candidates (Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants, Directorate for Biological Sciences <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsf05607/nsf05607.htm>, due mid- November).

### Message from Brian Tsukimura, Chair of the SICB Student Support Committee

The Student Support Committee (SSC) wishes to announce 2 award opportunities for this Fall 2005. A similar letter has been sent out to each graduate student member of the SICB in early October. The membership of the SICB has generously set aside funds to provide two forms of research awards, the **Grants-In-Aid-of-Research** (GIAR) and **Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel** (FGST). In Fall 2004, 80 applications were submitted for the GIAR. The SSC reviewed these at the San Diego meeting (January, 2005) and made 26 awards (32%) for a total of \$24,000 to students from the 9 different divisions of the Society. In Fall 2004, 15 applications were received for the FGST and the SSC granted 4 (27%) FGST for a total of \$6000.

Students can apply to only **ONE** program per year. Students have a "lifetime eligibility" to receive only one award (FGST or GIAR). To apply for both the GIAR and FGST, please visit the Society website, <http://www.sicb.org/awards.php3> and complete the online application. Please read the instructions carefully. Please understand that the SICB requires the applicant to contact their recommenders and arrange that letters be sent. Both award categories have a good level of funding percentage, and the SSC encourages all graduate student members of the SICB to apply. The **Deadline** for applications and Letters of Support is **November 21, 2005**.

Support for students presenting at the Orlando meeting (2006) have the opportunity to apply for the Student Support Program, which offers either housing accommodations or registration costs in exchange for half day services at the conference. The **deadline is October 28, 2005**. Apply at: <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2006/studentssupport.php3>

**Upcoming Conferences Related of Potential Interest to Comparative Endocrinologists**

VIIth International Congress on the Biology of Fish, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, July 18–22, 2006. Abstract deadline is February 15. See <http://www.mun.ca/biology/icbf7/abstracts.html>.

Western Regional Conference on Comparative Endocrinology (WRCCE) will be held in Spring 2006 at Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR. Frank Moore is the organizer and will be sending out notices on the meeting in the next months.

ENDO 2006, Boston Convention & Exhibit Center, June 24–27, Abstract deadline is January 17, 2006; see <http://www.endo-society.org/educationevents/annual/index.cfm>

8th European Congress of Endocrinology, Glasgow, 1–5 April 2006, Abstract deadline November 4, 2005, see <http://www.euro-endo.org/ece2006/>

International Congress on Physiological Sciences, 2009, Kyoto Japan. See early information at <http://www.iups.org/>

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, July 12–17, 2006. See <http://www.asih.org>

## Division of Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry (DCPB): 2005 Fall Newsletter

### In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
  - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
  - [Message from the Secretary](#)
  - [Message from the Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative](#)
  
  - [Current Officers](#)
- 

### Message from the Chair

*Donna L. Wolcott*

The strength of the Division of Biochemistry and Physiology reflects the health of the discipline. DCPB continues to be the largest division within SICB, at 665 members. Its members have an important presence in SICB, and also contribute to the field at multiple other venues. Foremost from my perspective is SICB. For me, the symposia, whether broader or more focused, help to place my own research into perspective, and the interaction with colleagues who approach diverse problems with a common mind set both affirms and challenges. I also find SICB to be invaluable in my teaching, providing new examples and case studies, correcting outdated information, and demonstrating best practices for communicating data.

Members of the division contributed to the planning and program of the 35th International Congress of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) in March in San Diego. SICB provided support for a comparative physiology–focused symposium and much–needed help toward travel of young investigators. Planning is underway for the next International Congress of Physiology and Biochemistry (ICCPB), to be held in Brazil in 2007. There is no shortage of opportunities for developing and presenting symposia. Contact our SICB representative to ICCPB, Lou Burnett ([BurnettL@cofc.edu](mailto:BurnettL@cofc.edu)) for more details.

Developing an International Congress takes years of preparation and planning—and money. This year, the governing body of the ICCPB settled on a policy of assessing each member society \$2K toward the support of the congress, held every four years. The executive committees of DCPB and SICB are exploring ways to accumulate the necessary funds to meet the assessment, and perhaps provide all divisions the flexibility to contribute to relevant international congresses as they arise. At the moment, we are looking at the mechanics of perhaps a \$2/year/member extra fee that would be collected by the Society, and managed by divisions. Comments are welcome.

Those of you who can attend the annual meetings in January 2006 in Orlando are in for an especially broad–reaching, disciplinary–boundary bending lecture by Dr. James Gillooly, this year's recipient of the George A. Bartholomew Award. Quoting from one of the letters in support of Jamie's nomination, "Dr. Gillooly has returned physiological thinking to the core of ecology—where it belongs." His title is "Linking Biological Currencies in Ecology and Evolution". This is SICB supersized. I talked with Jamie about some of the logistics of the award and lecture, and he wondered about the composition of his audience. My reply was,

"When you give your talk, you can expect an audience who may not be familiar with the details of your research field, but who will be highly scientifically literate and value the integrative and comparative approach to science." It seems that for research that crosses disciplines, both the topic and the venue are ideally matched. I hope you can attend the lecture, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. on January 5th, the first full day of the meetings.

This year, there were sixteen candidates for the Bart award, a challenge for the review process. Steve Hand, Chair, provided excellent leadership for the committee comprising Ross Ellington, Malcolm Gordon, Peter Wainwright, and Martin Wikelski. Many thanks to the nominators and applicants.

David Tapley will complete his third and final year as coordinator of the Best Student Paper and Poster competition. Please respond positively if contacted to serve as a judge, and please encourage your students to apply (instructions can be found on the SICB web site). Many judges make for better decisions, and fewer assessments/judge.

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### **Message from the Program Officer**

*Kimberly Hammond*

#### **Orlando:**

Another year with over 1000 submitted abstracts for the Society in general, with roughly 130 submitted with DCPB as a primary affiliation.

The Division is sponsoring 4 symposia in Orlando:

*Ecological Immunology: Recent Advances and Applications for Conservation and Public Health*  
Organized by: Kelly Lee, Bram Lutton and Martin Wikelski

We are co-sponsoring this symposium with the Division of Ecology and Evolution and the Division of Comparative Endocrinology

This is the Society Wide Symposium

*Genomic and Proteomic Approaches in Crustacean Biology*  
Organized by: Don Mykles and Dave Towle

We are cosponsoring this symposium with the Division of Integrative Zoology, the Division of Neurobiology and the Crustacean Society

*EcoPhysiology and Conservation: the Contributions of Energetics*  
Organized by Robert Stevenson

We are cosponsoring this symposium with the Division of Comparative Endocrinology and the Division of Ecology and Evolution

*Biomechanics and Neuromuscular Control*

Organized by Kiisa Nishikawa and Andy Biewener

We are cosponsoring this symposium with the Division of Vertebrate Morphology and the Division of Neurobiology

**Event Planner:**

With so many cross-disciplinary symposia and bewildering array of parallel sessions, many members find it difficult to navigate through the meeting. To help, SICB implemented an automated meeting planner last year which was very successful, so feel free to use it.

**Student support:**

I would like to remind all student members that if they wish to apply for housing support for the upcoming meeting they should visit the SICB Student Support Program website: <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2006/studentssupport.php3>. The deadline for application is Friday, 28 October 2005.

**Travel Tips:**

When arriving in Orland, I highly recommend that you take the group shuttle offered by Mears transportation (go to their desk in the baggage claim area). The rate is \$17 one way or \$29 round trip per person. The shuttles leave approximately every 45 minutes and take about 35–45 minutes to get to the hotel. Taxis are also available for approximately \$45–65 one way. They leave immediately and take about 35 minutes to get to the hotel.

**Future Meetings:**

The Symposia for the Phoenix Meetings have been chosen, I will provide more details in the Spring Newsletter. Thanks to the individuals who submitted excellent proposals, DCPB will be well represented next year. It is never too early to plan for future meetings. Please email me ([khammond@ucr.edu](mailto:khammond@ucr.edu)) discuss ideas and get started.

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**Message from the Secretary**

*Paul H. Yancey*

**Elections**

We held elections for DCPB Secretary. Congratulations to the winner, **Jonathon H. Stillman**. Many thanks to Adriana Briscoe for running for this office.

**Other Division Business**

## SICB newsletter Fall 2005

Website: Our division website has been "spiced up" a bit with photographs submitted by members. If anyone has more suggestions on improving the site, please email me. See:

[www.sicb.org/divisions/dcpb.php3](http://www.sicb.org/divisions/dcpb.php3).

Membership Debate: An issue brought up at the last Business Meeting (see MINUTES in the spring 2005 newsletter) is whether we (DCPB) want to change our bylaws to allow students who are not DCPB members to compete in the DCPB best student paper and poster awards. We would need to vote on whether to delete the following sentence from Article XIII. Awards, Section A. Best Student Paper Awards of the bylaws:

*A student who applies must be a member of the Division of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry.*

As reported in the spring newsletter, an online bulletin/chat board has been set up for DCPB members to discuss this issue. Please participate at:

<http://sicb.org/phpBB2/index.php?c=5>

Officer manuals: Division officers are still being asked to assist their chairs in producing *manuals* of duties for each office. Progress is being made.

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### Message from the Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative

*Joanna Joyner Matos*

Hello DCPB graduate students and postdocs. I am looking forward to welcoming you to Florida in January!

The Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) is planning several activities that I hope you will attend:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Timers Orientation on Wednesday evening, during which we'll discuss "**How to get the most out of your SICB meeting.**"
- SPDAC Free Lunch on Thursday, your opportunity to meet the SPDAC members, the Student Support chair and the president of SICB.
- Two workshops for Saturday evening (6:00–7:00 and 7:00–8:00):

Workshop #1 is entitled, "**Optimizing your graduate school experience.**" During which we will discuss several topics of interest to graduate students, including acquiring funding, finding a good mentor, and building a curriculum vitae.

Workshop #2 is entitled, "**Strategies for landing an academic job/postdoc.**" During this workshop we will interact with faculty members from each of the three levels of academic institutions.

- Saturday evening concludes with a society-wide social for students and postdocs.

DCPB also has several events during the meeting, including a business meeting, DCPB social, and the Bartholomew Award Lecture. I hope to see you at these events!

One more note, the deadline for applying for student support, either in the form of housing assistance or registration fees, is October 28<sup>th</sup>. You can apply for support if you are a presenting author and you are required to complete one half-day of assistance during the meeting.

I also want to give you a heads-up of some graduate student funding opportunities, many of which have deadlines during fall semester:

- SICB – Grants in Aid of Research and Fellowship for Graduate Student Travel: [www.sicb.org](http://www.sicb.org)
- Sigma Xi – Grant in Aid of Research (2 applications/year): [www.sigmaxi.org](http://www.sigmaxi.org)
- National Science Foundation – Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)
- Environmental Protection Agency – STAR Fellowships and others: <http://es.epa.gov/ncer/fellow/>
- General search for government-sponsored grants; may have student grants: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

If you have questions or ideas regarding SPDAC's plans for the Orlando meeting, or other questions for me, please feel free to contact me at [jjoyner@zoo.ufl.edu](mailto:jjoyner@zoo.ufl.edu). Good luck with the semester!

## Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology (DEDB) and Division of Developmental and Cell Biology (DDCB): 2005 Spring Newsletter

### In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
  - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
  - [Message from the Secretary](#)
  - [Message from the Student/Postdoc Representative](#)
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### Message from the Chair

*Brian K. Hall*

In the Spring 2005 newsletter I drew your attention to the association formed at the January 2004 meeting between the two SICB divisions of evolution and developmental biology (DEDB) and development and cell biology (DDCB). In particular, I drew attention to the clause "The Association shall continue as long as it is perceived by the membership in the interest of the participating parties, DDCB, DEDB and SICB." No divisional member having raised any question of dissolving the association, the association will continue. This is an association and not an amalgamation of the two divisions. The difference is critical. We continue to foster cell, developmental and evolutionary developmental biology, not subordinate cell or developmental to evo-devo. Consequently, presentations, symposia and other activities that further the three sub-fields have been encouraged vigorously, resulting in an unprecedented number of submissions for symposia; details of the exciting symposia organized for the Orlando meeting may be found in Ed's report below.

Your interest in serving the division was reflected in the willingness of individuals to stand for election as officers of the division. Billie Swalla will assume the Chair, Wendy Olson the position of program officer elect, and Marcus Davis the position of Secretary elect, all to take effect at the end of the January 2006 meeting in Orlando. Billie serves for 2006 and 2007. Wendy and Marcus will shadow Ed Molinar and Frietson Galis during 2006 and then assume the positions of programme officer and secretary, respectively, for the two years 2007 and 2008. Nathan Bird continues as the graduate student/postdoctoral fellow representative.

We retain our association with the two journals *Evolution & Development* and *the Journal of Experimental Zoology Part B. Molecular and Development Evolution*, and encourage you to subscribe and submit.

Intelligent design has reared its head in the U.S., a court case having begun late in September. Rudy Raff (first Chair of DEDB) produced an insightful analysis of and reading list concerning intelligent design in an editorial in *Evolution & Development* (Stand up for evolution, 2005, 7(4), 273–275).

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**Message from the Program Officer**

*Eduardo Rosa–Molinar*

¡Saludos from Puerto Rico, the Island of Enchantment (no hurricanes this year)! For the 2005 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida members submitted 1051 abstracts! This is about the same number as they were for our large and successful meetings over the past two years in San Diego and New Orleans (which were larger than the previous meetings in Anaheim and Toronto). The 2006 meeting will be held January 4–8 in the Buena Vista (formerly Wyndham) Palace Resort and Spa (they accept online reservations at: <http://www.wyndhamevents.com/palace/06sicb.htm>).

The breakdown of the abstracts is shown below:

- A. Development (n=24 abstracts): DEDB and AMS
- B. Behavior and Neurobiology (n=108 abstracts): DAB and DEE and DNB
- C. Ecology and Environmental Biology (n=138 abstracts): DEE and DIZ
- D. Evolution (n=169 abstracts): DEDB and DIZ
- E. Morphology (n=187 abstracts): DVM and DAB and DNB
- F. Physiology and Biochemistry (n=156 abstracts): DCE and DCPB
- G. Regulatory Biology (n=70 abstracts): DCE and DCPB
- H. Outreach, Education, and Policy (n=15 abstracts): AMS
- I. Sessions associated with symposia (n=88 abstracts): AMS
- J. Mini–symposia: 14 abstracts
- K, Symposia: 172 abstracts

**AMS**–American Microscopical Society; **DAB** – Division of Animal Behavior; **DCE** – Division of Comparative Endocrinology; **DCPB** – Division of Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry; **DDCB** – Division of Developmental & Cell Biology; **DEDB** – Division of Evolutionary; Developmental Biology; **DEE** – Division of Ecology & Evolution; **DIZ** – Division of Invertebrate Zoology; **DNB** – Division of Neurobiology; **DSEB** – Division of Systematic & Evolutionary Biology; **DVM** – Division of Vertebrate Morphology

For the 2006 DEDB and DDCB we will sponsor two symposia "*Movers and Shakers: The Evolution and Development of Mesoderm*" organized by Brad Davidson and John Gerhart and "*Zebrafish in Comparative Context*" organized by Jackie Webb and Thomas Schilling

Keep checking the SICB website (<http://www.sicb.org>) and reading the DEDB newsletter for updates regarding the 2006 meeting in Orlando, Florida.

I want to remind you that the Divisional Program Officers (DPO's) unanimously agreed that the Best Student Paper (BSP) award programs administered by most of the SICB divisions would benefit from standardizing

Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology (DEDB) and Division of Developmental and Cell Biology (D

## SICB newsletter Fall 2005

some (but not all) of the procedures and requirements of those programs. Our specific recommendations to the Executive Committee and membership were as follows:

(1) eliminate division affiliation requirements for the BSP programs (currently division affiliation is a requirement by DCPB, DEE, and DIZ, but not DAB, DCE, DDCB, DEDB, DSEB, or DVM)

Rationale for Change: This change acknowledges the scientific overlap among the divisions and promotes interaction among them. In addition, the requirement recommended for elimination is fairly minor, as students can change divisional affiliation with a single click on their SICB member information page. This latter point means that enforcement of the current requirement is difficult, at best.

(2) an individual awarded the first place BSP (oral) from any division will be ineligible to compete for the BSP (oral) in that same division or any other division in the future. Similarly, an individual awarded the first place BSP (poster) from any division will be ineligible to compete for the BSP (poster) in that same division or any other division in the future. An individual could compete for a poster award after winning an oral award, and vice versa (currently there are divisional restrictions in the number of awards that any individual can win in DCPB, DDCB, DEE, and DEDB, but not in DAB, DCE, DIZ, DSEB, or DVM).

Rationale for Change: This change would give the society an increased opportunity to acknowledge a larger number of students making outstanding presentations. With elimination of division affiliation requirements (#1), it seemed important to enforce this rule at the society level rather than just at the divisional level.

The DPO's are not recommending standardizing the other differences in divisional programs (such as number of individual awards, amount of awards, criteria used [i.e. standardize the oral and poster evaluation forms.]). We will need to vote on the proposed changes. I will ask Frietson to put recommended changes on the divisional electronic bulletin board ASAP for discussion before we vote on it. Check the electronic bulletin board and provide your input on this important issue. I would like for all of you to think about this and let me know ASAP if there are problems with this. I would like to vote on this at the 2006 meeting in Orlando Florida.

I want to review and agree on the keyword list that SICB uses for DEDB and DDCB abstract submission. This will make programming easier and provide better linkages with symposia and contributed papers and poster. I finally have the list of keywords and I will get this list posted on the electronic bulletin board for your review and comment. I really need membership input! I hope to vote on this at this year's meeting.

Oxford University Press is the new publisher for "*Integrative and Comparative Biology (ICB)*." I am sure that Oxford University Press and our new editor (the search is ongoing) will address the factors that made **ICB** less attractive for the publication of symposia. Keep checking the SICB website for updates.

This is all for now. Keep sending your original research papers and/or symposia to *Evolution and Development* (Blackwell Publishing), *Molecular and Developmental Evolution* (Wiley), *American Naturalist* (University of Chicago Press), *Biosciences* (AIBS), and soon *Integrative and Comparative Biology* (Oxford University Press). These journals all support SICB. I hope to see you in Orlando, Florida.

¡Hasta Pronto!

**Message from the Secretary**

*Frietson Galis*

Dear members of the DEDB and DDCB,

I would like to congratulate

- Billie Swalla, our new Chair-Elect
- Wendy Olson, our new Program Officer-Elect
- Marc Davis, our new Secretary-Elect

and to thank all the candidates for running for these offices.

The changes for the bylaws that we had proposed in the spring newsletter have been accepted by the members and have been added to our website. Many thanks to Ruediger Birenheide for always being so quick in updating our website.

We kindly ask you again to provide a paragraph on your research and to illustrate this with an image in jpg-format (galis@rulsfb.leidenuniv.nl). For inspiration you can check the web pages of the DEE: <http://sicb.org/divisions/dee.php3>

The meeting in Orlando has a strong program in evolutionary developmental biology. I look forward to seeing you there in January!

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**Message from the Student/Postdoc Representative**

*Nathan Bird*

Greetings DEDB graduate students and post-docs. First, I would like to send well-wishes to all who have either been directly affected, or having family or friends affected by the hurricanes in the Gulf Coast. My thoughts are with you, and I am hopeful to still see most of you at the upcoming meeting in Orlando. As usual, there are wonderful opportunities available for us to present our work, take part in informative workshops to get the most out of our graduate experience and help as we move forward towards getting a post-doc or job, and receive support from the society (be sure to apply for GIAR/FGST if you are eligible, deadlines are fast approaching – Nov 21st). Also, don't forget the society/divisional socials!

Currently, DEDB is co-sponsoring two exciting symposia: "Movers and Shakers: The Evolution and Development of Mesoderm" (co-organized by our former grad/post-doc representative Brad Davidson) and "Zebrafish in Comparative Context", organized by Jackie Webb and Tom Schilling. Both are sure to be outstanding and very informative, and I hope everyone will mark these talks down and attend. Also, I highly encourage all of you to attend the DEDB business meeting, it is the best way to get involved and stay informed regarding where our division is heading in the future. See you all in Orlando!

Best Wishes,

Nathan Bird

## Division of Ecology & Evolution (DEE): 2005 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

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**Message from the Chair *Fred Janzen*, Secretary *Anthony Steyermark* and Program Officer *Emily Carrington***

Your DEE officers hope that you all have had a productive summer and that your scholarly pursuits continue to go well. At the same time, we recognize the tremendous personal and professional disruptions recently suffered by our many colleagues in the Gulf Coast region and wish them all a speedy recovery.

We are looking forward to a great meeting in Orlando in January. This year DEE is co-sponsoring three symposia, one of which is a society-wide symposium:

- 1) "Ecological Immunology: Recent Advances and Applications For Conservation and Public Health"
- 2) "Integrating Function over Marine Life Cycles"
- 3) "Ecophysiology and Conservation: The Contributions of Energetics"

In addition, we will again be having our traditional joint social with the Division of Invertebrate Zoology and The Crustacean Society. The time and location will appear in the meeting schedule, so be sure to check it out. For those who haven't attended, these socials are a fun way to meet new acquaintances and to cement old friendships. See you there!

And don't forget to attend the DEE business meeting as well. We need your input and participation to keep DEE vibrant and in a leadership position within the Society. To that end, Tony and I have begun informally discussing how DEE can enhance student participation and foster cross-disciplinary interactions to help ensure a healthy long-term future for the Society. One way to more effectively promote the importance of SICB membership to our non-SICB ecological- and evolutionary-oriented colleagues and students is to incorporate novel activities at SICB meetings. For example, we might choose to implement an Adopt-A-Student program where a voluntarily matched pair of new student and SICB veteran exchange e-mail prior to the meeting, meet at the opening social, share a SICB- and/or DEE-supported meal together on the first day, or whatever seems best. Alternatively (or in addition), we might consider becoming more involved in targeted recruiting and support of specific individuals for Society membership and career guidance. Should we be pro-active in extending SICB's reach to new members from underrepresented groups and to engage these individuals in integrative and comparative scientific activities? Both student-oriented activities and research/education opportunities that focus on national priorities such as these will promote life-long membership in and commitment to SICB. Please provide your input on such ideas!

In this vein, please also continue to develop creative ideas for symposia to be held at future SICB meetings. DEE will support you. Here is one symposium possibility to spur your thinking: we might consider exploring the fast-growing roles of computational biology in our discipline. How much should we rely on computers? Will organismal biologists and natural historians, among others, be sidelined by this change of emphasis?

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Will/should we lament the loss of relatively noncomputational fields? We look forward to your ideas, so contact us directly or attend the business meeting!

This meeting will mark the completion of the first year of Fred's term as Chair and Tony's term as Secretary and the end of Emily's term as Program Officer. At the same time, we are pleased to announce the recent election of George Bakken as DEE Chair-Elect and Jennifer Elwood as DEE Program Officer-Elect. Jennifer will officially assume her office at the end of the meeting and George will do the same subsequent to the 2007 meeting in Phoenix.

As always we will be contacting you in the near future to ask if you would be willing to serve as a judge for the best student paper and poster competitions. We have had a great response from the members of the division for the last three years. Consequently, people have had to judge at most three presentations, and we have tried to match presentations with judges' areas of interest. So, please seriously consider serving as a judge for the student presentation at the next SICB meeting in Orlando.

**Division of Invertebrate Zoology (DIZ): 2005 Spring Newsletter**



*Marrus orthocanna*, a deep sea siphonophore. Submitted by Casey Dunn.

**In this newsletter:**

- [Message from the Chair](#)
- [Message from the Program Officer](#)
- [Message from the Secretary](#)
- [Message from the Graduate Student–Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative](#)
- [Message from the Student Awards Committee Chair](#)
- [Message from the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Committee Chair](#)

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**Message from the Chair**

*Thomas Wolcott*

Dear Colleagues:

It's been an eventful summer, hasn't it? I hope that most of you escaped having your selves, families, homes and research smacked by sundry hurricanes, and that those of you who were so smacked are on the road to recovery. It is humbling to be reminded that as a species or nation we're not nearly as much in control as we'd like to think.

As is usual at this time of year, I cannot believe that it's this time of year. I also cannot believe that I have nearly completed my three years of alleged service as chair and will be stepping aside for our new chair-elect. In the spring elections, we were privileged to have two very capable candidates offer their services — Janice Voltzow and Jon Norenburg. The electorate has chosen, and I have sent both congratulations and condolences to each of them — the job can be time-consuming now and then, but is worthwhile and therefore satisfying too. The hardest part for me was the papers I had to miss while closeted in business meetings, but it's been a minor sacrifice. Janice will be shadowing me at Orlando to draw conclusions about all the ways things could have been/can be done more efficiently and effectively by a truly organized person (which, as you may have observed, I am not). Thanks, Janice and Jon, for your willingness to serve, and best wishes, Janice, as you step into the harness!



The social impact of all the uncertainty about natural disasters has been much on my mind as I compose my swan song, so please allow me to philosophize for a moment. It strikes me that this sort of unease has a lot to do with the whole creationist/I.D. controversy with which we keep struggling. Everyone seeks a source of assurance. They quite naturally feel threatened by anyone who denigrates their particular source...and off we go to war. SICB and we invert types have a unique role to play in defusing the situation and helping the general public get the discussion back to the real, core issue that almost always gets passed right over. I hope that we all have opportunities to clarify what everyone assumes someone else has already taught: "What is science?" If we could get the discussion back onto the facts about these allegedly competing belief systems, we'd do an enormous service! It doesn't seem all that complicated:

Science is a set of "thought techniques" for drawing sense out of the universe; its beliefs include:

- it limits itself to observable/measurable data
- data are weighted by their reliability, redundancy, and verifiability, not by how well they fit a theory
- the rules of nature don't change in mid-stream so science can be progressive and verifiable
- those fixed rules allow drawing of conclusions, extrapolating backward and forward in time
- science cannot "prove" anything, only provide the clearest understanding available to date
- under its rules, its conclusions are true

Creationism and I.D. are other systems for making sense of things, which use different rules; their beliefs include:

- other kinds of information can supplement/replace physical data
- data that fit theory are probably good, those that don't are probably flawed and may be rejected
- external intervention in natural law occurs
- extrapolation in time is permitted by fixed rules that are non-physical (e.g. character of Designer)
- information sources, once accepted as reliable, can "prove" things
- under its rules, its conclusions are true

What gets lost in the arguments is that science isn't about "Truth" with a capital "T". We scientists must avoid getting harassed into taking the adversarial position, "No, you're wrong, ignorant, uneducated, foolish...and we're right!" because, by our own rule 5 above, we simply cannot prove it. With our tools, we scientists cannot even address the hypothesis "The world was created 30 seconds ago with everything in place as we see/experience it now!" The physical data are all there, but where is the Truth?

What we need to get across is that science, albeit by its very nature provisional and unable to "prove" things, is inordinately useful. If someone chooses to believe that creation occurred 30 seconds ago (OK, now 45), fine! We cannot prove them wrong and must not condemn them for what they choose to believe. However, to be effective in this science-dominated world, everyone really does need to understand what the scientific technique is (both strengths and limitations) and how it works -- and that's where we can help them.

If we scientists refuse to be made into enemies, the war should go away. Granted, there always are people who profit from war, and they never will welcome peace, but we may achieve it with the rest.

Here endeth the rant. Back to the news:

At our last meeting Ben Miner generously offered to take over from Sara Lindsay as chair of the Best Student Presentation Awards Committee. Well...biology has a way of torquing our expectations. Ben's family is to expand by two (yes, twins) right about the time of the meetings. Another set of congratulations and condolences! Sara and Ben asked if volunteers might come forward to organize the best paper judging this time, and it is a credit to the membership of DIZ that we had far more generous and zealous souls than we could actually use! Cecelia Miles and Dick Turner offered to work as a tag team to set everything up, and we are very grateful. They will be asking many of you to serve as judges; we hope that the others who offered to coordinate will be able to serve in that less time-intensive capacity. Watch your e-mail. Sara has come out of chairly retirement to help with protocols, forms, and experience. Our humble thanks to you all! Encouraging our best and brightest is one of the most important things we do, and I am heartened by the enthusiasm I see for it in DIZ.

In Orlando we've got all kinds of fascinating stuff coming up; rather than duplicating, let me refer you to Amy Moran's Program Officer message. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, and to being able to attend even more intriguing papers next time as an ex-chair. Thanks for the opportunity to work with you all over these past years!



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### Message from the Program Officer

*Amy Moran*

Dear DIZ members,

I just returned from the October meeting of the SICB and Divisional Program Officers, and I am happy to report that the 2006 meetings in Orlando promise to be very exciting for DIZ members and the society as a whole. There are over 1000 posters and talks scheduled for the meeting this January, including a large representation for DIZ – this means Orlando will be similar in size to recent large and successful meetings including New Orleans and San Diego.

**The symposia:** In Orlando, the Division of Invertebrate Zoology is joining DEE and AMS in sponsoring Robert Podolsky's and Amy Moran's symposium entitled "Integrating Function over Marine Life Cycles," and DCPB, DNB, and the Crustacean Society in sponsoring "Genomic and Proteomic Approaches in Crustacean Biology" organized by Donald Mykles and David Towle. Both of these symposia promise to be exciting and ground-breaking! Each has a webpage that you can link to through the meeting webpage to get more information.

**The social:** DIZ will again be joining DEE, AMS, and the Crustacean Society for an evening social (check the program schedule for dates). Please plan to attend!

**The venue:** The hotel, the Buena Vista Grand Resort and Spa, is a 10-minute walk or a short shuttle ride from Downtown Disney with its many restaurants and Disney-related shopping. The hotel has two large outdoor pools, one with a waterfall and bar perfect for that après-meeting networking. For those bringing children, there is an outdoor playground and kiddie pool. The meeting rooms are large – in some cases very large! If you find yourself in a small session in a large room, please be kind to the presenter and sit near the front.

**2007:** In Phoenix 2007, DIZ will be sponsoring a symposium entitled "Integrative Biology of Pelagic Invertebrates", organized by Alison Sweeney. This symposium will address the recent technological and scientific advances in understanding these fragile, remote, pelagic organisms. Congratulations to all for excellent symposia proposals!

It is never too early to be thinking about symposia for the 2008 meetings. Proposals will be due next August, and please feel free to contact me with your ideas.

Have a great fall and see you in January!

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### Message from the Secretary

*Bob Thacker*

I hope everyone had a productive summer! If you would like to share some of your recent activities, you can create or update your entry in the database of invertebrate zoology researchers on the DIZ website: <http://sicb.org/divisions/DIZ/researchers.php3>. If you would like to participate, please send me a photo, graph, or theoretical model from your research, along with a short title and a paragraph describing the image. The image should be in jpeg or tiff format, while the text can be MS Word or RTF format. Please e-mail your submission to me: [thacker@uab.edu](mailto:thacker@uab.edu). Please note: if you have already submitted information to another division's database, you can just let me know which division that is, and we can link to your existing submission. I also welcome any suggestions for improving the DIZ web pages.

At the 2006 Business Meeting, we will have a vote on changes to the divisional bylaws. All proposed changes are available for review on the SICB website in an electronic forum: <http://sicb.org/phpBB2/index.php>. The proposed changes include rather bland incorporations of electronic balloting and a clearer definition of officers' terms. We also discussed another change at the 2005 Business Meeting: removing DIZ membership as a requirement for participation in the best student presentation awards. This proposal generated quite a few comments that might be appropriate for further discussion. Please post your comments or suggestions on the electronic forum. In addition, you are welcome to review and suggest other changes to our current bylaws, available on the SICB website: <http://sicb.org/handbook/bylaws.php3#dizbylaws>.

At the 2006 Meeting, we will be seeking nominations for Secretary of DIZ. The term of office begins in January 2007. Please let one of your DIZ officers know if you are willing to serve as Secretary, or if you know of any potential candidates.

**Message from the Graduate Student – Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative**

*Justin McAlister*

Hello fellow students and post-docs. January will be here before you know it and hopefully you're all making plans to spend a week at this year's SICB Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL. I would like to remind you of a couple deadlines that are important for student members.

- First, applications for student support are due October 28. Student support covers either the registration fee or housing costs in exchange for a day of service. Please be aware that if you choose housing support this year, you will have to pay a \$75 co-pay to the hotel upon checkout. You can find this application on the SICB website and it is a simple and easy way to save you money. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity!
- Second, be aware that the due date for meeting registration is December 2. Be sure to indicate that you're a Division of Invertebrate Zoology (DIZ) member when registering. Including this information indicates that you are eligible to compete for the DIZ best student paper or poster award.

In addition to the deadlines, there are several student/postdoc events that will occur during the meeting.

- The student "first timer" orientation (Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm) is an excellent introduction both to SICB and to the Annual meetings.
- The student/postdoc luncheon (Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at Noon) will give you a chance to meet and interact with fellow students and postdocs...oh yeah, and you'll get a free lunch!
- Two workshops are scheduled that will be of interest to many of you:

*Workshop 1: "Optimizing Your Graduate School Experience"*

Saturday, January 7, 6:00–7:00 pm

*Workshop 2: "Strategies for Landing an Academic Job/Postdoc"*

Saturday, January 7, 7:00–8:00 pm

- The SICB society-wide evening social in honor of students and postdocs (Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 9:30 pm) is a great way to relax with new and old friends at the end of a busy week. Coffee, dessert, and a cash bar will be provided at this event.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to e-mail me at: [jmca@unc.edu](mailto:jmca@unc.edu)

See you soon and best of luck with your studies and research!

**Message from the Student Awards Committee Chair**

*Ben Miner*

I would first like to thank Sara Lindsay for all her hard work over the past three years as the DIZ Student Awards Committee Chair. I happily receive the baton as the new chair and hope to continue the excellent precedent that Sara has set. I would also like to thank Richard Turner and Cecelia Miles, who will be co-chairs of the committee this year – I will be unable to attend the meeting this year because I am expecting twins in January. As with each year, we have quite a few students who have signed up to participate in the DIZ Best Student Paper program, and I therefore ask for your help in judging the student presentations in Orlando. Please contact either Richard ([rturner@fit.edu](mailto:rturner@fit.edu)) or Cecelia ([cmiles@zoo.ufl.edu](mailto:cmiles@zoo.ufl.edu)) if you are interested. Enjoy the meeting!!

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**Message from the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Committee Chair**

*Isidro Bosch*

The 2005 Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Mr. Rafael Rosengarten, a first year Ph.D. student in the Department of Cellular and Developmental Biology at Yale University. Rafael is currently interested in the neuromusculature and myogenic differentiation of lower metazoans. He was previously a researcher in the laboratory of Leo Buss where he helped to develop techniques for the mass culture of Placozoon, *Trichoplax adherens*. Rafael used his award was used to help defer the costs of travel and tuition while participating in the Embryology course at the Friday Harbor Marine Laboratories.

As in previous years there were many excellent candidates for the scholarship and the selection committee was hard pressed to choose a single recipient from such an outstanding group. After considerable discussion we were pleased to select Rafael, whose application and letters (as eloquently stated by one member of the Committee) "reflected an excellence of intellect and passion for research that is resonant with the Libbie Hyman legacy."

The Libbie Hyman Memorial Field Scholarship Committee (including Beth Okomura, Amy Johnson and Sid Bosch) wishes to express their appreciation to all of those who continue to make this scholarship possible. A future goal of DIZ and SICB should be to raise the principal to the level of endowing this important fund and potentially increasing the number of awards that can be given out to two per year.

In support of these goals, as well as that of maintaining the continuity of the scholarships, Monetary contributions, large or small may be sent, to: SICB Business Office, Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Fund, 1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 402, McLean, VA 22101. Checks should be made payable to SICB and marked as a "Contribution to the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Fund." All contributions are tax deductible.

This scholarship, in memory of Libbie H. Hyman, one of America's foremost invertebrate zoologists, provides assistance to students to take courses OR to do research on invertebrates at a marine, freshwater or terrestrial field station. The Hyman scholarship is intended to help support a first field station experience for a first- or second-year graduate student or an advanced undergraduate student.

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Completed applications, which must be submitted on-line, must include:

- A one to two page description of the proposed coursework or research
- Two (2) letters of recommendation from faculty members
- Transcripts of both undergraduate and (if applicable) graduate course work

Deadline: MARCH 3, 2006

Notification of Awards: APRIL 3, 2006.

Application forms and further information are available on the web at:

<http://sicb.org/grants/hyman/>

For more information contact:

Dr. Isidro Bosch

Chair, SICB Libbie Hyman Scholarship Committee

Department of Biology

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Phone 585-245-5303

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## Division of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (DSEB): 2005 Fall Newsletter

### In this newsletter:

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- [Message from the Program Officer](#)
- [Message from the Secretary](#)
- [Message from the Student Representative](#)

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### Message from the Chair

*Kenneth M. Halanych*

Greetings from the DSEB chair! It has been a quick year and the Orlando meeting is just around the corner. With the meeting coming up, I will make my annual plea to attend the business meeting this year. We need more input and ideas, especially from junior members. This is particularly true for symposia. DSEB is willing to help sponsor exciting integrative proposals. If you have a good idea please contact Michele "Nish" Nishiguchi.

In this my farewell letter, I wish to leave the divisional membership with some food for thought. Systematists and phylogeneticists who attend SICB tend to be mainly concerned with organismal questions rather than methodological issues. The field and methods have matured to such a state that DSEB should be taking a more active role in building and promoting the tree of life (whereas others talk about how to build the tree of life). The Phylogenetics for Dummies workshop has been very helpful with educating the membership about phylogenetic methods. However, it seems we need to develop a novel approach to getting the general SICB membership excited about what the systematics point of view can bring to the table. Although the workshop is useful, we need to expand our horizons. In particular we need to help arm the membership with some of tools to educate the lay public that are misinformed and misunderstand the central tenants of our field. If you have any suggestions about how to achieve this, please let me know.

Also I wish to congratulate Rachel Collin, who is our new Program Officer–Elect, and Marta deMaintenon, who is the Secretary–Elect. I also wish to pass all my glory and credit to Pat Reynolds and Don Swiderski. They did all the work and made me look good! Don will be taking over the reigns in January.

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### Message from the Program Officer, *Michele Nishiguchi*

Bonjour and greetings from France! As the start of my current run as Program Officer, I have been on sabbatical in France for the past semester, and have been trying to accommodate the needs of the division from here. Needless to say, thanks to Pat and Ken for reminding me of important dates, as well as Catherine

(Kate) Loudon, Kathy Coates, and Sue Burke for filling in my place at the past program planning meeting for Orlando. I will be in Orlando and ready to step into the "large" shoes that Don left for me to fill.

**News from the PO meeting.** Although I was not attending, the meeting was a success and all 1054 entries were scheduled due to the efforts and hard work of all the program officers.

This coming Orlando meeting has DSEB only sponsoring one symposium entitled "Zebrafish in Comparative Context" by Jackie Webb and Tom Schilling. The list of participants for that symposium include:

- Mark Cooper (U. Washington): Comparative studies of teleost gastrulation
- Joseph Fetcho (Cornell University): Neuroethology of the escape response
- Marnie Halpern (Carnegie Institution): Zebrafish mutational analysis
- Patricia Hernandez (George Washington University): Muscle development and functional morphology of feeding
- Chuck Kimmel (U. Oregon): Craniofacial development
- Tom Kocher (Hubbard Center for Genome Studies, Univ. New Hampshire): Comparative Fish Genomics
- Paula Mabee (U. South Dakota): Fin and skeletal development
- Rick Mayden (St. Louis Univ. and PI, Cypriniform Tree of Life Initiative): Systematics of *Danio*
- Amy McCune (Cornell Univ.): Insights from natural zebrafish mutants
- Dave Parichy (U. Texas): Evolution and development of pigmentation
- John Postlethwait (U. Oregon): Comparative genomics – zebrafish & sticklebacks
- Tom Schilling (UC Irvine): Craniofacial development
- David Stock (U. Colorado): Comparative studies of tooth development
- Jacqueline Webb (Villanova Univ.): Comparative development of cranial sensory systems.

**2007 Symposia.** The 2007 symposia for Phoenix were selected from a dynamic and wide-ranging field of topics, and will include the following:

- The evolution of feeding mechanisms in vertebrates
- Key transitions in animal evolution
- Recent developments in Neurobiology
- Frontiers in learning and teaching Integrative and Comparative Biology: The SICB Digital library (Society wide status)
- Integrative biology of pelagic invertebrates
- Mini-symposium honoring Steven Vogel
- Ecological dimorphisms in vertebrates: proximate and ultimate causes
- Linking genes and morphology in vertebrates
- Evolutionary and functional genomics of sperm, sperm storage, and fertilization (Society-wide status)
- Ecology and evolution of disease dynamics: theoretical and empirical perspectives on functional mechanisms and consequences (pending revision of proposal)

If there is an interest in sponsoring any of the above symposia, please let myself or any of the divisional officers know so we can determine if there is support from DSEB available.

Finally, I would like to encourage members if they have any suggestions for increasing diversity within the division and SICB. My experience with a number of organizations that have sponsored minority student support has given me ideas for increasing participation at meetings as well as providing additional support for students to attend meetings and workshops. One idea that worked well at the SSE/SSB meetings was teaming up minority undergraduates with graduates in the same field as "meeting mentors". This provided undergraduates with a student who was familiar with the organization, meeting structure, and who could also

introduce them to prospective graduate mentors. I am trying to research avenues on funding for running this type of program at SICB, and any helpful comments or advice would be welcome.

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### **Message from the Secretary**

*Pat Reynolds*

Greetings! After our work last year on updating our bylaws, it is fairly quiet in my office and there is little to report. I echo Ken Halanych in congratulating Rachel Collin (incoming Program Officer Elect) and Marta de Maintenon (incoming Secretary Elect). My thanks go also to the other candidates for running for office. May I encourage all members to consider becoming candidates: the tasks as officers are not that burdensome, and it is supportive of our division and the larger society. If you are interested, please drop me a message at preynold@hamilton.edu. Finally, thanks to Ken for his stalwart efforts as our Chair, and good luck to Don who takes over at the end of the next business meeting. Hope to meet more of you in Orlando.

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### **Message from the Student Representative**

*Rena Bryan*

Hello DSEB student members!! I look forward to the January meeting and seeing everyone there.

I would like to refresh your memory and include updates on the workshops that will be held at the Orlando meeting. The two workshops will be held one after the other (last evening of meetings):

#### *Workshop 1: "Optimizing Your Graduate School Experience"*

*Saturday, January 7, 6:00–7:00 pm*

- i. dealing with funding your graduate studies (even after TAships expire)
- ii. finding a good mentor (CUR, COS, societies, web listservers)
- iii. getting research funding as a graduate student
- iv. getting to meetings and making future connections (aka, networking)
- v. building your CV to impress future hirers
- vi. how to get the "right" postdoc for the "right" job

Perhaps this will be paneled by postdocs?

#### *Workshop 2: "Strategies for Landing an Academic Job/Postdoc"*

*Saturday, January 7, 7:00–8:00 pm*

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- i. Differences in the requirements for an RO1, comprehensive, and undergraduate liberal arts college (or hybrid of the above) resume.
- ii. Panelled by new and senior faculty SICB members from each of the 3 levels of academic institutions.
- iii. Each group will give a basic level of research/teaching/service expected at their college or university.
- iv. A question and answer session will follow up the panel discussions.

We are interested in ideas for panel speakers in each of these workshops. Show off your favorite professor, postdoc, or mentor with the rest of the SICB student membership. Email ideas to myself, Rena Bryan, [renabr@ufl.edu](mailto:renabr@ufl.edu) or to SPDAC Chair, Shea Tuberty, [tubertysr@appstate.edu](mailto:tubertysr@appstate.edu).

We are revamping the "First-timers Orientation" and making it a more informative program for both returning members and new members. Our revamped orientation will be entitled "The SPDAC Welcome and SICB Meeting Orientation" and will occur beginning at 5:30pm on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have been granted a student registration/housing award we remind you that you must attend.

I am sorry to say that the SPDAC Free Lunch, normally the second day of meetings, has been canceled due to budget constraints.

As always if there are any questions or recommendations concerning student programs or Student and Postdoc Advisory Committee orientation, workshops, or the social please do not hesitate to ask me and I will find the resources to get them answered in a timely manner.

## Division of Vertebrate Morphology (DVM): 2005 Fall Newsletter

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### Message from the Chair

*Beth Brainerd*

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the SICB meeting in Orlando Florida in January. The warm climate will be a treat for those of us from the cold parts of the world, even if we have to share the hotel with people in giant mouse and duck costumes. Indeed, "dining with favorite Disney characters" is listed as one of the special features of the meeting hotel! Something we can all look forward to.

Elections were held for DVM Secretary and DVM Program Officer and I am pleased to welcome Gary Gillis as the DVM Secretary Elect and Jeff Walker as the DVM Program Officer Elect.



DVM Program Officer elect: Jeff Walker



DVM Secretary elect: Gary Gillis

Kudos to George Lauder and Dan Lieberman for so capably and generously organizing the Northeast Regional DVM meeting this fall. It was held mid-September and was a great success with a total of 58 (!) five-minute talks given all in just one day.

I would like the DVM membership to start thinking about a proposal that we will discuss at the DVM business meeting this year. The Davis Award Committee from last year (David Carrier, Steve Deban, Nate Kley, Callum Ross, Adam Summers, Roshna Wunderlich) has suggested some possible ways in which the

Davis Award competition and the process of judging the entries might be improved.

Most importantly, the committee suggests that students be allowed to compete only once for the Davis Award. Currently many students compete at an early stage in their research, at a time when the work will be greatly improved in a year or two. Given only one shot, students would tend to take the process more seriously and plan over a period of years for the best time to compete. This would emphasize to everyone that the award is intended to recognize truly outstanding research and significant contribution to the field.

This change would also have the effect of reducing the number of participants in any year. The value of a reduced number of participants is that all of the talks could be presented in a single session. Other societies do this (e.g., Society of Vertebrate Paleontology). Having all of the talks presented in a single session would make the competition talks an event, calling attention to the Davis Award and to the students participating. All of the students competing would be on display, as would the DVM. In these respects, the competition would present students with challenges more similar to those they will encounter in job interviews.

Having all of the talks presented in a single session, early in the meeting, would also allow the winner to be announced at the Division social, rather than months later in the newsletter. The committee believes that the net effect of these changes would be a more rigorous competition and an elevated significance of the award.

I look forward to a spirited discussion of this proposal at the DVM business meeting. I hope that students in particular will come and give their opinions.

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### **Message from the Program Officer**

*John Bertram*

Here in the Northwest my kids are anxiously awaiting the accumulation of snow that will open the ski and snowboard runs, but my mind keeps drifting back to my recent visit to the venue of our upcoming Orlando meeting as part of the organizing committee. I can verify that having ice only come in a tall one from the poolside bar can make for a pleasant interlude and there is something about lounging in the outdoor hot tub that is particularly conducive to contemplating the grand mysteries of biology.

The meeting program has been set and it looks like another very good meeting. We have nearly 200 abstracts from members associated with the Division. Touring the facilities in Orlando we will obviously have presentation rooms with adequate space this year, solving one of our problems from last year. The poster sessions with the dedicated afternoon time-slot continues to grow in popularity. We have two Division sponsored symposia this year, Biomechanics and Neuromuscular Control and Zebrafish in a Comparative Context. Two very different symposia that demonstrate the diversity of perspectives in the Division and the potential of our members to interface with virtually all areas of modern biology. For more details on these symposia and the others offered in Orlando visit the meeting website.

It has been a treat to participate in the organizing process with the other Divisional representatives and the Society PO Kate Loudon. This was Kate's final meeting as PO and the ease with which I was able to do my job came largely due to Kate's management of the overall program, her ability to work through problems in a positive way and her general enthusiasm for these endeavors. This year also marks my final year as DVM DPO and the experience has been both enlightening and gratifying. The mantle will be passed to Jeff Walker

for the Phoenix meeting and I anticipate Jeff will benefit from the same support and understanding of the Division membership that I've received over the last couple of years.

Last spring I mentioned that the Society of Experimental Biology has stated an interest in discussing the possibility of a joint SEB–SICB meeting. That society has recently been in contact with our Society officers. There are numerous logistical factors to be considered that should not be underestimated, but such a meeting could make for a special experience. SEB will be sending an officer, Christine Trimmer, to Orlando to meet with our membership and officers to discuss the potential for the project. I'll introduce her at the DVM Business meeting where she will make a brief presentation of the SEB perspective on the meeting. If you see Chris please welcome her and take some time to chat. One suggestion for the location of a joint meeting is Iceland. I understand they have some great (geothermic) hot tubs as well – something to think about. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Orlando.

Cheers, John

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### Message from the Secretary

*Audrone Biknevicus*

#### 1. Bylaws Revision (submitted by A.R. Biknevicus)

You will be receiving soon by e–mail a ballot concerning a proposed DVM bylaw revision. Your responses will be entered directly onto a balloting website and the results will be announced at the 2006 DVM business meeting. Below is the ballot issue:

A proposal was forwarded at the 2005 Division of Vertebrate Morphology (DVM) business meeting at the San Diego SICB meetings concerning term limits for the DVM Program Officer. Current DVM bylaws state (Article VIII – Program Officer):

"The Program Officer shall arrange for the programs of the Division. This person shall serve two years, asynchronous with the Chair–Elect, without eligibility for re–election."

Both current (Bertram) and former (Carrier, Tobalske) program officers noted that there is a large learning curve for the post so that peak effectiveness only occurs in year 2 and that additional service might not be onerous to the individual and actually would be beneficial to the division. Frank Fish proposed that the term of the Program Officer be modified as following (changes capitalized):

"The Program Officer shall arrange for the programs of the Division. This person shall serve two years, asynchronous with the Chair–Elect, and SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION TO ONE ADDITIONAL TERM."

This proposal was met with unanimous approval by the DVM membership attending the 2005 business meeting.

#### 2. Report of 2005 Northeast regional SICB–DVM meetings at Harvard University (submitted by Dan Lieberman and George Lauder)

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On Saturday, September 17th, the Northeast regional meeting of the Division of Vertebrate Morphology was held at Harvard University. Organized by Dan Lieberman and George Lauder, approximately 90 people registered and 58 talks were presented in a successful (and busy) one-day format. In order to fit everyone in, all talks were limited to 5 minutes, but 20 minute breaks were scheduled each hour to allow plenty of time to interact with speakers.

Although 5 minutes does not provide time to present a complete study, most speakers got right to the point and used their time to give the audience a general sense of their research question, methods and conclusions. The talks were scheduled randomly by topic so each hour treated the audience to a wide diversity of work. There was a great deal of interaction during the numerous breaks, lunch, and dinner. Box lunches were provided which allowed all participants to stay at the meeting and chat during lunch, and dinner was catered in Romer Hall of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, permitting viewing of the public museum exhibits as everyone relaxed after the papers.

We were fortunate to have participation from a variety of visitors outside the immediate Northeast area who added greatly to the meeting atmosphere. Although this was primarily a "Northeast meeting," we very much encourage participation of anyone with an interest to attend future meetings. See you there!