

SICB Newsletter



Volume Fall 2006

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SICB members like a good story about an expedition, a field experience, a lab experiment, or another researcher! Here are the first two installments of a new series.

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Message from the President

- The venue for the January 2007 meeting is superb. The views of the mountains are of course lovely but additionally the meeting space is all on one floor with fast access to other rooms. The number of abstracts again is up this year at 1082; so, it should be a lively meeting with lots of new ideas and discussion.

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Message from the Program Officer

- All symposia and contributed talks of the 2007 meeting will be in one wing of the new Phoenix Convention Center. The rooms are state–of–the–art and range in seating capacity from 100–300 individuals. The conference hotel, the Hyatt Regency, is located directly across the street.

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- Report of Society–wide and Divisional Elections and Bylaws Measures. **[Read more]**

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A Profound Loss to SICB and to Integrative and Comparative Biology Generally: The Passing of Professor George A. Bartholomew (1919–2006)

We sadly announce the death of Professor George A. Bartholomew ("Bart" to his graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and other friends) on October 2, 2006. Bart in 1980 served as President of the American Society of Zoologists, the predecessor of SICB, and, as a result of his contributions to integrative and comparative biology, was awarded an Honorary Membership in the Society in 1990. He greatly appreciated two further forms of recognition by SICB. The first was the 1992 establishment of the George A. Bartholomew Award by the Division of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry. This award made annually to an outstanding young investigator commemorated Bart's research contributions and his longstanding efforts in the development of promising scholars. The second was the 2004 SICB symposium "Integrative Biology: a Symposium Honoring George A. Bartholomew."



Bart's research career began in the early 1940's and resulted in authorship or co-authorship of approximately 155 scientific articles on comparative physiology and behavior of birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects. He was coauthor of two textbooks, one on physiology and the other on general zoology. Additionally, he produced 30 university level educational films on animal ecology and behavior and on the flora and fauna of the Galápagos Islands. Bart earned A.B. and M.A. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1940 and 1941, respectively. Following service as a physicist in the U.S. Naval Bureau of Ordnance during World War II, he completed his Ph.D. at Harvard University in 1947. He then joined the UCLA faculty in which he completed a career spanning 1947 to 1989.

Bart was an inspiring teacher at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and a supportive mentor of 42 Ph.D. recipients and 14 postdoctoral scholars. More than 1170 individuals can trace their academic lineages to him (see <http://bartgen.bio.uci.edu/tree>). It was a privilege for me to have him as a major professor, because of his patience, sage guidance, rigorous standards, and considerable editorial skills. His accomplishments in teaching and research led to his being included among the twenty top professors in the history of the University of California at Los Angeles, according to "The Bruin Century" (UCLA Today. 20 (9), 2000).

Bart's influence on comparative and integrative biology has been profound. It arises from 63 years of published research and a consistent approach that combined laboratory and field studies of ecologically relevant aspects of the physiology and behavior of animals that are exposed to unusually demanding aspects of the physical environment or which represent an extreme of specialization for the particular group. His scientific concern lay at the interface between physiology, behavior, and ecology. It achieved fundamental biological coherence at the organismic level because the problems it encompassed were directly relevant to the ecology or reproduction of the species under study. In principle, the research problems he addressed were defined by the performance of animals under natural conditions. He concentrated his investigations in three environmental settings – deserts, oceanic islands, and tropical forests and savannahs. The variety of taxa he studied and the contrasting properties of these environmental settings led to his adopting a broadly comparative view that allowed him to delineate both convergences and differences in ways in which dissimilar organisms meet similar problems. This in turn afforded him insights concerning the functional, ecological, and evolutionary aspects of adaptations.

Bart's research accomplishments have been summarized (*Integr. Comp. Biology* 45:219–230, 2005) in the 2004 symposium in his honor. They involve groups of publications in several areas: (1) photoperiodic control of reproduction in birds, mammals, and reptiles; (2) reproductive cycles in mammals; (3) cardiac, respiratory, and metabolic studies of large reptiles; (4) water economy, electrolyte excretion, and respiratory physiology of birds and mammals; (5) energetics of locomotion in mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects; (6) hibernation and estivation in birds and mammals; (7) reproductive and social behavior in a variety of terrestrial and marine birds and marine mammals; (8) distribution and population dynamics of seals and sea lions; and (9) heat production, energetics, and locomotor behavior of insects. For most of these topics, the publications include not only original research articles, but also one or more substantial and widely cited reviews.

Bart received numerous forms of recognition for his professional accomplishments. A partial list includes Fulbright and Guggenheim Fellowships (1953–4 and 1961–2, respectively) for research in Australia, a UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award (1966), the Brewster Medal of the American Ornithologists' Union (1968), the Fellow's Medal of the California Academy of Sciences (1978), the Grinnell Medal of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (1983, initial recipient), and the Miller Research Award of the Cooper Ornithological Society (1993, initial recipient). He became a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1981) and a member of the National Academy of Sciences (1985). Additionally, he was awarded an honorary D.Sc. by the University of Chicago (1987). Beyond his scholarly accomplishments, Bart contributed important advisory services to the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Science Foundation. He also served as Chief Scientist on cruises of the RV *Alpha Helix* to New Guinea (1969) and the Galápagos Islands (1978).

George A. Bartholomew's accomplishments in teaching, graduate advising, research, and service provide a rich legacy for biology and for SICB. His philosophical insights concerning the nature of integrative biology represent an important part of this legacy. Many are summarized in his last paper (*Integr. Comp. Biol.* 45: 330–332, 2005.), which was a part of the 2004 symposium in his honor. Those of us who were privileged to know him will always remember his unassuming manner, self deprecating humor, generosity, supportive attitude toward young people, and adherence to high standards of scholarship. We deeply lament his passing, but are consoled by the impact he continues to have on integrative and comparative biology. Persons wishing to honor his memory might consider [contribution to the Bartholomew Award Fund at SICB](#).

In completing this brief memorial, I am pleased to acknowledge helpful suggestions by Raymond B. Huey.

William R. Dawson

Experiences in Integrative and Comparative Biology

SICB members like a good story about an expedition, a field experience, a lab experiment, or another researcher! To spice up our newsletter, I have asked some of the leaders of SICB to relate one or two experiences that might be of interest to the membership. President Sally Woodin and President–elect John Pearse have provided us with some great examples of truly integrative and comparative biology.

Lou Burnett, SICB Secretary

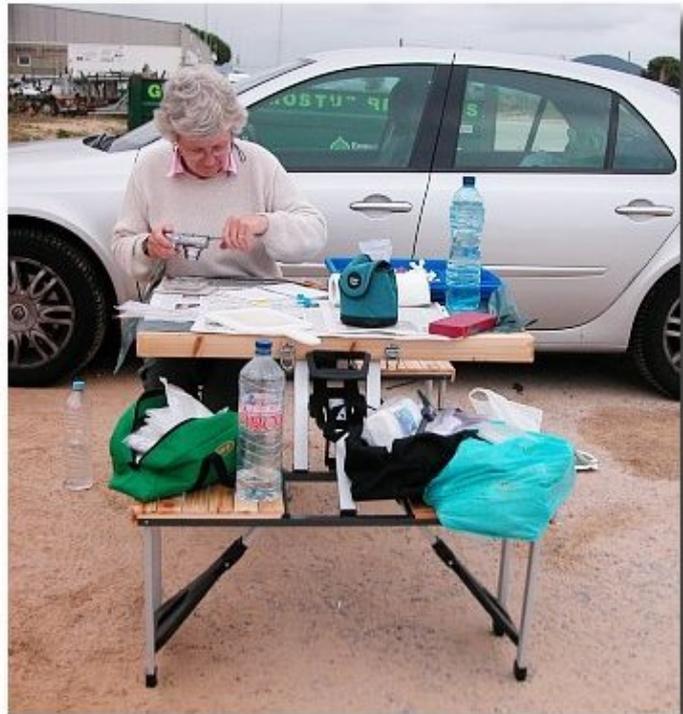
Sally Woodin, SICB President

I am currently on sabbatical having a wonderful time doing research and recovering from being both President of SICB and Chair of my department, not a clever move and life is much improved now that I am merely the former. One project that I am doing in collaboration with David Wethey with support from the Office of Naval Research involves measurement of the rates at which large infauna, the organisms that live in sediments, modify their habitat. Just to put this in perspective, these biogenic rates are major forces in rather important processes such as bacterial growth rates, remineralization rates, porewater movement and exchange, acoustic properties of sediments, recruitment of infauna, predation, etc., thus working on feculence and other organism byproducts has potentially important implications. We have succeeded in using pressure sensors to measure the hydraulic activities of the large infauna.



David Wethey placing pressure sensors

Almost all organism activities within sediments alter porewaters since due to the properties of many sediments, organisms must pump water into the sediment in order to move within it. This changes the pressure in the porewater which we can measure and the form of the pressure wave is uniquely associated with different behaviors so one can essentially spy on the infauna, categorize the frequency of different behaviors etc using pressure sensors both in the field and in the laboratory. As an experimental tool this is an outstanding advance, allowing us to manipulate the habitat and monitor responses without destructive sampling. As an advance in the behavioral analysis of infaunal activities, it has revolutionized my view of their activities, the degree to which individuals interact below the sediment surface, and the importance of those interactions. Some photos of our recent work show that we succeeded in measuring the hydraulic head caused by these infaunal activities, measurements which allow calculation of advective porewater flux.



Field lab in Spain

John Pearse, SICB President–elect

The integrative and comparative underpinnings of my Antarctic research

I suspect that all of us have suffered through the interminable graduate seminars in which a professor selects a series of papers, and each week one student is on the spot, summarizing the paper of the week while a few others criticize. Most participants just try to get through it, rarely participating. I conducted such seminars throughout my teaching career, often thinking back to the first one I experienced myself as a first–year graduate student at Stanford University in 1959.

The professor of that seminar class, Arthur Giese, who turned out to be my major professor and to whom I will be forever indebted, had selected papers that he had used the previous year to write the seminal review on a little–studied topic: reproductive rhythms of marine invertebrates. I recall the sessions as deadly dull; Giese rarely spoke and only a few student participants had anything insightful to say. I hardly spoke at all. On the other hand, I found the topic, and what little was known about it, fascinating. It was global in scope and few attempts had been made to develop unifying principles. At the time, most work on the problem had been done in the North Atlantic, where strong seasonal sea–temperature fluctuations correlated well with seasonal reproductive rhythms. A few experiments had been done on oysters and barnacles demonstrating that change in sea temperature could change the timing of reproduction. Ergo— changes in sea temperatures were thought to be all important in regulating the timing of reproduction. Trouble was there were scattered reports that some species in tropical, polar, and deep seas, where sea temperatures were unvarying year round, had seasonal reproduction. But the reports were sketchy and generally questionable.

A chance to work at McMurdo Station in the Antarctic offered me the opportunity to examine in detail reproduction of selected polar species. I grabbed it, and spent 14 months there, 1960–1962. Not only did I document reproductive seasonality in several species, but I also followed changes in biochemical composition to show a variety of integrated seasonal changes. These findings led to my working on comparable tropical species, particularly in the Gulf of Suez where marked seasonal changes in sea temperatures occur, and finally in California, where I could demonstrate with some of my students that photoperiodism is a major factor regulating seasonality of reproduction in sea stars, sea urchins, shrimps, and worms. That work led to a return to the Antarctic to show, not unexpectedly, that photoperiodism is important there as well.



John Pearse running a Warburg apparatus at McMurdo Station, Antarctica in 1961.

The big surprise in 1961 came when I found that the focal species of my research, the sea star *Odontaster validus*, produced larvae that looked for all the world like pelagic planktotrophs. One of the few established ideas at the time was that conditions in polar seas were much too severe for pelagic larvae of any kind to survive, and phytoplankton was present for too short a period during the summer to support feeding larvae. Moreover, I found that *O. validus* spawns in mid-winter when no phytoplankton is produced at all. I sat on my finding for nearly 8 years before publishing it, and when I did I suggested that the larvae must be benthic. It wasn't until the mid-1980s that I had a student (Sid Bosch) who was interested in spending a year at McMurdo to re-examine these larvae. His work with me established the fact that the proportion of species with pelagic larvae in the Antarctic was similar to that in other parts of the world. There is no latitudinal gradient in the proportion of species with non-pelagic larvae as had long been believed. Later collaboration with Sid, Richard Rivkin, Donal Manahan, and our students, established that the metabolic rate of polar larvae is extremely low, so that very little food is needed to support them. Moreover, the larvae have the ability to feed on bacteria, which are much more evenly distributed throughout the year, as well as (probably) dissolved organics. Nutrition of larvae also is not a problem as previously supposed.

But if that is the case, why are several large clades of species without pelagic larvae present in Antarctic seas? These clades fueled earlier ideas that severe polar conditions selected against pelagic larvae. Comparing the abundance of brooding species in different parts of Antarctic seas, Sid Bosch and I saw that they occur mainly in Subantarctic waters, particularly in the Scotia arc area between South America and the Antarctic Peninsula. This clue alerted us to the possibility that speciation of brooders might be occurring there, where the powerful Antarctic Circumpolar Current has been flowing in one direction for some 30 million years. That is a lot of time for individuals of brooding species to be wafted to new locations, founding new species nearly upon establishment. This idea, published in 1994, has now been strongly supported by the work of my last student, Susanne Lockhart (co-sponsored with Rich Mooi), who has shown with molecular analyses that the speciose, Antarctic clade of brooding cidaroid sea urchins has been accumulating species for 30 to 40 million years (long before the area cooled), while sister brooding clades north of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, in South America and New Zealand, have not.



John Pearse with friends at
McMurdo Sound, Antarctica in 1990.

These studies have utilized a wide range of approaches and techniques, both in the field and lab, that are both integrative and comparative. Indeed, they could not have been done any other way. And they all began for me with what at the time appeared to be a deadly dull graduate seminar to somehow get through. I'm still in it.

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Message from the President

Sarah A. Woodin

I am sitting in Phoenix at the fall meeting of the core officers of SICB and can tell you that the venue for the January 2007 meeting is superb. The views of the mountains are of course lovely but additionally the meeting space is all on one floor with fast access to other rooms, lots of space in which to chat in the poster and exhibition hall, and numerous places to eat from very inexpensive to bring your gold card. Activities from ballet and theatre to basketball are within an easy stroll. I look forward to seeing you all here. The number of abstracts again is up this year at 1082; so, it should be a lively meeting with lots of new ideas and discussion.

In January we will be celebrating the emergence of the new Division of Comparative Biomechanics with a plenary lecture on January 3 to open the meeting by Mimi Koehl entitled "Putting the Organism in its Environment: Ecological Biomechanics" and a mini-symposium in honor of Steve Vogel. We will also be celebrating our first year as partners with Oxford University Press in publishing *Integrative and Comparative Biology* and the first year with Harold Heatwole as the new editor. I am sure all of you have been delighted, as I have been, with the quality of *ICB* and its new cover with spectacular graphics and photographs derived from the authors. It is nice to note that our citation rates are up significantly for *ICB* reflecting the quality of the articles from our symposia, which are the hub of our meetings. If you see John Edwards or other members of the Washington Consortium or Claudia deGruy who are the past guiding hands for the journal, please thank them for their part in this.

Message from the President–Elect

John Pearse

In last year's newsletter I wrote that I intended to focus on four objectives during my term as President: 1) increasing ethnic diversity, 2) increasing the international character of our society, 3) expanding our scope, especially to include more plant scientists, and 4) addressing the re–emergence of faith–based thinking as it encroaches into science and an enlightened worldview. Sally has already picked up earlier efforts to increase our ethnic diversity, as should be evident at the Phoenix meeting. Moreover, the development of the Digital Library symposium at the Phoenix meeting and the Evolution versus Creationism symposium next year at the San Antonio meeting begins to address my fourth objective. I plan to be more deeply involved with these objectives over the two years of my presidency, beginning at the end of the Phoenix meeting. The other critical but more mundane area that urgently needs attention is funding for our symposia. World–class symposia are the heart of our Society. I welcome all suggestions and offers to help in any of these areas of concern.

Which brings me to the second portion of my message last year. I was curious about who reads these things, and I asked people who read mine to drop me a note saying simply "I read it." Nothing more. I received exactly one (1) response. I also said that if I didn't hear from many of you, I would look for other ways for your officers to spend their time. So why am I sitting here writing another message?!

Message from the Treasurer

Ron Dimock

6–month fiscal year puts us on track

The shift of SICB's fiscal year to July 1 – June 30 has taken place. This created the somewhat awkward circumstance of closing out the first 6 months of 2006 as a fiscal 'year', to enable fiscal 2007 to start July 1, 2006. At the annual meeting in Jan 2007, the Executive Committee will be asked to approve a budget for Jan 1– June 30, 2007, to be added to the existing July 1–Dec 31, 2006 budget that was approved in January 2006. The Committee also will vote on the fiscal 2008 budget, which will run from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. This means that the budget for the 2008 annual meeting in San Antonio will have been approved at the previous annual meeting. Henceforth, the budget will be in place in advance of annual meetings.

Society's managed accounts continue to do well

The end of the 3rd quarter of 2006 saw our mutual fund account having increased 35% since inception in April 2004. The REIT investment has an unrealized capital gain of 58%, for an overall average increase in our portfolio of 37%. Over the same interval, the SPhas increased 17%.

New co–pay for students receiving meeting support helps out

The \$75 co–pay for students receiving complementary housing at annual meetings generated about \$19,000 in Orlando. This is a significant contribution toward the approximately \$80,000 per year that SICB spends in support of student research and assistance in attending the meeting.

Concern continues about funding Society symposia

The continued restriction of funding of Society symposia through NSF is great cause for concern. From a high of approximately \$75,000 in NSF support for the meeting in New Orleans in 2004, the level decreased to about \$20,000 in San Diego, and \$18,000 in Orlando. The Development Committee and others are diligently seeking other sources of revenue to fund future symposia, with the expectation that NSF may cease such funding altogether.

Do your part

The Dues Renewal web site has options for contributions to several of the financial components of the Society. Any money anyone contributes to any activity frees up part of that account that can be applied elsewhere in the budget. Electing Life Membership also is an excellent way to help the Society's financial position.

Message from the Program Officer

Linda Walters

Greetings! The Program Committee (all Divisional Program Officers, Program Officers from TCS and AMS, Sue Burk and Lori Strong from Burk Associates, and myself) met the last weekend of September 2006 and put together a phenomenal program for the January 2007 meeting in Phoenix. There will be 1082 presentations, including 10 symposia on a wide range of hot topics, and approximately equal numbers of oral contributed talks and poster presentations. To accommodate all presenters, there will be 12 concurrent sessions most days. Dedicated poster sessions will occur each afternoon from 3–5 PM. In the past, switching rooms between oral presentations was a chore and rooms frequently could not accommodate all viewers. This should not be an issue this year – all symposia and contributed talks will be in one wing of the new Phoenix Convention Center. The rooms are state-of-the-art and range in seating capacity from 100 – 300 individuals. The conference hotel, the Hyatt Regency, is located directly across the street and many of the invited evening speakers and social functions will be held at the hotel. Downtown Phoenix has been revitalized in recent years and now boasts many new restaurants in a wide range of prices, lots of art, and hopefully comfortable temperatures in January. I hope you will be able to attend the 2007 annual meeting of SICB. By all accounts, it should be a very good meeting!

Message from the Secretary

Lou Burnett

Report of Society–wide and Divisional Elections and Bylaws Measures

Congratulations to the following individuals on their elections. These terms begin at the end of the 2007 annual meeting in Phoenix.

SICB Elections

President–elect, Richard Satterlie

Member–at–large, Sönke Johnsen & Rachel Merz

Divisional Elections

Animal Behavior Chair, Thomas Hahn

Animal Behavior Secretary, Scott MacDougall–Shackleton

Comparative Endocrinology Program Officer–elect, Stephan Schoech

Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry Chair–elect, Joseph Williams

Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry Program Officer, Don Mykles

Invertebrate Zoology Secretary, Renae Brodie

Systematic and Evolutionary Biology Chair–elect, Anne Maglia

Systematic and Evolutionary Biology Student Representative, Audrey Aronowsky

Vertebrate Morphology Program Officer, Jeffrey Walker

Vertebrate Morphology Secretary, Gary Gillis

Bylaws Measures

The bylaws measures proposed by the Divisions of Comparative Endocrinology, Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry, Ecology and Evolution, and Invertebrate Zoology passed.

SICB Web Site Revisions

As reported in the last newsletter, we are in the process of overhauling the SICB web site. We have received feedback from the divisional secretaries and the primary officers of SICB and are now in the process of reorganizing the content of the web site to make it easier to read and easier to find material. I am hoping all of this work can be done sometime this spring.

News and Announcements

- [Call for Exceptional Photomicrographs](#)
 - [Graduate Fellowships in Tropical Biology at STRI](#)
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Call for Exceptional Photomicrographs

Do you have a photomicrograph of exceptional interest and quality? If so, the American Microscopical Society invites and encourages you to enter it into the annual **Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Excellence in Photomicrography Contest**. The contest will take place at the SICB meeting in Phoenix, January 4–7, 2007. Micrographs will be displayed at the AMS booth where SICB meeting attendees may evaluate them and vote for the best image in both black and white and color categories. Winning micrographers in each category will receive a cash award, a photomicrography book and a luncheon ticket to the AMS banquet at the next SICB meeting. The images will be also be featured on the AMS website. The contest is open to SICB meeting participants; up to 3 entries each. AMS membership is welcomed but not required. Submissions must be **prints**, with **maximum dimensions of 8 X 10 inches, unlabeled, unsigned**, and mounted on poster board or foam–core mounting board. A single line of information identifying the subject (e.g., "Mouthparts of a mite") and stating the microscopical technique used (e.g., "SEM") should be below the photograph. **Entries will be accepted on the morning of the first full day of the meetings (Thursday, January 4, 2007)** at the AMS booth in the exhibit hall. The deadline for submitting entries is before the exhibits close for lunch that day. Voting begins on the afternoon of the first meeting day and ends before exhibits close at the end of the second full day (Friday, January 5, 2007). All meeting participants who visit the AMS exhibit are allowed one ballot for each contest category.

Graduate Fellowships in Tropical Biology

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Short–Term Fellowship Program allows selected candidates to come to STRI year–round and is an excellent resource to provide support for graduate students and introduce them to tropical research. Although focused primarily on graduate students, awards are occasionally given to undergraduate and postdoctoral candidates. These fellowships enable selected candidates to work in the tropics and explore research possibilities at STRI. Deadlines: February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15. For more information see: http://www.stri.org/english/education_fellowships/fellowships/stri_programs.php or e–mail fellows@si.edu.

Committee Reports

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Public Affairs Committee

Miriam Ashley–Ross

The SICB Program Advisory Committee has organized two events for the upcoming 2007 meeting in Phoenix:

Evolution Town Meeting: A Year After the Dover Decision

Kitzmiller v. Dover struck a blow for the teaching of evolution, and against creationism, in the the US public schools. How did this case affect the ongoing battle between creationists and scientists over what is taught in schools? What has happened in the year since, and what is on the horizon? How do lawyers argue such cases, and what do we, as scientists, need to know to help them? Join us on January 5th, 2007 from 12:00 – 1:30 pm, for the fifth Town Meeting on Evolution. Our panel will feature Kevin Padian (University of California at Berkeley), Patricia Princehouse (Case Western Reserve University), and Stephen Harvey (Pepper Hamilton LLC law firm). The speakers will give short presentations, followed by what is sure to be lively discussion from the audience.

Media Workshop: Hey, Wanna Read My Blog?

Blogs are online "diaries" that are growing in popularity. Popular political and social commentary blogs are making the news, but is there more out there than chatty gossip and collections of links? How about some science? Can this trendy technology be useful for scientists? Come to the Media Workshop and find out! Experienced science bloggers P.Z. Myers (Pharyngula; <http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/>), Grrl Scientist (Living the Scientific Life; <http://scienceblogs.com/grrlscientist/>), and John Lynch (Stranger Fruit; <http://scienceblogs.com/strangerfruit/>) answer your questions about how blogging works, setting one up, finding things to write about, and using the medium for your classes, for research, or for educating the public.

Division of Animal Behavior (DAB): 2006 Fall Newsletter

Message from the Chair, Program Officer and Secretary

We're trying the efficient approach this time and condensing everything we have to convey into just a single message from all three of us.

We have a new Chair–elect and Secretary–elect: Tom Hahn will be replacing Scott MacDougall–Shackleton as Chair, and Scott will be replacing Tom as Secretary. Many thanks to Allison Welch for standing for election to the Secretary position, and to Keith Sockman for standing for election to the Chair position. You're both spared serving this time, but it's only a matter of time! It has been some time since we actually had more than one candidate for one of these positions, and we hope that the fact that we actually had two candidates for each post reflects an increasing interest on the part of DAB members in participating more vigorously in division activities. The next election in DAB will be for Program Officer, so be thinking about whether you would be interested in standing for election to that position, or whether you know of someone else you would like to nominate. We will be sure to pester folks further about this as the time approaches.

The annual meeting this January 3–7 in Phoenix looks like it will be outstanding, as usual. Check out the website, and pay particular attention to some of the special activities that are planned. Two particularly timely things that caught our eye are the Evolution Town Meeting regarding the aftermath of the Dover decision on teaching evolution/creationism in public schools, and the Media Workshop on how to create and use a Blog for communicating widely about scientific issues. We have a relative dearth of specifically behavior–related symposia this time, so please do consider planning a symposium yourself for future meetings. The symposia are absolutely central to the mission of the SICB, and DAB has historically played a strong role in fostering high quality symposia. You can get money from the society to help make your symposium happen. You just need to be sufficiently organized to propose it about a year and a half in advance. The deadline for proposing symposia for the 2008 meeting in San Antonio has already passed, so the target now is the 2009 meeting. Deadline for proposing symposia is always in August.

Finally, please attend the DAB business meeting / social, and let one of us know if you're willing to help with judging student talks / posters. We can always use help with that!

Looking forward to seeing you all in Phoenix!

Scott MacDougall–Shackleton (Chair)
Sarah Humfeld (Program Officer)
Tom Hahn (Secretary)

Division of Comparative Biomechanics (DCB): 2006 Fall Newsletter

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Message from the Interim Program Officer

Frank Fish

The schedule of talks has now been set for the SICB's Annual Meeting in Phoenix in January 2007. It was pleasing to see a number of people listing the Division of Comparative Biomechanics on their abstract submittal form. Hopefully this is the beginning of a continual and growing submission of papers in the field of biomechanics. The DCB talks and posters have been integrated throughout the five days of the meeting (January 3–7). Two special events are of particular importance to the DCB. First, Mimi Koehl will give the plenary lecture, "Putting the Organism in its Environment: Ecological Biomechanics." The plenary lecture will be presented on Wednesday, January 3rd. Mimi's talk sets the tone for much of the remainder of the meeting. The following day on Thursday, January 4th starts the beginning of an event that spans no less than two and one-third days on biomechanics. This is the Mini-symposium Honoring Steve Vogel, which was organized by Tom Daniel and Kate Loudon. With 63 contributed oral talks and a number of posters presented by what can only be described as a cast of thousands, this event is anything but "mini." Indeed, it demonstrates the influence and contributions that Steve Vogel has made to biomechanics and science in general. Be sure to come to the social in honor of Steve on Friday night.

The venue at Phoenix is one of the best for any SICB meeting. First, the conference site is within fifteen minutes of the airport, so people can inexpensively use SuperShuttle, taxi or Hotel limo. The conference hotel (Hyatt) is immediately across the street from the convention center, where the oral contributions and poster sessions will be given. The rooms for the oral presentations are all on the same floor and hallway, making changing rooms and sessions extremely easy. With respect to the necessities of life, the Hyatt has wireless Internet and Einstein Bros. for bagels and coffee. Starbucks is in the convention center. There are a variety of bars and restaurants located in the immediate area. To help you and keep you from getting lost, there are a number of orange-shirted Phoenix ambassadors located in the area.

The first business meeting of the DCB will be held on Thursday evening after the poster session. This meeting will be important in organizing the division and setting its agenda for future meetings. Please consider organizing a symposium for future meetings. If you need assistance in developing an idea or going through the mechanics of submission, I am gladly at your service. Any symposium sponsored by the DCB can be limited to biomechanics or can be broader in its outlook. Broader symposia can fall under the society-wide category. Some potential symposia are the Evolution of Flight; Biomimetics: Fusion of Organism and Machine; Transition for Sea to Land: The Evolution of Terrestrial Locomotion in Vertebrates; and Shells, Scales and Cuticles: Structural Mechanics of Exoskeletons. If you are interested in organizing these or any others, please let me know.

Message from the Interim Secretary

Miriam Ashley–Ross

SICB's newest entity, the Division of Comparative Biomechanics, is poised to hit the ground running at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix. Mimi Koehl will give the plenary lecture, "Putting the Organism in its Environment: Ecological Biomechanics," to open the meeting on January 3rd. Tom Daniel and Kate Loudon have organized a "minisymposium" honoring Steve Vogel, featuring contributed papers of scientists who have directly benefited from Steve's guidance.

The DCB will be on the list of official divisions this fall – when most of us are renewing our membership. Who should consider checking the DCB box as their primary affiliation? Any scientist who examines organisms, zoological or botanical or microscopical, from the standpoint of function within the physical demands of the environment, will find a natural home in Comparative Biomechanics. In recent years, SICB has been organizing contributed paper sessions around various themes – a few examples are feeding, swimming, muscle design and function, terrestrial locomotion, and properties of biological materials. Any member, whether experimentalist or theoretician, who finds such sessions of interest would benefit from becoming a DCB member. As you fill out your membership form this year, consider checking the DCB box, and encourage your colleagues and students to do so as well.

We will hold an organizational meeting for the new Division at the 2007 SICB Annual Meeting in Phoenix. There are two important things to accomplish at this time: adopt divisional bylaws, and plan the elections for regular officers. We will hold the first round of elections in the spring; we plan to stagger terms of office as other divisions do, so that there is some continuity of experience among the officers. Please let one of the interim officers know if you are willing to stand for election to one of the divisional posts. The interim officers are: Robert Full, chair; Miriam Ashley–Ross, secretary; Frank Fish, program officer; and Monica Daley, student/postdoc representative.

Division of Comparative Endocrinology (DCE): 2006 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
 - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
 - [Message from the Secretary](#)
 - [Message from the DCE Representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee](#)
 - [Candidates for Elections](#)
 - [Proposed Bylaw Changes](#)
 - [Call for Symposia Proposals](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Bob Denver (rdenver@umich.edu)

We are looking forward to seeing many if not all of you in Phoenix this January.

The meeting is shaping up very nicely and Michael Romero, our new DCE Program Officer, is busy planning the program. This year we are very pleased to announce that Nancy Sherwood of the University of Victoria, British Columbia will be presenting the Howard Bern Lectureship. The title of her presentation will be "The Endocrine System just before the Backbone: Genomics of the Spineless."

There are many activities planned for graduate students at the annual meeting in Phoenix as well as a social for DCE members. Additionally, the scheduled presentations mentioned by Michael Romero below should highlight your experience. Please encourage all of your graduate students to attend as well as your colleagues.

The DCE is very fortunate to have so many distinguished and active members. In the past year members of the DCE participated in several exciting scientific meetings. In March, Frank Moore hosted a very successful Western Regional Conference on Comparative Endocrinology (WRCCE) in Newport, Oregon. There were 88 registered participants, 46 oral presentations and 21 posters. Peter Thomas presented the annual Irving Geschwind Memorial Lecture; the title of his talk was "Novel steroid receptors in the plasma membrane coupled to G proteins." In August I attended a fantastic meeting of the Conference of European Comparative Endocrinologists held in Manchester, England and had the opportunity to interact with several DCE members who were in attendance.

Mark your calendars for the next WRCCE to be held at Friday Harbor Laboratories in Washington and hosted by Lynn Riddiford (in March, 2007 – dates to be announced). Immediately after this meeting (March 26–28, 2007) the International Symposium on Amphibian and Reptile Endocrinology and Neurobiology (ISAREN) will be held in Berkeley, California. The ISAREN meeting in Berkeley and is being organized by Tyrone Hayes.

I want to congratulate our new Program Officer Elect, Stephan Schoech. I also want to thank the nominating committee consisting of Mark Sheridan (chair), Erica Crespi and John Hatle for identifying excellent candidates for the Divisional Program Officer. You should also note that at the meeting in Orlando DCE

members voted to approve several changes to our bylaws. Also, there was a change to our bylaws that was voted on recently by the DCE membership by electronic ballot. Each DCE member will now have a small annual assessment of \$4 to allow our divisional support of regional meetings or international conferences for which we are official affiliates (e.g., International Federation of Comparative Endocrine Societies; IFCES). This was necessary because the Society's Finance Committee will no longer endorse divisional requests for such funds to be taken from the general funds. Please note that if you are planning a meeting for which you would like the DCE to provide funds you should contact the Chair of DCE well in advance, since these items need to be budgeted in advance. A link to the current version of the DCE bylaws can be found below in the Message from the Secretary.

Finally, your elected representatives, Michael Romero and Kevin Kelley have been doing an outstanding job getting us ready for Phoenix and deserve a round of applause. I will see you at the DCE business meeting in Phoenix where I'm sure there will be some lively items for discussion. And, in the meantime, be sure to send me your thoughts and concerns about any aspect of DCE: rdenver@umich.edu.

Message from the Program Officer

L. Michael Romero (Michael.romero@tufts.edu)

The 2007 meeting in Phoenix, Arizona

The program for the upcoming meeting in Phoenix is almost set. A total of 1080 abstracts were submitted, which represents the second–most number of abstracts in SICB history. Of these, 463 requested oral presentations, 407 requested posters, and 62 requested either format (if you checked the "either" box make sure you check the format you've been assigned when the program becomes available). A total of 74 abstracts indicated DCE as their primary division. Finally, there were 155 abstracts affiliated with a symposium. Although DCE is not the primary sponsor for any of the symposia, several should be of interest, including "Recent developments in neurobiology" and "Ecology and evolution of disease dynamics."

In addition to the scientific sessions, several other events have been set. This year's Howard Bern lecture will be given by Nancy Sherwood of the University of Victoria, British Columbia. Her lecture is scheduled for 6:30 on Friday evening. It will be preceded by the DCE business meeting and followed by the DCE social.

This should be an exciting meeting, and I hope to see everyone there!

Message from the Secretary

Kevin M. Kelley (kmkelley@csulb.edu)

Keep reading folks! In addition to my comments here, please also take a look below at the comments provided by our DCE Representative to the Society's Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC), Darren

Lerner. The students and postdoctoral members have many social and professional opportunities at the Annual Meeting and through the SICB, thanks largely to the efforts of SPDAC.

Since the Spring 2006 Newsletter, the DCE has approved by electronic vote an additional By–Law, "**Article XIX. Assessment for Regional or International Comparative Endocrinology Meetings**". This was designed to assist financially in supporting conferences and symposia through our Division, in the absence of available SICB funds. The newly refurbished DCE By–Laws, including Article XIX, can be viewed at <http://www.sicb.org/handbook/bylaws/php3#dcebylaws>.

The election for the DCE Program Officer Elect brought forth Stephan Schoech, who will take this position at the end of the upcoming 2007 Annual Meeting. As always, thanks to all candidates who show the willingness to step forth to serve and support the DCE and SICB.

From Bob Denver's comments above, I would like to add to his highlighting of the success of the Western Regional Conference on Comparative Endocrinology (WRCCE) in Newport, Oregon, this past spring. Frank Moore organized a superb conference, and re–energized the tradition, and it was one of the better small conferences that my students and I have attended in a long time. Next spring's WRCCE should also be fantastic, to be held at Friday Harbor Laboratories, hosted by Lynn Riddiford. These kinds of meetings, held by DCE members during the "off season", are great opportunities to more closely connect with our colleagues, and for our students and postdocs to do the same.

For me, this year's Annual Meeting completes seven years of continuous service to SICB, two as DCE Secretary and five before that as Chair of the SPDAC. It's been a pleasure to have participated in this way for such a superb professional society as SICB. I look forward to enjoying the upcoming and future SICB meetings, bringing more students and postdocs, and always supporting this society. Cathy Propper will take over the DCE Secretary at the end of the 2007 Annual Meeting. The DCE is in very capable hands!

Message from the DCE Representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee

Darren T. Lerner (dlerner@forwild.umass.edu)

Hello to all DCE graduate students and postdocs! I am looking forward to seeing you at our 2007 Annual Meeting in Phoenix (January 3–7th).

There are a number of events that you should be sure to attend, some of which are specifically designed for students. These include the Student "First Timer" Orientation, immediately following the Welcome to Phoenix Reception, a **student/postdoc/mentor lunch** (pending funding), and the student/postdoc workshop tentatively entitled: "**What editors want: Paving the way to publication**". For this workshop, a panel of editors–in–chief and associate editors will discuss and field questions on various topics ranging from how to choose the appropriate journal and how to write a cover letter to review mechanics and publication ethics. Don't miss out! The workshop 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 for details (<http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2007/index.php3>)

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 not yet been awarded

a PhD are eligible for the 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. 19th. <http://sicb.org/grants/researchgrant.php3>
- SICB Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel, due Nov. 19th, which provides funds for travel and other expenses at distant research laboratories, museums or field sites. <http://sicb.org/grants/fgst/>
- 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 2007 EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellowships, which funds research grants and graduate fellowships in numerous environmental science and engineering disciplines. Closing date Nov 28th. http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2007/2007_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.sigmaksi.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 , due early–November) and for doctoral candidates (Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants, Directorate for Biological Sciences <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2006/nsf05607/nsf05607.htm>, due mid– November).

Division of Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry (DCPB): 2006 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](#)
 - [Integrative Physiology Meets Diversity – This Summer, In Brazil!](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Patrick J. Walsh

As I sit in my new digs at the University of Ottawa and watch the Fall leaves in the Gatineau Hills turn brilliant shades of red, orange and yellow, I am clearly in a proper frame of mind for a *Fall* DCPB Newsletter. I hope that you all had productive and enjoyable summers and that you are now settled into the routines of Fall term.

Election Results

In the first bit of news, we have elected new DCPB officers to the posts of Chair–Elect and Program Officer, Joseph Williams and Donald Mykles, respectively. Congrats to Joe and Don, and also my thanks to John Lighton and Martin Grosell for standing for election for these slots (again, respectively). Joe will take over the reins as Division Chair from me following the Jan 2008 meeting, and Don takes over as PO from Kim Hammond following the upcoming Jan 2007 meeting.

I am also pleased to announce that the self–tax Special Assessment by–law change passed, and as a result, we will be tithing an additional \$5 to the DCPB kitty to support international meetings. As we go to press, we are still working out with the SICB business office exactly when this will occur, but we hope to conveniently make it at time of annual dues renewal. This fund will help us to support international meetings like the upcoming ICCPB meeting in Brazil, Aug 2007 (see Lou Burnett's report).

Bartholomew Award Winner

Dr. Douglas Altshuler of the University of California, Riverside was chosen by the Bartholomew Award Committee (Drs. Gilmour, Gordon, Riddiford, Wainwright, Wikelski and Huey, *ex officio*) to be the 2007 Bartholomew Awardee "for distinguished contributions to comparative physiology and biochemistry, and to related fields of functional and integrative biology" for his research on animal flight. Congrats to Douglas and my thanks to the committee members. While program details are still being worked out at press time, if past years are indicative of the upcoming schedule, Douglas' lecture and reception should be the evening of Jan 4, just after our DCPB business meeting. Please check the program for details and plan on attending! Sponsors of the award will again be Sable Systems, so be sure to drop by their booth in Phoenix and give them a 'thank you'.

Editorship of Physiological and Biochemical Zoology

I am pleased to announce that, following the recommendation of the DCPB Executive Committee, the University of Chicago Press has reappointed Dr. Jim Hicks as Editor of *Physiological and Biochemical Zoology* for another 5 year term. Join me in both congratulating Jim and thanking him for the hard work he and his staff and editorial board have put into continuing the strong tradition at PBZ!

Phoenix 2007!

With an average January high of 66F(19C) and an average low of 41F(5C), Phoenix in January should be downright tropical for folks like me and others residing north of the Mason–Dixon. So, at the very least, please plan on attending SICB for a pleasant mid–winter thaw! But, more importantly, take advantage of the time and place to catch up with your colleagues on all the developments in their research and at their respective institutions. I am guessing too that for those of you with Spring teaching assignments, your students will see the gleam in your eyes as you begin a new semester charged with new ideas and enthusiasm. See Kim Hammond's program notes below for the great lineup of symposia sponsored by DCPB and other SICB Divisions. All we need is your attendance to make this a bangup meeting. Please also let your students know that the Best Student Awards for Papers and Posters this year will be named the 'Peter Hochachka Award'. Looking forward to seeing you all on Jan 3!

Message from the Program Officer

Kimberly Hammond

Phoenix:

Another year with almost 1100 submitted abstracts for the Society in general, with roughly 169 submitted with DCPB as a primary affiliation. Of these there were about 90 talks. We definitely represent one of the largest memberships in SICB.

There are many wonderful symposia this year. Please check the web pages to see them all. Of note is the Vogel symposium. There are many members that have submitted papers in honor of Steve Vogel. This should be a great meeting for really seeing his legacy!

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 which was very successful in past years, so feel free to use it.

Travel Tips:

When arriving in Phoenix. Here is information for transportation to/from the airport to the hotel:

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION:

SUPER SHUTTLE is available from the airport at a cost of \$9.00 per person. Guests may proceed directly to the hotel pickup area outside the baggage claim. The Super Shuttle is available 24hrs a day, runs constantly, on demand. Phone: 602–244–9000

Transportation from the Airport to the hotel is available through ARRIVE at a cost of \$9.00 per person for a shuttle or \$18 per town car (up to 4 people). This service is available 24 hrs a day. Use the courtesy phone in the baggage claim area.

Shuttle service from the Hotel to the Airport is available through ARRIVE between the hours of 6am–2pm, departing every 30 minutes at a cost of \$9.00 per person or \$18.00 per vehicle.

Phone: 1–888–604–6552

Fax : 1–602–286–6164

Town cars are readily available 24 hours a day from the hotel front entrance.

TAXI one way – \$12–\$16

Future Meetings:

The Symposia for the San Antonio 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) discuss ideas and get started.

New program officer:

Note that as of the end of the meeting this year, I will be stepping down as program officer and will be being replaced by the very able Don Mykles. Between now and then, however feel free to send ideas for symposia, or ask for small divisional monetary endorsements for your upcoming symposia and I will forward all requests.

Message from the Secretary

Jonathon H. Stillman

The Chair's message has summed up about everything I could report on, so I'll just paraphrase from his message here:

Elections

DCPB members elected new DCPB officers to the posts of Chair–Elect and Program Officer, Joseph Williams and Donald Mykles, respectively. Many thanks to John Lighton and Martin Grosell for standing for election for these slots (again, respectively).

The self–tax Special Assessment by–law change passed, thus each DCPB member will contribute an additional \$5 to the DCPB kitty to support international meetings. We hope to conveniently make it at time of annual dues renewal.

Each of the above ballots were voted on by n=86 DCPB members. Notably, this is the highest voter turnout for any of the SICB divisional ballots of this year (the next highest being n=20 fewer voters). I'm not certain if this reflects greater DCPB participation or just the fact that DCPB may have a larger membership.

Jim Hicks was elected to another 5–year term as editor of the SICB DCPB–sponsored journal *Physiological and Biochemical Zoology*. Thanks for your service, Jim.

Bartholomew Award Winner

Dr. Douglas Altshuler of the University of California, Riverside was chosen to be the 2007 Bartholomew Awardee, and will be presenting the Bartholomew Award Lecture at the annual meeting in Phoenix. Congratulations to Dr. Altshuler.

Finally, I am passing along the request that if any of you happen to take notable photos (digital, preferably) at the annual meeting, please pass them along to me (stillmaj@sfsu.edu) and I can work to have them included in the newsletter or on the DCPB webpage. Thanks!

Message from the Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative

Joanna Joyner Matos

Hello DCPB graduate students and postdocs!

The Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) has planned several activities during the Phoenix meeting. I hope you will attend:

- The Grad Student/Postdoc Welcome and Meeting Orientation on Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. is entitled, "**How to get the most out of your SICB meeting.**" We will discuss topics ranging from how to find relevant talks/posters, enter or leave a room, and approach a "big guy or gal."
- Saturday evening (6:00–7:00 p.m.) we are hosting a workshop entitled, "**What Editors Want.**" Speakers at this workshop will be editors and staff from journals specific to the divisions of SICB. The speakers will address a variety of topics including manuscript preparation, how to use online submission systems, how to select an appropriate journal, etc. The session is aimed at students, postdocs, and early–career researchers, but attendance is open to all.
- Saturday evening concludes with a society–wide social for students and postdocs from 8:00–9:30 p.m.

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!

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One more note, the deadline for applying for student support, either in the form of housing assistance or registration fees, is October 27th. 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

Sigma Xi – Grant in Aid of Research (2 applications/year). www.sigmaxi.org

National Science Foundation – Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant. 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

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

Integrative Physiology Meets Diversity – This Summer, In Brazil!

Lou Burnett, SICB – DCPB Representative to the ICCPB

7th International Congress for Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry (ICCPB) in Brazil, August 12 –16, 2007, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.

For details, see: <http://www.ib.usp.br/iccpb-brazil/index.html>. Program includes approximately 40 symposia and 5 plenary lectures. The approved symposia include those sponsored by SICB and others:

1. Nitrogen Metabolism and Excretion in the Face of Environmental Nitrogen Loading (sponsored by SICB & CSZ), Organizers: Patrick J. Walsh and Chris M. Wood
2. Aromatases (SICB), Organizer: Alan Conley
3. New Models of Ammonium Transport (SICB), Organizer: David Towle
4. Behavioral and digestive modulation of environmental physiology of aquatic animals (SICB), Organizers: Iain McGaw and Steve Morris
5. Hypoxia as a selective force in populations (SICB & ESCPB), Organizers: Karen Burnett, Kim Hammond and Guido Van den Thillart

Plenary speakers are:

Chris Wood (Knut Schmidt–Nielsen plenary lecture) (Canada)

Nora Terwilliger (USA)

Francisco Bozinovic (Chile)

Steven Chown (South Africa)

Tristram Wyatt (UK)

Rooms for the meeting are expected to cost \$50 to \$60 per night. Registration is expected to be less than \$300

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with substantial reductions for students. Details on travel and accommodations can be found on the web site.
Plan now to attend!

Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology (DEDB) and Division of Developmental and Cell Biology (DDCB): 2006 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

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

Message from the Chair

Billy J. Swalla

Autumn Greetings from the Chair!

Classes are back in full swing and many of us are continuing the ever challenging balancing act with teaching, research, and our families. Good luck in finding the balance that works best for you.

As we look toward the future for the Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology, I can almost hear the whirl of sequencing machines, churning out more genomes, allowing comparisons to be made at a genomic level across organisms. New technologies are coming into play for sequencing, bringing down the cost and allowing even more sequencing reads at a lower price. We will need to begin to think in terms of gene networks, not just single genes and pathways, but how entire networks evolve and change to create morphology. Comparative genomic studies will need to become more complex and sophisticated, going beyond the current practice of using as many genes as possible to compare phylogenies, to comparisons of losses and gains within specific gene families. We are just beginning to think about the depth of genomic studies – genomes of several closely related species gives different information than comparing genomes across large phylogenetic distances. Soon the sea urchin genome will be available, and members of the mollusc and polychaetes should not be far behind. Already, it's been reported that sponges contain all of the important developmental signaling pathways that we consider fundamental for metazoan development, suggesting that more studies need to be concentrated on sponges, cnidarians and ctenopores. There is much to be learned from these genomic studies and we've only just begun. If you would like to put together a symposium on Genomes or Genetic Networks for a future meeting, please contact me.

One of the ways that we are trying to promote Evolution & Development and Developmental & Cell Biology is through the SICB WEB site for DEDB researchers: <http://sicb.org/divisions/DEDB/researchers.php3> The site is set so that a different WEB site comes up each time you access the site. There are some very cool pictures up now, but we would like to get more participation. It's never too late! Please send your contributions to Fretson Galis F.Galis@biology.leidenuniv.nl and she will see that your research is posted on the site.

I would like to see more of you take leadership roles in the DEDB and DDCB divisions in SICB. If anyone is willing to represent our divisions on various SICB committees, and learn how decisions within the Society are made, please contact me. It is fun to meet the people in other divisions, and learn about other topics of

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research within SICB. Please let me know if you are willing to consider helping out. Thanks to our officers and those of you that are serving on the Student Support Committee that meets in Phoenix. We really appreciate your time, energy and input to our success as a vibrant SICB Division.

Oxford Press is now publishing "Integrative and Comparative Biology". <http://icb.oxfordjournals.org/>

I hope that you've noticed the beautiful covers of the last few issues and have enjoyed reading papers on-line as soon as they are accepted. Once the backlog of accumulated papers is published this year, we expect that symposia will begin to be published in a very timely manner. This is our journal, so keep publishing some of your best research results in it. We hope to get it indexed in PubMed soon.

Where are all the women speakers? I continue to be surprised and appalled to see symposia that are put on at meetings without a balanced gender ratio. They are always tipped towards the Y chromosome. Check your own departmental seminar series. Are there 50% female speakers? If not, then you should point it out and ask that it be improved. Women have made up at least 50% of the graduate student population since the 1970's, but almost 40 years later, there is still not parity in faculty positions or symposia in the U.S.A. If you are organizing a symposium and can not think of any women in your field, contact me. I will give you at least 5 names of topnotch female speakers. I will also give you the name of several other possibilities to increase the diversity of your speakers. We need to recognize that science is done by a diverse group of people and we should welcome that diversity.

Finally, I hope that you all keep abreast of the political candidates that you will elect, and be sure that they believe that funding basic science should be a national priority. Make your voice heard. Remember to vote!

Enjoy the holidays.....spend time with your families.....turn in an NSF grant.

See you in Phoenix in 2007.

Billie J. Swalla

Message from the Program Officer

Eduardo Rosa–Molinar

¡Saludos from Puerto Rico, the Island of Enchantment (no hurricanes so far this year)!

Well this is my last newsletter as program officer of Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology/Division of Developmental & Cell Biology (DEDB/DDCB). It has been an honor and pleasure to serve you all. Wendy Olson, Ph.D. of the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA will become your new program officer during the 2007 divisional meeting. Wendy will be DEDB/DDCB's third program officer.

Members submitted 1080 abstracts for the 2007 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona! The meeting will be held January 3–7, 2007. The headquarters hotel for the meeting is the Hyatt Regency Phoenix. You may register online for the hotel (<http://phoenix.hyatt.com/groupbooking/phxrpsicc2007>)

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or call 1–800–633–7313 or 602–252–1234 for reservations [be sure to mention that you are a SICB meeting attendee]). The SICB rate at the Hyatt is \$129 single/double.

The Plenary Session and Welcome Reception oral and poster sessions will be held at the Phoenix Convention Center directly across the street from the Hyatt Regency. Our divisional meeting and social is scheduled to be held on Friday, January 5, 2007 in the Hyatt Regency.

DEDB/DDCB will sponsor two symposia: "***Evolutionary and functional genomics of sperm, sperm storage and fertilization,***" organized by T. Karr and S. Pitnick and "***Linking genes and morphology in vertebrates,***" organized by F. Galis and D. Carrier. Both symposia promise to provide exciting insights into the developmental and functional basis of morphological diversity. These symposia as well as the contributed paper and poster sessions will provide a strong stimulus for integrative studies that link developmental biology, genetics, genomics, and functional morphology. The ***Linking genes and morphology in vertebrates*** symposium is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. Kudos to Fretson and David for their efforts and success in obtaining funding!

Keep checking the SICB website (<http://www.sicb.org>) and reading the DEDB/DDCB newsletter for updates regarding the 2007 meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

One of the last things I really need to get done this year is to have members review and agree on the keyword list that SICB uses for DEDB/DDCB abstract submission. This really was an issue this year. A significant portion of DEDB/DDCB oral and poster presentations were sorted and grouped and sessions formed by DSEB – Division of Systematic & Evolutionary Biology. The keywords used by our members linked their presentations with DSEB. This can create problems for us in the future if we continue to show low numbers of oral and poster presentations. The revision of keywords will make programming easier and provide better linkages with symposia and contributed papers and posters. 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 have a vote on this issue at this year's meeting.

Oxford University Press as our new publisher for "***Integrative and Comparative Biology (ICB)***" has done an outstanding job in publishing our symposia. It is clear that SICB and the new editor have solved most of the issues that made ***ICB*** a less attractive choice for symposia organizers to publish their symposia. Keep checking the SICB website for updates.

This is all for now. Keep sending your primary research papers to ***Evolution and Development*** (Blackwell Publishing), ***Molecular and Developmental Evolution*** (Wiley), ***American Naturalist*** (University of Chicago Press), and ***Biosciences*** (AIBS). Also send your symposia to ***Integrative and Comparative Biology*** (Oxford University Press). The list of journals supporting the DEDB/DDCB division keeps growing. We need to support those publications. I hope to see you all in Phoenix, Arizona.

¡Hasta Pronto!

Message from the Secretary and Secretary–elect

Fretson Galis and Marcus Davis

Dear members of the DEDB and DCDB,

Our divisional webpages have been embellished with illustrations and descriptions of the research of several members. We hope that more members will contribute to this database. Please, provide a paragraph on your research and illustrate this with an image in jpg-format (galis@rulsfb.leidenuniv.nl). For inspiration you can check our web pages: <http://www.sicb.org/divisions/dedb.php3>

If you would like to announce a meeting that is of interest for our members, please also email this (galis@rulsfb.leidenuniv.nl). The program of the meeting in Phoenix looks very interesting and attractive, especially for evolutionary developmental biologists. Don't miss it. We also encourage you to attend the business meeting and social.

We look forward to seeing you in Phoenix!

Frietson and Marcus

Message from the Student/Post–Doc Representative

Nathan Bird

Greetings fellow graduate students and post–docs! It is that time of year again, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Phoenix. DEDB members have presented cutting–edge research in recent years, and this year should be no exception. DEDB is sponsoring two symposia that are sure to be outstanding: Linking genes and morphology in vertebrates (organized by F. Galis and D. Carrier) and Key transitions in animal evolution (organized by B. Schierwater, S. Dellaporta & R. DeSalle).

The generous student funding from the society continues this year, and there are some dates that everyone should mark down on his or her calendar. The deadline for Student Support is quickly approaching (Oct. 27), so be sure to apply. Getting your registration fees paid, or particularly housing for only \$75 co–pay in exchange for a half–day of work is a great deal, so take advantage! Don't forget to apply for a GIAR or FGST if you are eligible, the deadline for both is also drawing near (Nov 19th). Up to \$1000 and \$2000 respectively.

Be sure to attend the Grad Student/Post Docs Welcome and Meeting Orientation, even if this is not your first meeting, as there are always new tidbits of information to pick up. It is January 3, 2007, 5:30 pm. This year the Graduate Student Workshop will be extremely informative, specifically for those of us beginning to publish our work. The workshop, "What Editors Want", will be held Saturday, January 6, from 6:00–7:00 pm. As always, I encourage you all to become more involved in SICB. One key recommendation is that everyone should attend the DEDB business meeting. See you all in Phoenix!

Division of Ecology & Evolution (DEE): 2006 Fall Newsletter

Message from the Chair *Fred Janzen*, Secretary *Anthony Steyermark* and Program Officer *Jennifer Elwood*

Your DEE officers hope that you all have had a productive summer and that your scholarly pursuits continue to go well.

We are looking forward to a great meeting in Phoenix in January. This year DEE is again co-sponsoring three symposia:

1. "Ecology and Evolution of Disease Dynamics"
2. "Integrative Biology of Pelagic Invertebrates"
3. "Ecological Dimorphisms in Vertebrates: Proximate and Ultimate Causes"

In addition, we will again be having our traditional joint social with the Division of Invertebrate Zoology and the American Microscopical Society. The time and location will appear in the meeting schedule, so be sure to check it out. These socials are a fun way to meet new acquaintances and to cement old friendships. See you there!

Please 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. In particular, student-oriented activities and research/education opportunities that focus on national priorities can promote life-long membership in and commitment to SICB. Please provide your input on ideas that can make this happen!

In this vein, please also continue to develop creative ideas for symposia to be held at future SICB meetings. DEE will support you. To spur your thinking, at the DEE business meeting in Orlando in January, we received suggestions for a "Computational Biology" symposium and a "Human-Induced Evolution in Wild Populations" symposium. Are these good ideas? Do you have others?

We will also be seeking volunteers for judging the Best Student Paper. Last year saw a record number of DEE student competitors, and we need you to help judge the students' excellent efforts. Please show your support of the young members of the division by volunteering to judge. Contact Anthony Steyermark (acsteyermark@stthomas.edu) if you are interested. There will also be a formal call for judges in the coming months.

If you have not yet submitted a photo and a description of your research for the SICB website, please consider doing so. This is a great way to communicate your lab interests with other SICB members. If you are interested, please e-mail Anthony Steyermark with a short (a couple of paragraphs) research description and an interesting photo.

This meeting will mark the end of Fred's term as Chair. George Bakken will officially assume the office of DEE Chair at the end of the meeting.

See you in Phoenix!

Division of Invertebrate Zoology (DIZ): 2006 Fall Newsletter



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](#)
- [Call for Exceptional Photomicrographs](#)

Message from the Chair

Janice Voltzow



Dear Invertebrate Zoologists,

Accompanying this message you'll find a few photos from my summer at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB), where I taught an undergraduate course. It was wonderful to live by the rhythms of the sun and moon again, exploring the intertidal during early morning, fog-coated low tides and seeing the amazing patterns of diversity as we visited the fantastic habitats of Cape Arago and Coos Bay. It is truly a special place! My experience has reminded me how important it is for students to have the opportunity to study and do research at field stations and how great our responsibility is to help them do this. With this in mind, I am hoping to have another auction to benefit the Libbie Hyman Memorial Scholarship Fund at our 2008 meeting. As you might remember, the last auction, organized by Rachel Merz and her crack team of arm-twisters, was so successful that the Executive Committee matched the funds raised by the auction. So start checking your closets and creative inventory—you'll be hearing more from me about this in the near future!

Speaking of the Libbie Hyman Scholarship, I would like to congratulate this year's recipient, Chris Rieken, an undergraduate at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth working on ascidian symbioses with Mary Beth Saffo. I hope we will hear more about Chris' research at future SICB meetings. There was an exceptionally large and talented pool of applicants this year, making the job of this committee even more difficult than usual. I thank Sid Bosch, who chairs the committee, Amy Johnson, and Beth Okamura for their work.

Congratulations are in order to our secretary-elect, Renae Brodie. Renae will be taking over the invertebrate plume (perhaps a sea pen?) from Bob Thacker after our meeting in Phoenix. I want to thank Renae and Larry Basch for their willingness to serve. Our proposed by-law changes were also approved, which should simplify the job of the student awards committee.

Be certain to register for the 2007 meeting in Phoenix. DIZ will be sponsoring a symposium on Integrative biology of pelagic invertebrates organized by Alison Sweeney and Sönke Johnsen. I suspect that many of us are participating in the Mini–symposium honoring Dr. Steven Vogel organized by Tom Daniel and Kate Loudon as well. As has become our tradition, we will hold our social jointly with the American Microscopical Society. I look forward to seeing you in Phoenix!

Message from the Program Officer

Amy Moran

Dear DIZ members,

The SICB program committee met at the end of September in Phoenix to plan the meeting and view the conference venue, and I am happy to report that it is shaping up to be another fantastic meeting! This year we have the second–highest–ever number of contributed papers with 1,080 abstracts total, only a few less than the record–setting meeting in New Orleans. 87 abstracts came from DIZ members. At the meeting, DIZ is sponsoring a symposium entitled "Integrative Biology of Pelagic Invertebrates" organized by Alison Sweeney and Sönke Johnsen. This symposium will provide an exciting look into recent technological and scientific advances in understanding these little–known animals. Other symposia of particular interest to DIZ members are the symposium in honor of Steve Vogel's retirement, which is a multi–day extravaganza of contributed presentations, and Trish Morse's "Frontiers in Learning and Teaching Integrative and Comparative Biology: The SICB Digital Library." Each symposium has a webpage that you can access through the meeting page for more information.

The meeting itself will be held at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix, which is right downtown and within walking distance of many restaurants. The contributed talks and poster sessions will be held in the Phoenix Convention Center (right across the street from the hotel); most other events, such as socials and plenary sessions, will be in the hotel. We have one whole wing of the Convention Center to ourselves, so while most times have ten or eleven concurrent sessions, the travel distance between talks will be very short!

DIZ will again be joining DEE, AMS, and the Crustacean Society for an evening social (check the program schedule for dates). This year DSEB will be joining us as well. Please plan to be there!

For 2008: At the 2008 meeting in San Antonio, DIZ will be the sponsor or co–sponsor of three symposia. In no particular order, these are: (1) "Going with the flow: ecomorphological variation across aquatic flow regimes," organized by Gabe Rivera and Rick Blob; DVM is the primary sponsor, and DIZ and DEE are co–sponsors. (2) "Advances in Decapod Crustacean Phylogenetics," organized by Jody Martin and Darryl Felder, sponsored by the Crustacean Society and DIZ; and (3) "Evolution vs. Creationism in the classroom: Evolving Student Attitudes," which is a society–wide symposium co–sponsored by DIZ. Congratulations to everyone for excellent proposals!

It is never too early to be thinking about symposia for the 2009 meetings. Proposals will be due next August; please feel free to contact me well in advance with your ideas.

Have a great fall and see you in January!

Message from the Secretary

Bob Thacker

Dear Invertebrate Zoologists,

I hope everyone had a productive summer! I spent a month studying sponges in the mangroves of Panama (right). 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. 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.

During the summer elections, you voted to approve all of the proposed changes to our divisional bylaws. The changes allow us to conduct electronic balloting and provide a clearer definition of officers' terms. We also removed DIZ membership as a requirement for participation in the best student presentation awards. This change will simplify the judging of student awards; similar changes have been made by the other SICB divisions.

At the 2007 Meeting, we will be seeking nominations for the next DIZ Program Officer. The term of office begins in January 2008. Please let one of your DIZ officers know if you are willing to serve as Program Officer, or if you know of any potential candidates.

This is my last newsletter, as my term ends this year. Thank you for this opportunity to serve SICB! You have elected Renae Brodie to be the new DIZ Secretary – please attend the 2007 Business Meeting and welcome her in this role!



Message from the Graduate Student – Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Scott Nichols

Greetings graduate students and post-docs!

The SICB annual meeting in Phoenix is approaching and I hope that you will remember to plan to attend the student/post-doc "Welcome and Meeting Orientation" on Wednesday, January 3rd at 5:30pm. This is particularly important if this is your first time to attend the meeting. The goal of this orientation is to introduce you to the logistics and etiquette of the meeting as well as helping you develop a strategy for networking with senior colleagues at the meeting. You will find that the SICB annual meeting holds many opportunities for collaboration. In addition to meeting potential collaborators (or post-doctoral sponsors), the interdisciplinary nature of the meeting uniquely provides you with an opportunity to make yourself known to members of future hiring committees.

Later in the week (Saturday, January 6th at 6pm) there will be a graduate student workshop entitled, "What Editors Want" that will provide you with inside information about the editorial process that can only improve your future publication experiences. This meeting is nominally for students, but is open to all.

Finally, a society-wide social will be held in honor of students and post-docs on Saturday at 8pm. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Message from the Student Awards Committee Chair

Ben Miner

Another meeting is upon us, and we have many students vying for DIZ's Best Student Paper awards. I encourage all post-graduate members who are attending the meetings in Phoenix to sign up as judges. Just email me (benjamin.miner@wwu.edu) and indicate the following to sign up:

- your area of expertise
- the days you are available to judge
- whether you can judge papers, posters, or both

I will be putting the schedule together in late November, and I will email your assignments and judging instructions in early December. I would like to thank past judges and ask for their continued help. If you have not volunteered as a judge, I strongly encourage you to. Judges are often in short supply yet are necessary to continue to offer student awards. If you have any questions about what is required of a judge, please email me (benjamin.miner@wwu.edu).

See you in January!

Message from the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Committee Chair

Isidro Bosch

This year the scholarship was awarded to Chris Rieken, an undergraduate at UMASS Dartmouth who works with Harvard University professor, Mary Beth Saffo. Chris was the committee's unanimous choice among 13 highly qualified student applicants. He submitted an excellent proposal for consideration by the scholarship committee and his letters of support indicated that his potential as a marine scientist is outstanding. The Hyman Scholarship supported Chris' summer studies of apicomplexan parasites in molgulid ascidians. Chris collected sea squirts from the intertidal and subtidal zones in the Passamaquoddy Bay region of New Brunswick, where he worked from the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in St. Andrews. Many of the animals are now in culture at the MBL in Woods Hole, where Chris and Mary Beth are continuing their studies. We are very pleased that the work supported by the scholarship has been very productive.

As Chair of the scholarship selection committee I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding work and dedication of Beth Okomura and Amy Johnson, who have completed two terms as members and will now serve DIZ in other roles. Beth and Amy's keen insights as well as their commitment to the goals of this scholarship and to the memory of Libbie Hyman were truly outstanding. I am thankful for the opportunity to have served with them.

The application deadline for the 2007 field season will be March 9. As always, **monetary contributions** for the scholarship fund will be greatly appreciated. We are working towards an ultimate goal of providing two annual scholarships. Please send contributions 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.

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 9, 2007**

Notification of Awards: APRIL 9, 2007.

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
SUNY Geneseo, NY 14454
Phone 585–245–5303
Fax 245–5007
bosch@geneseo.edu

Call for Exceptional Photomicrographs

The annual **Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Excellence in Photomicrography Contest** will take place at the SICB meeting in Phoenix, January 4–7, 2007. For more details see our [News section](#).



Division of Neurobiology (DNB): 2006 Fall Newsletter

Message from the Program Officer

Rich Satterlie

Greetings to all Division Members, and happy holidays in advance. The annual meeting is coming up fast, and we have some exciting presentations planned. Our Recent Developments in Neurobiology symposium will go again, this time honoring Regents' Professor Emeritus Douglas G. Stuart (Department of Physiology, University of Arizona) for his contributions to the neural control of locomotion, and to motor control in general. Professor Stuart was (and is) an important nucleator of neuroscience in the state of Arizona. We will have our usual piggy-back presentations by: myself and Dr. Tom Pirtle (Abilene Christian University), Keir Pearson and David McVea (University of Alberta), Rick Levine (University of Arizona) and Carsten Duch (Arizona State University), Roger Enoka and Ben Barry (University of Colorado), Arthur Prochazka and Sergiy Yakovenko (University of Alberta), and of course, Doug Stuart. The symposium will be on Saturday, January 6th, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In addition, there will be some related posters that afternoon/evening, and we will have a division social prior to the society-wide social. Other contributed paper sessions of interest include: Thursday (4th) morning – Sensory Biology I and II; Friday (5th) morning – Neurobiology and Sensory Biology III; A few talks on Sunday (7th) morning.

The division will also elect new officers in the spring. If you are interested in running for division chair, program officer, or secretary or if you wish to nominate someone, please contact me.

I hope to see you in Phoenix. You'll enjoy the downtown hotel, and the brand new convention center right across the street, and some nice evening diversions within walking distance.

Division of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (DSEB): 2006 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

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

Message from the Chair

Don Swiderski

I hope all of you have had a restful and rewarding summer and are looking forward to a productive year.

Congratulations to Audrey Aronowsky (Student/Post–doc representative, elect) and Anne Maglia (Chair, elect) on winning their respective elections. Thanks to all who agreed to run for these posts.

One of the main pieces of business facing the division in the coming year is election of the next Program Officer. Rachel Collin assumes the mantle from Michelle Nishiguchi after the Phoenix meeting. We will need to choose Rachel's eventual replacement, who will serve as P.O. elect during the second year of Rachel's term. Anyone willing to throw their hat in the ring, or interested in serving on the nominating committee should contact any of the current officers.

The other main piece of business is upgrading the DSEB web page. SICB is working on a major overhaul of society's website (see Spring Newsletter message from Secretary Lou Burnett). Now would be a good time to freshen our look and also to provide some real content (in addition to these enthralling newsletters). Anyone with suggestions for content or graphics should contact their favorite officer.

I look forward to seeing you in Phoenix; by all accounts it promises to be a great meeting.

Message from the Program Officer

Michele Nishiguchi

I just got back from the PO meeting in Phoenix, doing the giant matrix thing. All went well, we have over 1000 presenting authors, which will make Phoenix the second largest SICB meeting (next to New Orleans, which has been the largest). The rest of the info for Phoenix is on the web, but I can let you know that it will be a nice venue (easy access between the hotel and the convention hall, clement weather at that time of year, decent places to eat, etc.).

As for the next (San Antonio) meetings, there will be only one society–wide symposium, Evolution in the Classroom, which DSEB is co–sponsoring. The other symposia will be Go with the Flow, Crustacean Phylogenetics, Vertebrate Head Segmentation, Yolk Hormones, Reptile Genomics, PharmEcology, and Neurobiology. I will stress that DSEB is only sponsoring two symposia (the other one is Crustacean Phylogenetics), so symposium organizers should see me regarding funding for symposia that would be relevant to systematics.

The Phylogenetics for Dummies workshop will be on Saturday from 6–8 pm. DSEB will be doing a joint social with DEE, DIZ, and ACS, and it will be on Friday night (and should be fun with all those folks involved). The society–wide symposium will be on Saturday night, following the workshop, from 8–10 pm.

I'll also need volunteer judges for the student awards; please contact me if you would like to help out.

Message from the Secretary

Pat Reynolds

Hello all! Congratulations to Audrey Aronowsky (Student/Post–doc representative, elect) and Anne Maglia (Chair, elect) on election, and thanks to the other candidates and members of the nominating committee. Please consider running for office in the future. If you are interested, drop me a message at preynold@hamilton.edu, or contact any of the officers. Marta deMaintenon takes over as Secretary of DSEB after the next meeting in January; her e–mail address is: demainte@hawaii.edu. Hope to see you all in Phoenix!

Division of Vertebrate Morphology (DVM): 2006 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

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

Beth Brainerd

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the SICB meeting in Phoenix Arizona in January. Jeff Walker, DVM Program Officer, has just returned from the program meeting in Phoenix and reports that the venue seems excellent and many exciting symposia and sessions are planned (see message below).

The 8th International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology will be held this summer in Paris, France from July 16–21. The Congress will take place at three institutions close to each other in the center of Paris: the University P. &M. Curie, the National Museum of Natural History and the University of Paris. Many superb symposia and workshops are planned, as well as contributed oral and poster presentations. The deadline for abstract submissions is February 10, 2007 (<http://icvm8.snv.jussieu.fr>). Thanks to the ICVM–8 Convenor, Jacques Castanet, and the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, Peter Aerts, for carrying on the tradition of ICVM excellence.

Last year the DVM membership voted to amend the bylaws to allow program officers to serve two, two–year terms rather than just one. As always, there is no term limit for the secretary position (we may consider parole after excruciatingly long service). Both Jeff Walker and Gary Gillis agreed to run as incumbents for Program Officer and Secretary, respectively, and were reelected. Thanks so much to Gary and Jeff for their service and spirit of volunteerism.

This coming year we will hold an election for DVM Chair Elect, in keeping with the plan to stagger the terms of the officers to ensure that the DVM leadership does not turn over completely in any given year. Members of the Nominating Committee will be announced at the DVM Business meeting in Phoenix.

Message from the Program Officer

Jeff Walker

The 2007 annual meetings in Phoenix will sizzle. All sessions will be held in a new convention center that is

located directly across from our host hotel, the Hyatt Regency. All session rooms are lined along a single, wide hall, which should allow easy movement among sessions. As in recent SICB meetings, oral sessions will end at 3PM and everyone will move upstairs to the poster sessions for good drink, food, and science. The list of symposium and contributed talks should keep us busy. DVM sponsored symposia include Galis and Carrier's "Linking Genes and Morphology in Vertebrates", Vincent, Lailvaux and Herrel's "Ecological Dimorphisms in Vertebrates: Proximate and Ultimate Causes", and Higham and Wainwright's "The Evolution of Feeding Mechanisms in Vertebrates." Daniel and Loudon's Mini-symposium honoring Dr. Steven Vogel will have more than a few vertebrate talks among its 67 presentations. Additionally, there will be the ever-popular swimming, flying, and feeding sessions. In all, there will be 25 sessions with a substantial DVM component. This means that, on average, DVMers will need to be in 3.6 rooms at once! Again, moving from room to room will be greatly facilitated by the layout of the new convention center.

Society wide events will be held in the Hyatt. Everyone in DVM should be excited to hear Mimi Koehl give the Plenary Lecture on ecological biomechanics. The DVM business meeting and social is scheduled for Friday evening. Not coincidentally, the social ends just as the Vogel mini-symposium celebration begins. For everyone interested in exploring downtown Phoenix in the evenings, be sure to seek guidance from the men and women wearing bright orange shirts. These friendly people are the Copperstone Ambassadors and they are there to help visitors find what they need downtown. Warning: if you are returning from a bar and need to find the hotel at 2AM, don't count on the Ambassadors helping; their hours are 7AM – 11PM. If you have a few extra days before or after the meeting, bring your hiking boots but leave your snowboard. Days should peak around 65 degrees while nights should dip down to 40. Good luck preparing your presentations. I look forward to seeing everyone in Phoenix.

Message from the Secretary

Gary Gillis

Hi all, I trust that everyone is excited for the upcoming meeting in Phoenix; I can think of few better places to spend early January than the desert southwest. Moreover, just looking over Jeff's description of planned symposia makes it clear that we'll have more to look forward to than the sun in Arizona. As a prelude to this meeting, many of us in the Northeast will gather Saturday, November 4th at Brown University for a full day of "5-minute talks" on our research. This novel presentation format has been a great success in years past, and I'm really looking forward to spending time in Providence, R.I. While on the topic of meetings, as Beth notes above, the 8th International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology will be convening this summer in Paris, France from July 16–21. The deadline for abstract submissions is February 10, 2007. So, find that black beret in the back of the hall closet, and find a way to get there. For more information, you can visit <http://icvm8.snv.jussieu.fr>

In other news, in September/October, we hosted an online discussion of potential modifications to the D. Dwight Davis award. Although there were few comments posted, many people at least visited the site and saw the issues at stake:

1. Any student should be allowed to compete for the D. Dwight Davis Award only once. Students would still be permitted to compete for the DVM Poster Prize as many times as they like, and students would be permitted to petition the DVM Chair for permission to compete for the Davis Award a second time with a substantially different project, such as initially competing with a Master's project, followed later by a Ph.D.

project. To make these changes to the Davis Award rules would require a DVM bylaws change.

2. All of the students "competing" for the Davis award should be grouped into a single session that would be unopposed by any other DVM sessions or symposia. This would showcase student excellence and emphasize the significance of the award. To do this would require instruction from the DVM membership to the DVM Program Officer.

We'll soon be conducting an online ballot to vote on the two issues. Please participate! Note that for the 2007 meeting in Phoenix, the Davis Award rules will remain the same as in previous years.

Finally, the division's election season has come and gone, and I'm pleased to report that Jeff Walker and I (albeit running unopposed for our respective positions) were re-elected as Program Officer and Secretary, respectively. So we'll continue doing our best to support the division, and will welcome Chair-Elect Kurt Schwenk when he takes over for Beth at the upcoming meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone in Phoenix!