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Volume Fall 2008

SICB Fall 2008 Newsletter

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Experiences in Integrative and Comparative Biology

The 5th installment of our series, featuring Richard Satterlie, SICB President-Elect

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Experiences in Integrative and Comparative Biology

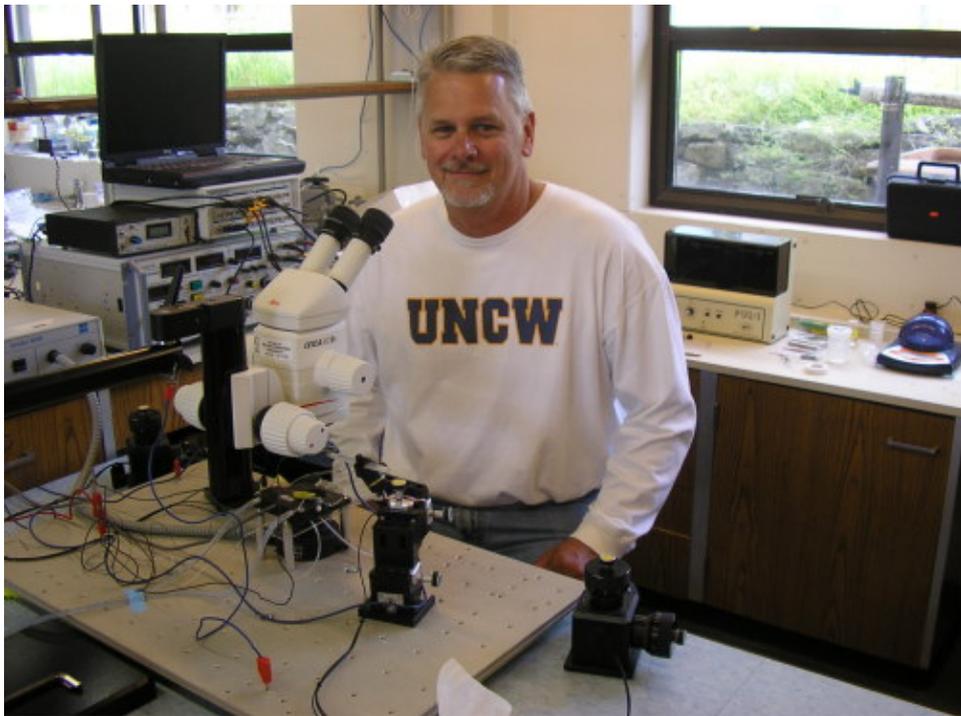
Planting a Seed

Richard Satterlie, SICB President-Elect

Frank Hawkins Kenan Distinguished Professor of Marine Biology
Center for Marine Science
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

My fifth grade teacher, Miss Steinberg, gave Marilyn Monroe a run for her money, at least in my mind. And I credit her with planting the seed for my journey into marine science. She planted another seed for me, but the endocrinology of a fifth grade boy is another story.

I don't remember much from that time, but one event stands out in a general, hazy way. Miss Steinberg had the courage to take a full class of pre-teens on a field trip to McClure's Beach on the Northern California coast. I remember nothing of the bus trip, which was a couple of hours each way, and I don't remember the specifics of what animals and plants were pointed out that day. In fact, the entire event went into a deep sleep for me, and I can only recount it in small snippets that pull me back to Miss Steinberg and McClure's Beach, real or imagined.



Rich Satterlie at Friday Harbor in the summer of 2008

But a seed was planted there. I'm sure of it, even though it didn't germinate and grow right away, like the other seed she planted. In my retrospective mind, it was more like the seed of a desert plant, with an ultra-hard seed coat that requires several scouring trips down flooded washes during summer thunderstorms, tumbling along the gravel and rock to etch a soft spot for moisture penetration.

In other words, nothing happened after the field trip. I had no special aptitude or interest in Biology through junior high and high school. And only when my community college basketball experience revealed that I was not major college transfer material did I turn to academics as something more than a good way to meet girls. For the first major scratch in my seed coat, I acknowledge my Human Anatomy and Physiology teacher at Solano Community College, Mr. Bert Jacobson. From him, the material made sense to me, and his encouragement kept the seed tumbling. Still, though, Marine Biology remained hidden, just as the young college ladies pushed Miss Steinberg to my deepest memory vault.

The seed encountered a deep gash when I was accepted and enrolled at Cal State Sonoma, just an hour commute from my home in Vallejo. Gas was \$0.299 at the time, and I had a brand new 1969 Volkswagen Beetle. By luck or some special Miss Steinberg karma, I was assigned to an advisor named Dr. Colin Hermans (who is well known to SICBers). He and Dr. Joe Brumbaugh took me on a journey of marine invertebrate zoology that gave me a strange sense of déjà vu. I have to admit that Miss Steinberg never entered my mind throughout that time, but with some of the species names, I just felt the kind of connection that allowed me to instantly embed the name in the most accessible regions of my memory-like one trial leaning. *Cryptochiton stelleri*, *Acmaea digitalis* (that's what it was called back then), *Anthopleura elegantissima*. These names were alive to me as soon as they were read or said. And I thought I was just a good student.

These two instructors/scientists/friends tumbled that seed better than a whole season of desert flash floods. If my footprints were to suddenly turn red, the whole of Bodega Head would be solid crimson. Beware stomping the phoronid beds, and watch for a little glisten to see the polyclad on the bottom of the rock. The learning was touching, seeing. Unfortunately for me, it was also drawing (sorry, Colin). But it was comparing above all. And from that teaching framework of comparison, another deep scratch formed in my seed coat. I became interested in the structure and function of invertebrate nervous systems, mostly the simpler ones. My earliest interest was in the flatworm brain, although I was fascinated by what cnidarians could do with my over-simplified conception of nerve nets.

Once again, that lucky rock in the stream bed put a big nick in my seed coat. I was accepted into grad school, in Jim Case's lab at the University of California, Santa Barbara. From there, and following the example of not only Jim, but also two grad student colleagues, Peter Anderson (now Director of the Whitney Lab), and Michel Anctil (University of Montreal), the final groove in the seed coat allowed penetration of the moisture known as research. My dissertation was on colonial coordination in octocorals and led to several publications, including one side project on a main thrust of the Case lab-bioluminescence.

Now, try growing a plant in the desert. With my postdoc at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and a subsequent tenure track job at Arizona State University, I became a Mountain Time Zone Marine Biologist. But an important taproot drove deep into the soil. Andy Spencer, my postdoc advisor, made sure I never saw the size of summer mosquitos in Edmonton. We packed up both summers for a trip to a pristine fishing village on the west coast of Vancouver Island-Bamfield Marine Station. There, he introduced me to the world of jellyfish neurobiology, and the taproot found water. From this experience, I was introduced to Friday Harbor Labs. In fact, that first summer there (the last of my postdoc), I found out how much a mentor is like a real father.



Aequorea victoria

Andy dropped me off at Friday Harbor with the expectation I would work on the neural control of swimming in an extremely abundant hydromedusa, *Aequorea victoria* (the original source of GFP, by the way), which is not available in numbers at Bamfield. While there, my wife who helped collect animals, brought in a strange looking planktonic critter with a simple question, "What the heck is this?" Re-enter my Sonoma State background. "A pteropod mollusc," I replied. "Put it in the tank and I'll look at it later." That later sent my roots deeper.

Finished with the *Aequorea* prep that day, I put the pteropod under the scope, took two pairs of forceps and "unzipped" the body wall. A ring of pigmented ganglia greeted me, with large neurons that gave come hither winks. I had an electrode handy, and the first cell I penetrated was a motoneuron that had a rhythmic firing pattern in phase with wing movements. I hurried back to my wife and asked if she could find more of the little beasties, and the *Clione limacina* preparation was born. I spent the rest of the summer working on *Clione*, doing just enough on *Aequorea* to make progress. However, when it came time for Andy to return to Friday Harbor, I was frozen with the "wait until your father comes home" sense of dread. I was supposed to be working on jellyfish.



Clione limacina

When I picked up Andy from the ferry, I had a sweat stripe down my back that penetrated my car seat. His first question, of course, was about the work. To make a long story short, I showed him the *Clione* data, and we both spent the rest of our time at Friday Harbor as molluscan neurobiologists.

Looking back, I think any decent scientist should be able to recognize the potential in various available preparations, and be willing to make a switch when a more favorable opportunity comes along. This thinking was instilled by Jim Case, with his encouragement of side projects, and cemented by Andy's acceptance of the *Clione* work. Both Jim and Andy were good dads.

As a postscript, my recent move to the University of North Carolina Wilmington has brought a dream to fruition. I finally have a research laboratory in a marine lab (the Center for Marine Science, about seven miles from the main campus). I'm still making the annual pilgrimage to Friday Harbor, however, I have used the special UNCW opportunity to re-activate my jellyfish work to go along with the *Clione* projects.

I don't know if our memory for long-past events improves with age, or if our flagging memory just grasps at whatever is available in our deepest synapses. But these days, I find myself thinking about Miss Steinberg and the importance of her field trip to McClure's Beach back in the fifth grade. I can imagine how, later in my education, even the most complex scientific names came to me after a single mention, like they were old friends. And I see Miss Steinberg's slight overbite drawing her tongue into an hypnotic lisp as she pointed and said, *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*." And with all that, she really did give Marilyn a run.

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Message from the President

John Pearse

Time flies. My two-year term as president is all but over. Not that I'm broken up about that, but it is startling how fast the time has transpired. Looking back I can see that lots of good things have happened with great meetings in Phoenix and San Antonio, and the promise of another in Boston. We seemed to have really nailed down our meetings through the hard work and conscientious treatment by our program officers and symposium organizers, as well as the care provided by Sue Burk, Lori Strong, and their staff at Burk & Associates, Inc. The meeting in Boston will be the largest we've seen in a very long time, packed with talks, posters, symposia, and workshops.

Our journal, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, also is thriving. For the second year in a row, *all* the papers resulting from our meeting last January will have appeared in 6 evenly-sized issues published between July and December of the same year. In addition, our editor, Hal Heatwole, has added timely book reviews to each issue. All of these articles are sent to you now by e-mail as soon they are ready, and then put together as issues in print form. I trust you have all enjoyed the stunning cover photos. The Panther Chameleon peering out of the October issue is particularly striking.

While doing so well, our journal is also mid-way through our 5-year publishing contract with Oxford University Press. Accordingly, I have appointed a 5-person committee, chaired by Chuck Booth, to review every aspect of our journal. They are charged to submit a report to President Satterlie and the Executive Committee for the 2010 meeting in Seattle. If you have any suggestions for the committee to consider, please send them to Chuck (booth@easternct.edu); however, a survey including questions about the journal will be sent to the membership in the spring.

As you can read in Ron Dimock's Treasurer's Report in this newsletter, the Society continues to be in good shape financially. However, the financial decline worldwide is hitting us too. Ron and our Executive Director, Brett Burk, have worked closely with our financial advisor, Matthew Tederick, to protect our investments. We remain in a good position to take advantage of conditions when the market recovers.

On the other hand, of more immediate concern, because we need to deal with it ourselves, is the substantial deficit we see at the end of each fiscal year. Now that our budget is on a fiscal rather than calendar year, and we can budget the meeting well before it occurs, we have more control. And we can see better where all the money goes. Clearly, we need to achieve a balanced budget. To do this, the Finance Committee, on which I serve, have taken steps both to increase our income and reduce our expenditures. Ron presents these actions in his Treasurer's Report. I ask for your understanding and welcome any suggestions that can help us achieve a balanced budget.

Of course, bringing in more funds from outside sources is a first goal. Our Development Committee under Tom Daniels is following promising leads, especially for our 2010 meeting in Seattle.

In another welcome development, Gunter Wagner, on his own, facilitated an arrangement with Wiley publishers, who will begin to cover the costs of all the student best-paper awards, as well as give the awardees 1-year subscriptions to journals appropriate to each division. Of course, this arrangement gives Wiley recognition as well, but it is mutually beneficial and a nice model for collaboration. We expect the arrangement to be finalized soon so that it can begin in Boston. Thank you, Gunter.

The person who has worked hardest on behalf of the Society during my tenure is our Secretary, Lou Burnett. As I mentioned in earlier newsletters, he took on completely recasting our website with our gifted webmaster, Ruedi Birenheide, and together they turned it into an informative and attractive site, intuitively easy to use.

And of course, such work is never ending; he and Ruedi continually update and improve the site.

Lou also has been tireless in seeing that we all follow the constitution and bylaws, the latter not just of the Society but of the 11 separate and distinct Divisions. No small endeavor, as each Division has its own cast of officers, who (as might be expected of scientists) are all very busy and have many different viewpoints and idiosyncrasies. But Lou persists, and he prevails.

He has also had to deal with me, and nudge me, sometimes quite sharply, to carry out my responsibilities. In particular, he has been successful in getting me to nearly fill all our 10 or so committees with members. No small feat. Not that people are reluctant to serve. Indeed, I am continually impressed and gratified how dedicated and responsive so many of our members are to the requests asked of them. Truly more than I can list here. Getting to know and working with so many fine people is one of the most satisfying parts of being President. I am confident that Rich Satterlie will have the same experience when he succeeds me in Boston.

The few of you who read these reports may recall that as President-Elect, I wrote in the fall newsletters of both 2005 and 2006 that I intended to focus on four issues: 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. These are challenging issues, and not unexpectedly, it has proved difficult for me to get much traction with any of them.

I am encouraged that the Broadening Participation Committee continues to address the first issue, as expressed in Pat Hernandez's report for that committee in this newsletter; perhaps we can make progress in that area.

We continue to be affiliated with the International Union of Biological Sciences (and I attended their meeting last year) and the US National Committee for the International Union of Physiological Sciences (in which Lou Burnett and others in DCPB participate), but these affiliations have hardly increased our international character. This year we affiliated with the International Society of Zoological Sciences, and Past President Ed Cooper represented us at the International Congress of Zoology in Paris, again without much connection to SICB. Last year I also attended the annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Zoology. While I did not attempt to initiate any collaboration between our two societies, I was struck by how similar we are in both how we operate and the problems we face. Finally, I should point out that our editor of *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, Hal Heatwole, has reached out internationally by adding Associates to the Editorial Board from France, Japan, Germany, Scotland, and Denmark. That is a step in the right direction.

For the past three years, I have attended the spring meeting of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents in Washington DC, where I met and mingled with officers of many other societies much like SICB. While enjoyable and personally enriching, I was unable to bring much concrete benefit to our Society in terms of broadening collaboration with other groups. The meetings and dues are expensive, and the Executive Officers have decided to drop our membership in the Council of Scientific Society Presidents. Our close association with the American Institute of Biological Sciences will continue to serve a similar function.

At the San Antonio meeting last year, former SICB President Mike Hadfield offered a Resolution on Evolution and Climate Change to our annual business meeting. It proposed that "SICB take a public stand in support of scientific truth," especially with respect to evolution and climate change, and that the Society "issue press releases and editorials, initiate and publish statements, and sign collective statements" addressing these issues. I was greatly encouraged that we would make some headway in this area of concern.

Subsequently, Peter deFur, Chair of the Public Affairs Committee, and I wrote an opinion piece in support of evolution that we submitted to the New York Times, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times. It was not

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published. We also emailed it to all SICB members, asking for their comments and suggesting that they submit their versions of the statement to their local papers. Several of us did that as well, but as far as I know none was published.

Despite the discouraging response we received in trying to get our opinion piece published, we are in an especially favorable position for promoting evolution and science in general this year at our meeting in Boston. The 200th year of Charles Darwin's birthday is next year, 2009. As Ed Rosa-Molinar outlines in his Program Officer Report in this newsletter, we are collaborating with the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS) to kick off the Year of Science 2009 at our meeting (see: http://www.copusproject.org/announcements/year_of_science_announces_janu.html/). That promises to provide our meeting with more than usual public attention, and the presentations, workshops, and science caf  s will enrich the whole meeting. It should be a wonderful experience. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Message from the Treasurer

Ron Dimock

Belt-Tightening Continues as Economy Worsens

Although SICB has enjoyed conservative management of its assets in the able hands of Matthew Tederick, the Society has not been immune to the financial difficulties facing the country and indeed the world. The portfolio managed by Mr. Tederick, with the supervision of the Finance Committee, has declined at the time of this writing by about 18.2% since June 30. While this is not pleasant news, the diversity of investments and the relatively low risks associated with these assets have resulted in far more preservation of capital than might otherwise have been the case. When the bottom is reached and recovery begins, Mr. Tederick has a sufficient cash reserve to take advantage of what should be some excellent buying opportunities. The Society remains fiscally sound.

Finance Committee Committed to Balancing the Budget

The Finance Committee has assumed a mandate to have a balanced budget for fiscal 2010. Fiscal 2008 ended with a deficit in the general operating budget of approximately \$50,850. This occurred in spite having about \$40,000 of Audio Visual expenses donated by the hotel/convention center in San Antonio. The budget that was approved for 2009 is projected to be about \$57,800 in the red. Since the 2009 budget also includes a subsidy from the meeting site in Boston of at least \$30,000 in AV expenses, and there is no subsidy for 2010 in Seattle, the budget for 2010 could be \$80-90,000 in the red if changes are not implemented.

As a result of that projection, the Finance Committee, with the approval of the executive officers, has implemented several revenue generating and cost cutting actions.

- New schedule of registration fees in place for the 2009 meeting in Boston

Registration for members has been increased by \$75 to \$300; however, a 'Loyal' member, one who has paid dues for the 3 years prior to the annual meeting, will be able to register for \$250, an increase of only \$25 over previous years. The non-member rate is \$400, which should provide incentive for some attendees to join the Society. There are modest increases in the other registration categories as well.

- Reimbursement of fees for presenting authors in symposia set at \$100

Based on figures from the meeting in San Antonio, with 88 speakers in regular symposia and 13 in late-breaking symposia getting full reimbursement, this change would have saved the Society at least \$12,600. The savings for the Boston meeting could be considerably more given the new registration fees.

It should be noted that Symposium authors receive up to 12 pages in *ICB* with no page charges, real expenses that are absorbed by the Society. With approximately 88 manuscripts published in *ICB* in 2008, this represents \$142,560 assumed by the Society, or a further subsidy of \$1620 to each presenting author. Furthermore, authors may qualify for 1 free color plate that costs the Society \$600.

- Budget to get supplement from the Unrestricted Endowment

Current policy is to use 4% of the previous 5 year average balance of the Charlotte Mangum Endowment toward funding of Student Support, approximately \$10,000 per year. A similar policy generates about \$7000 from the Grants-in Aid-of-Research Endowment as partial funding for GIAR and FGST expenses, and approximately \$4000 from the new Symposium Fund for the Society Program Officer to use as a supplement

to Divisional symposium allocations.

For 2010 the same formula will be applied to the Unrestricted Endowment, another portion of the investment portfolio, which will add approximately \$36,000 into the budget. This money will help offset budgetary commitments and contribute to balancing the budget.

Development Committee Given a Charge

The Development Committee, under the guidance of Tom Daniel, has been given a 'shopping list' of potential cost elements of the Society's finances upon which to focus fund-raising activities. Some of these items are specific to the annual meeting in Seattle, while others are geared toward raising money to increase particular endowments or fund other on-going expenses that currently are funded from the general operating budget. Any new money that is brought into the Society will help improve the Society's long-term financial condition.

Message from the Program Officer

Eduardo Rosa-Molinar

¡Saludos from Puerto Rico, the Island of Enchantment! I hope all of you are doing well. Similar to our historic presidential election, the upcoming 2009 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) Annual Meeting at the Westin Boston Waterfront in Boston, Massachusetts, January 3-7, 2009 promises to be historic and will break SICB records! We received 1363 abstracts (this number includes only symposium and contributed talks and poster presentations), making it the largest SICB meeting ever. There will be two society-wide symposia and eight regular symposia covering a wide range of topics and spanning SICB divisions. Each of these symposia has a full day of speakers and many have additional complimentary oral and poster sessions. We have three workshops (Evolutionary Ontologies, Phylogenetics for Dummies, and Communicating Science).

The **Evolutionary Ontologies workshop** is organized by Paula Mabee of University of South Dakota, Todd Vision, of National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent), Monte Westerfield, of University of Oregon, and Barry Smith, of National Center for Biomedical Ontologies (NCBO). This workshop is to educate and to promote integration of evolutionary biology with genetic, genomic, and developmental data through ontologies. The **Phylogenetics for Dummies workshop** organized by DSEB will focus on basic techniques and provide an overview of advances in tree reconstruction, analysis of character evolution, phylogenetic comparative methods, data mining of sequence databases for phylogenetic analysis, and much more. The **Communicating Science workshop**, held by the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS), will provide various strategies (i.e., science festivals, science caf  s, and blogging) for communicating science to the general public and will also discuss the strategies - benefits, impact and effectiveness.

The **plenary lecture** this year will be by **Ira Flatow, National Public Radio's Talk of The Nation: Science Friday**, who will kick off events with a presentation emphasizing the importance of public understanding of science. We have also scheduled excellent society-wide lectures such as the **Howard Bern lecture** and the **George A. Bartholomew Award lecture**. In addition, we have reinstated the **John Alexander Moore lectureship**. John A. Moore's work in the fields of embryology and genetics resulted in his being elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Moore, however, is best known as an educator and his creation of the Science as a Way of Knowing (SAAWOK) series. The Moore lectureship was established in 1990 by the SICB Education Committee. Thomas E. Lovejoy III was the first Moore Lecturer in 1993. For the 2009 SICB meeting the Moore Lecturer is Sean B. Carroll, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

At the 2009 SICB meeting in collaboration with COPUS, we will launch the **Understanding Science Web site** and its new paradigm for portraying the process of science. Ken Miller of Brown University will join forces with Natalie Kuldell of MIT to officially launch the site. In addition, we will be joining COPUS in launching their Year of Science 2009 celebration and in holding three Science Caf  s in surrounding Boston neighborhoods where we will bring cutting-edge science from the 2009 SICB meeting to the Boston public. The Boston community will hear first hand about exciting new developments in science.

The welcoming social, coffee breaks, and the end-of-meeting dessert social in honor of students and post-docs will provide time for interaction and discussions among the membership and visitors.

The headquarters hotel, the Westin Boston Waterfront
(<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1528>)

is surrounded by all types of attractions, restaurants, nightlife and entertainment. With the exception of the Science Cafes, all events-registration, vendors' exhibits, posters, society-wide lectures and meetings, and coffee breaks--will be in the hotel. Keep checking the SICB website (<http://www.sicb.org>) for updates

regarding the 2009 meeting.

Every year one of the tasks we have at the programming meeting is to discuss, debate, and choose the symposia and to award divisional financial support for the following year. Congratulations to all of you for your work in organizing the 2009 meeting. I look forward to working with all of you over the next months! For the **2010 SICB meeting in Seattle** the approved symposia are

1. Alexa Bely: Animal Regeneration: Integrating Development, Ecology, and Evolution. Divisional support: DCDB, DDEB, DIZ, DEE, AMS
2. James M Harper: Metabolism, Life History and Aging. Divisional support: DCPB, DEE
3. David Lambert: Spiralian development: Conservation and innovation. Divisional support: DCDB, DDEB
4. Pauly Cartwright: Assembling the Cnidarian Tree of Life. Divisional support: DIZ, DSEB
5. James B. McClintock: Advances in Antarctic Marine Biology. Divisional support: DCPB, DIZ, DEE
6. Melissa Bowlin: Integrative Migration Biology. Divisional support: DAB, DNB, DCE
7. Sarah Berke: Marine Ecosystem Engineers in a Changing World: Establishing Links Across Systems. Divisional support: DIZ, DEE, AMS
8. Michael Hart: Evolutionary Paths among Developmental Possibilities: A Symposium Marking the Contributions and Influence of Richard Strathmann. Divisional support: DIZ, DSEB, AMS
9. Patrick Martone: Mechanics without Muscle: Evolutionary Design of Macrophytes. Divisional support: DCB
10. Jeff Walker: Contemporary Approaches to the Study of the Evolution of Fish Body Plan and Fin Shape. Divisional support: DVM, DCB, DNB, DEE, DAB

Finally, the SICB Society Executive Officers, Webmaster, Divisional and Associated Societies Program Officers, symposia and workshop organizers, COPUS, specifically Sheri Potter and Natalie Kuldell, Burk & Associates, and I have worked very hard to make the 2009 SICB meeting as productive and engaging as possible. I want to thank all of you for your patience and support during my first year as Program Officer. Any complaints and/or concerns please let me know. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served and worked with you all. We all look forward to seeing you in Boston at the start of the New Year!

Message from the Secretary

Lou Burnett

We have continued to refine the use of our new web site. Some divisions have been very good at contributing to the researcher's database. These are the photos you see on the SICB web site in the upper left panel. These photos link to divisional pages with a description of the research. This is a great way to show off your research. You need only send a picture to your divisional secretary with a brief description of the research.

This fall we went to a "shopping cart" system for collecting dues and meeting registration fees. Members can also make donations from the shopping cart. We hope that this common method of on-line payment will make it easier for members to do business with the Society.

At our last annual meeting in San Antonio, we combined the Society business meeting with the presentation of awards. This combination greatly boosted attendance and allowed more members to see some of the important workings of the Society. It was also a great way to recognize those who received awards. We plan to continue this arrangement.

We were able to recognize students winning best paper and best poster awards reasonably soon after our annual meeting by posting their names on the SICB web site. We will attempt to do this again. Congratulations to all the student winners and thank you to the many members who served as judges. Serving as a judge is a great way to support our students and our Society.

The ballot measures amending the SICB Constitution and Bylaws passed this past spring. Thanks to all those who took the time to vote.

Our spring elections went smoothly, thanks to the hard work of the SICB Nominating Committee for Society-wide officers, and the divisional secretaries and chairs. A special thanks to all those SICB members who stood for office. It is the duty of the Secretary to publish the results of the election in the newsletter and they appear below. The results were also posted on the SICB web site soon after the election.

Office	Member Elected	Term
President-Elect	Ken Sebens	1/2009-1/2011
Program Officer-Elect	Brian Tsukimura	1/2009-1/2010
Treasurer-Elect	Bob Roer	1/2009-1/2010
Chair, Educational Council	Bob Podolsky	1/2009-1/2012
Member-at-Large	Adam Summers	1/2009-1/2012
DAB Secretary	Jordanna Sprayberry	1/2009-1/2012
DCE Program Officer	Rosemary Knapp	1/2009-1/2010
DCPB Chair-Elect	Jim Hicks	1/2009-1/2010
DCPB Program Officer	Kathy Dickson	1/2009-1/2011

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DEE Chair-Elect	Arthur Woods	1/2009-1/2011
DEE Program Officer	Michael Sears	1/2009-1/2012
DIZ Chair	Dianna Padilla	1/2009-1/2012
DSEB Chair-Elect	Patrick O'Connor	1/2009-1/2010
DSEB Secretary-Elect	Todd Oakley	1/2009-1/2010
DVM Program Officer-Elect	Richard Blob	1/2009-1/2010
DVM Secretary-Elect	Lara Ferry-Graham	1/2009-1/2010



SICB Executive Officers met in Boston on September 26 to conduct the business of the society and plan the annual meeting. L to R - Program Officer Ed Rosa-Molinar, Treasurer Ron Dimock, Secretary Lou Burnett, President-Elect Rich Satterlie, Executive Director (with baby) Brett Burk, President John Pearse.

News and Announcements

- [Summer Course at Friday Harbor Laboratories, USA, July 2009](#)
 - [XXXI International Ethological Conference 2009, Call for Symposia](#)
 - [The Field Museum, Chicago - Biodiversity Synthesis Center: Call for Proposals for Synthesis Meetings](#)
-

Summer Course at Friday Harbor Laboratories, USA, July 2009 (Financial Aid Is Offered)

FISH SWIMMING: Kinematics, ecomorphology, behavior, and environmental physiology
Session A
June 15 - July 17, 2009
5 weeks: M-F 8-5; S 8-12
Fish 565 B (9 credits)

Instructors:

Dr. Paolo Domenici (CNR-IAMC, Italy)
Dr. John Steffensen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

Course description: Fish swimming is a multidisciplinary area of research that encompasses biomechanics, physiology, ecology and behavior. Knowledge of fish swimming is relevant both for students interested in mechanisms of locomotion, and those interested in locomotor adaptations to the environment. The main subjects will be 1) the kinematics and performance of swimming in fish using various locomotory modes, 2) the ecomorphology of fish locomotion, 3) locomotor strategies, 4) metabolic aspects of fish swimming, and 5) the effect of various environmental factors on fish swimming. These topics will be treated in lectures and laboratory sessions. Students will learn techniques of video analysis, kinematics, energetics and respirometry. The first half of the course will have an emphasis on lectures and explanations of techniques for studying fish swimming in the laboratory. In the second half of the course, emphasis will be placed on laboratory work. Students will pursue independent research projects. Enrolment will be limited to 12 graduate students.

For additional information contact: paolo.domenici@iamc.cnr.it or jfsteffensen@bio.ku.dk

Information for applicants (including tuition and financial aid) can be found at:

<http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/classinfo.html>

<http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/StudentApplicationForm.html>

<http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/studentApplicationInfo.html>

<http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/>

<http://www.mbl.ku.dk/JFSteffensen/fhl>

Applications will be accepted until February 1st 2009. Early applications are encouraged.

XXXI International Ethological Conference 2009, Call for Symposia The 31st International Ethological Conference will be held in Rennes, France, from 19 to 24 August 2009

(<http://iec2009.univ-rennes1.fr>). The conference will be organized around Tinbergen's four questions, with an emphasis on research problems and programs that link ethology with other disciplines. Each day's scientific program will consist of a coordinated set of plenary lectures, symposia, round table discussions, and oral and poster sessions.

The call for symposia is now open. The deadline for submissions is 15 December 2008. For more information visit the conference website at <http://iec2009.univ-rennes1.fr>

The Field Museum, Chicago - Biodiversity Synthesis Center: Call for Proposals for Synthesis Meetings Related to Biodiversity, Conservation, and Bioinformatics

The Biodiversity Synthesis Center, a component of the Encyclopedia of Life located at The Field Museum, invites proposals for synthesis meetings on a range of topics in systematics, biodiversity conservation, evolutionary biology, and bioinformatics. We encourage proposals which bring together diverse groups of people for advancing biodiversity science and contributing to the EOL. Meetings may be proposed for our new facility in Chicago or at other national or international locations. Proposals should be focused on biodiversity and systematics, build new bridges among disciplines, or deal with timely issues in biodiversity or conservation. Proposals should be short (>5 pages) with budgets ranging from \$15,000 for small meetings of 10 people to \$50,000 for larger meetings with extensive international participation. Please email questions, concepts, or full proposals to biosync@fieldmuseum.org. For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.fieldmuseum.org/biosync>

Committee Reports

- [Committee on Broadening Participation](#)
 - [Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee](#)
-

Committee on Broadening Participation Patricia Hernandez, Chair

Happy Fall Everyone,

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and tell you about what is going on with our committee. I am chair of the Broadening Participation Committee. We are actively trying to increase the visibility of our committee, in order to better fulfill our mission. We are charged with increasing the active participation of underrepresented minorities within our society. Thus, we are committed to making the active membership of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology more accurately reflect the current diversity in our world. Although our outreach is aimed at underrepresented groups, we need everyone's help recruiting and getting the word out to these students.

A very big problem we have had is with self-identification. We are eager to track our success in attracting and retaining students from these groups. However, we must have some way of tracking our success. We are fortunate that SICB has recently added a form for self-identification on the membership form. We urge all members to be sure to fill this out since it is very important in allowing us to track our success.

We are looking forward to our meeting in Boston. At the beginning of each of our annual meetings we have a breakfast to welcome members of underrepresented groups. Generally we have a representative from the National Science Foundation there to speak about general funding issues and specific issues for our minority members. If you are a member of an underrepresented group (or have students who are) I would greatly appreciate hearing from you. I certainly want to make sure that I have a current list of students to invite to our breakfast. We are also trying to establish annual workshops to discuss issues relevant to the success of these students. Several years ago we sponsored a workshop that was very well received. By establishing a panel comprised of underrepresented minorities at all stages of their careers (students, postdocs, junior and senior faculty) we were able to show students that it is indeed possible to advance within this chosen career path. In this vein, we are also trying to establish a mentoring program whereby senior graduate students and postdocs could help bring our undergraduate minority students up the ranks.

We realize that the task ahead is a difficult one and that we can not effect immediate change, however we are devising a multi-tiered approach that will assure that we are indeed proceeding toward our eventual goal. We can start working on retention right away. While we certainly have an increasing number of graduate students from underrepresented groups, this does not guarantee that these students will find good postdoctoral positions, get job offers, take jobs, get tenure and remain productive researchers within biology. To this end we are implementing a multipronged approach to broadening participation.

Lastly, while this committee is currently a "temporary" committee, I believe that our charge is important enough to warrant promotion to a permanent committee. While I certainly look forward to a time when this

committee is not necessary, I believe that at this point we really need a concerted effort to increase diversity within SICB. I hope that you will do your part by helping to recruit students from these underrepresented groups and then helping us retain these students by doing whatever possible to help them thrive in their academic lives. I eagerly welcome suggestions from anyone interested in helping out.

Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Larry Riley, Chair

Hi everyone. I hope everyone's semester is going well. It is that time of year again; planning for the annual meeting. As you start preparing your presentation and reading through all of the abstracts to see which presentations you want to attend, don't forget about the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee annual workshop. This year's workshop "*How to find a postdoc position; how to apply for an academic job*" is sure to be highly informative. The committee has assembled a panel of faculty members from different academic institutions (undergraduate serving to Ph.D. granting) who have served on search committees, as well as Ph.D. graduates that have recently secured a post-doc position. Some key points the workshop will focus on: 1) What makes a good research statement and teaching statement?, 2) What points to highlight and include/exclude in your CV, 3) How to approach a postdoc advisor, etc? This is a great forum to gather insight into these processes, so please attend.

I also encourage every first time student to attend the Welcome and Orientation Meeting on the first night of the meeting. This meeting is designed to help you get the most out of the SICB meeting. If you have any questions or concerns please ask your divisional student/post-doc rep. See you all soon.

Division of Animal Behavior (DAB): 2008 Fall Newsletter

Message from the Officers

Tom Hahn (Chair), Sarah Humfeld (Program Officer), and Scott MacDougall-Shackleton (Secretary)

Greetings from your DAB Executive!

New DAB Secretary

Thanks to everyone for voting in the SICB elections this year. Jordanna Sprayberry has been elected to the position of secretary for the Division of Animal Behavior. Please join me in thanking Jordanna for her willingness to serve the Division and Society. Jordanna will take over from Scott MacDougal-Shackleton at the Boston meeting.

Next year we will need to elect a new Chair of the Division. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone you know for this position, please let us know. The nominating committee will be looking for names in Boston.

Members of the nominating committee are:

- Tom Hahn
- Sarah Humfeld
- Jordanna Sprayberry
- Scott MacDougall-Shackleton

Upcoming SICB Meeting in Boston

We look forward to seeing all of you in Boston. This should be a great meeting. Abstract submissions were up by 30% this year! The DAB is sponsoring several symposia:

- A society-symposium: "Hormonal Regulation of Whole-Animal Performance: Implications for Selection" co-sponsored by DAB, DCE and DVM.
- "Evolution of Mechanisms Controlling Timing of Breeding in Animals" co-sponsored by DAB and DCE.
- "Genomics and Vertebrate Adaptive Radiation: A Celebration of the First Cichlid Genome" co-sponsored by DAB and DVM

As well, DAB will co-sponsor a symposium on "Integrating Migration" at the 2010 meeting in Seattle. As always, if you are interested in organizing a symposium, talk to our program officer Sarah Humfeld for advice.

Business Meeting and Social

We will continue the successful tradition of holding a joint business meeting/social. Our social this year will also be combined with the social for the "Hormonal Regulation of Whole-Animal Performance" symposium. Be there! The business meeting will take up the first 30 minutes, after which it is party time.

Best Student Presentation Judges

Once again we will need judges for the best student poster and best student oral presentation competitions. If you are able and willing to act a judge please email Scott MacDougal-Shackleton (smacdou2@uwo.ca).

Web Site

Want to promote your research? Send Secretary Scott MacDougal-Shackleton (smacdou2@uwo.ca) a jpeg of something cool from your research and a short paragraph describing it and we will add this to the SICB website database. These are the different images you see on the SICB web site in the upper left panel that change each time you refresh your screen.

See you in January.

Tom Hahn (Chair 2007-2009)

Sarah Humfeld (Program Officer 2005- 2011)

Scott MacDougall-Shackleton (Secretary 2007-2009)

Zachary Stahlschmidt (Student/Postdoc Rep. 2008-2011)

Division of Comparative Biomechanics (DCB): 2008 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

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

Message from the Chair

Robert Full

The new Division of Comparative Biomechanics continues to grow. We have now surpassed 400 members in only a year and a half.

We look forward to the Boston Meeting. The number of presentation and posters submitted continues to increase. The number of students competing for best paper and poster awards has gone up by 50%. We are particularly excited to support the Symposium "Sensory Biomechanics" organized by Matt McHenry and Sanjay Sane. They have put together an incredible line up of speakers.

Because Boston is one of the world's centers for robot companies that use biological inspiration, I am attempting to arrange tours of iRobot and Boston Dynamics Inc. during our January Meeting. Stay tuned. I encourage all those interested in the intersection of biology and engineering to consider publishing in the new journal *Bioinspiration & Biomimetics* (<http://www.iop.org/EJ/journal/bioinsp>). The journal has recently been included in the ISI Web of Science/Science Citation Index (the Thomson ISI listing).

On the education front, I presented a keynote address to 600 PIs at an NSF and AAAS sponsored meeting of the Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement Program. I discussed how comparative biomechanics laboratories serve as an exceptionally good vehicle for research-based learning. I urge you to take a look at this program for future funding of educational activities (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08546/nsf08546.htm>).

I bring to your attention two **upcoming conferences**:

Society of Experimental Biology

Annual Main Meeting 2009 - SEB Glasgow 2009, Sunday 28 June - Wednesday 1 July 2009, Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow, UK. The SEB is pleased to announce that in 2009 its Annual Main Meeting will return to the state-of-the-art Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) in the culture-rich city of Glasgow. Open to members and non-members alike, the meeting will give you the opportunity to attend cutting edge scientific and education sessions as well as the chance to network with a diverse range of biologists from all over the world.

In particular, two sessions are relevant to our division.

General Biomechanics

SICB newsletter Fall 2008

Dates: 28th - 30th June (morning only on the 30th)

Organised by: Peter Aerts

Contact: Peter Aerts (peter.aerts@ua.ac.be)

Description:

The 'general biomechanics session' brings (young) scientists together dealing in their research with the mechanics of the most diverse topics in biology. From insect flight to suspension feeding, from horse locomotion to the mechanics of water transport in plants, from material properties to kinematics of bird flocks, from muscle mechanics to all, all topics find their place in the session which is traditionally attended by a large and broadly interested audience. Moreover, four years ago, they started a new initiative: General Biomechanics Best Poster and Best Presentation prizes (3 for each category). Yet another reason to join them in Glasgow next summer.

Integration of active and passive control mechanisms in locomotion

Dates: 30th June - 1st July (afternoon only on the 30th)

Organised by: Alan Wilson, Monica Daley and Andrew Spence

Contact: Monica Daley (mdaley@rvc.ac.uk)

Speakers include:

Prof T. Richard Nichols (Georgia Tech)

Prof Arthur Prochazka (Centre for Neuroscience, University of Alberta), Tentative title: 'Biomechanical imperatives in the neural control of locomotion'

Prof Auke Ijspeert (Head of the Biologically Inspired Robotics Group, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL)), Tentative title: 'Decoding the mechanisms of gait generation and gait transition in salamander using mathematical models and robots'

The American Society of Biomechanics

With over 800 attendees, the 2008 North American Congress on Biomechanics (NACOB) at the University of Michigan was an overwhelming success. Next year Penn State and the American Society of Biomechanics invite all of us to the annual meeting to be held on Penn State's University Park campus from August 26 to 29, 2009. The meeting will feature stimulating scientific sessions, comfortable conference facilities, and various social opportunities in a relaxed, academic setting.

Message from the Program Officer

Frank Fish

SICB newsletter Fall 2008

It looks like everyone is excited about coming to Boston for the January meeting of SICB. With over 1300 abstracts, the meeting is shaping up to be one of the best and biggest ever. The meeting is set in the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel. All the oral sessions, poster sessions, business meetings and socials will be held in the conference hotel. The hotel is a convenient distance from the airport and can be easily reached by either a quick cab ride or the Silver Line. If you take the Silver Line (a bus), it is only a \$2.00 fare from the airport. The stop on the Silver Line for the hotel is World Trade Center, which is only a short walk to the hotel. There are also a number of fine restaurants by the waterfront area. In Boston, there are a number of attractions, including the New England Aquarium, Boston Museum of Science, the Boston North End, Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Freedom Trail, the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, and the U.S.S. Constitution.

The contributed paper sessions begin on Sunday, January 4 and end by noon on Wednesday, January 7. The business meeting for the Division of Comparative Biomechanics (DCB) will be on Tuesday evening and the DCB social will follow immediately after the business meeting. As we did at the last meeting, the social will be shared with the Division of Vertebrate Morphology.

DCB is sponsoring a symposium on the biomechanics of sensory structures that was organized by Matt McHenry and Sanjay Sane. This promises to be an excellent symposium with papers related to a number of levels on the topic, including environment and behavior, sensory organs and cells, and cells and transduction.

If you have ideas for future symposia, please come and meet with me in Boston or contact me by email (ffish@wcupa.edu) to discuss the possibilities and see what opportunities there are for funding both within and outside the society. Some considerations in planning your symposia are that each symposium participant will get a \$100 reimbursement toward their registration and each paper published in the journal will be allowed one free color plate.

I look forward to seeing you all in Boston.

Message from the Secretary

Miriam Ashley-Ross

It's shaping up to be a busy meeting in Boston, and a busy year for our Division. Not only is DCB sponsoring a symposium on Sensory Biomechanics, but we have 33 competitors for Best Student Paper! It's a testament to our dynamic and growing division that we have so many up-and-coming graduate student members.

Judges Needed

Because we have so many competitors, we need faculty/postdoc volunteers to judge them. What do the judges do? View the talks/posters to which you are assigned, and evaluate them according to the criteria on the form. Ask the students questions about their research, and encourage them. Why should you volunteer? To start with, you'll be seeing some of the best presentations of the meeting, and talking with enthusiastic young scientists. You'll also be letting them know that their efforts are appreciated and recognized, making it more likely that they'll remain DCB members. In short, it's a win-win situation - if you are willing to help, please contact our divisional chair Bob Full (rjfull@berkeley.edu).

Upcoming Elections and Bylaws Revisions

SICB newsletter Fall 2008

To get on track for transitioning from the interim officers to our "normal" election schedule (<http://www.sicb.org/resources/electionschedule.php3>), we will need to hold elections in the Spring for the Chair-Elect and Program Officer. In the Spring newsletter, we'll have short biographical sketches of the candidates, and dates for the actual election. If you are interested in running for one of these offices or wish to nominate someone, please contact members of the divisional nominating committee, Adam Summers (asummers@uci.edu) and Thomas Roberts (Thomas_Roberts@brown.edu), or any member of the divisional Executive Committee.

There will also be some bylaws revisions to bring our divisional bylaws into conformity with the SICB bylaws and constitution. These will be described in the Spring 2009 newsletter and voting will occur later in the spring.

Division of Comparative Endocrinology (DCE): Fall 2008 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](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Stacia Sower

We are looking forward to seeing you in Boston this January for a very exciting meeting. As Stephan Schoech, our new Program Officer, has informed us, we have a record number of abstracts for this meeting. This year we are pleased to announce that Professor Peter J. Sharp, PhD, FRSE, Genetics and Genomics Division, The Roslin Institute and Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK will be presenting the Howard Bern Lecture. The title of his presentation will be "Vertebrate Photoperiodic Signaling." This year we implemented a nominating committee for the Howard Bern Lecture. I would like to thank those who served on this committee. We had a number of outstanding nominations.

Hamid Habibi, John Chang and Alice Hontela hosted the International Symposium on Fish Endocrinology at the University of Calgary, June 22-27, 2008. There were over 300 participants. Drs. Ed Donaldson, Geoff Eales, Tetsuya Hirano, Sandy Scott, and Zvi Yaron each received a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his/her significant contribution in the area of Fish Endocrinology.

The 9th International Symposium of Avian Endocrinology was held in the historic town of Leuven, Belgium, 11-15 July 2008. Professors Veerle Darras, Eddy Decuypere, and Johan Buyse hosted approximately 200 of the world's avian endocrinologists at this quadrennial meeting.

Now that you have submitted your abstracts, on behalf of the DCE officers, we would like to encourage everyone to submit one paragraph and diagram/schematic or photo for the DCE Researchers Database. We are lagging behind other divisions. These are the photos you see on the upper left panel of the SICB web site and they change each time the screen is refreshed.

Your elected representatives, Stephan Schoech and Cathy Propper have been doing an outstanding job getting us ready for Boston. We have an exciting program planned and I hope will see you at the DCE business meeting and DCE social in Boston. In the meantime, be sure to send me your thoughts and concerns about any aspect of DCE: sasower@unh.edu.

Message from the Program Officer

Stephan Schoech

As you all likely know, abstract submission for the January 2009 meeting closed on 9 September after yet another hurricane-necessitated extension of the deadline. Regardless, Sue Burk informs me that a record number of abstracts have been submitted for the upcoming Boston meeting! The impressive total of 1,366 greatly surpasses the previous high (at the very least for the years since Burk Inc. has been managing SICB meetings and likely for all time). For those interested, here are the abstract totals for the past seven years - 2002: 916 Anaheim; 2003: 780 Toronto; 2004: 1,103 New Orleans; 2005: 1,001 San Diego; 2006: 1,034 Orlando; 2007: 1,082 Phoenix; 2008 967 San Antonio. Note that totals include abstracts for symposia, oral, and poster presentations.

How many of the abstracts that have been submitted are from members of DCE remains to be seen, but DCE will sponsor seven oral sessions, co-sponsor four of the ten symposia, and be well represented at the poster sessions: visit the society meeting page for details <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2009/>.

At the recent (26 - 28 September) meeting of Program Officers to arrange the schedule for the upcoming meeting, I became aware that none of the ten symposia to be presented at the 2010 meeting in Seattle are sponsored by our division! I strongly encourage any of you that might have a symposium that you've been thinking of for a future meeting to consider using the 'late breaking symposium' mechanism to remedy this anomaly. While no advance guarantee can be made, I can assure you that an appropriate proposal would be favorably considered. As our division has monies that are dedicated to support symposia and none of these funds are currently allocated, divisional support would be available.

Also at the 2009 meeting website is information about funding for student support for meeting attendance. Application deadlines for student support will have passed by the time this newsletter is published, but take note of this for future meetings. As you all know SICB is a very student friendly organization that strives to support graduate and undergraduate students however possible.

Judges Needed

Speaking of students, approximately 40 are participating in the Best Student Paper program in Boston (total for both oral and poster presentations). Dr. Ignacio Moore of Virginia Tech has been kind enough to step forward and will serve as the Chair of the DCE Student Award Committee. To those of you who are able, I strongly encourage you to volunteer as judges to help us award student presentations. As one who has served as a judge I can assure you that the burden is not great, especially if it is shared appropriately, and one gets the opportunity to see some great talks and posters that otherwise could be missed. Please contact Ignacio at itmoore@vt.edu.

I hope all have had an enjoyable and productive summer and I look forward to seeing you all in Boston. While a bit cool in January, the lobster bisque, chowder, adult beverages, and camaraderie assure a warm meeting.

Message from the Secretary

Catherine Propper (Catherine.Propper@nau.edu)

We are looking forward to our upcoming conference in Boston. Please make sure to attend the DCE business meeting as we will be discussing some changes to the bylaws that will be voted on in the Spring election.

Also, we are in another DCE election round for both the Chair and the Secretary positions and will be recruiting members for the nomination committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee please let our divisional chair, Stacia Sower, know.

We will be trying something new for the meeting next year (2010) in Seattle. The Western Regional Conference on Comparative Endocrinology (WRCCE) will be co-meeting with DCE at the SICB conference. Therefore, WRCCE will not have a Spring meeting in 2009. I wish to encourage everyone who usually participates in the WRCCE to come to Seattle and make our conference a wonderful opportunity for collaboration and discussion.

There are a couple of other meetings of interest to DCE membership:

The Endocrine Society meeting June 10-13, 2009 in Washington, D.C.

The Society for the Study of Reproduction: **18-22 July 2009 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

If you have any information/announcements you would like to see posted in the Spring, 2009 Newsletter, please let me know, and I will work with secretary-elect Mary Mendonça to get it posted there. If you have any information that needs to go out quickly to the DCE membership, also send it to me.

Message from the Graduate Student and Post-doc Representative

Alexandra M. Class (classam@vt.edu)

Hope all DCE graduate students and postdocs are having an enjoyable and productive fall! The 2009 Boston Meeting is just around the corner and is full of opportunities to gain knowledge, mingle with the leaders in your field, and figure out what to go after next. I encourage you to attend the SICB and DCE business meetings so you are aware of what makes SICB tick and how you can add to SICB.

Be sure to attend the *Grad Student/ Postdocs Welcome Orientation* at 5:30 p.m., January 3, if you are new to SICB, and/or want to maximize your conference experience. There are also many symposia of particular interest to DCE members including: "[Hormonal Regulation of Whole-Animal Performance: Implications for Selection](#)," "[Psychoneuroimmunology Meets Integrative Biology](#)," "[Evolution of Mechanisms Controlling Timing of Breeding in Animals](#)," and "[Cell-Cell Signaling Drives the Evolution of Complex Traits](#)." Also of interest to soon-to-be graduated grad students and postdocs is the Grad student/Postdoc workshop, "How to Find a Postdoc Position; How to Apply For an Academic Job." This workshop will include a panel with faculty with experience on job search committees and faculty new-hires. Finally, celebrate your conference by attending the *Society-wide Student/Postdoc Social*, 8-9:30pm, January 6.

For student support for SICB see the **Charlotte Mangum Student Support Program**:
<http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2009/studentsupport.php3>.

Upcoming grant and fellowship deadlines for students and postdocs:

- **DCE** gives two "Best Student Paper" awards/ meeting (best oral/ poster presentations). The work must be original and be carried out principally by the student presenting the paper/ poster. In any year, a student can enter either the oral or the poster competition.
- **SICB Grants in Aid of Research**, due **Nov. 18**, <http://sicb.org/grants/researchgrant.php3>
- **SICB Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel**, due **Nov. 18**, providing travel and other funding assistance for distant research/ field sites. <http://sicb.org/grants/fgst/>
- **SICB Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship**, providing assistance for students to take courses or carry out research on invertebrates at marine, freshwater, or terrestrial field stations. **Deadline is March 6, 2009**. <http://sicb.org/grants/hyman/>
- **Sigma Xi: Grants-In-Aid of Research Program - March 15 and Oct. 15 deadlines** annually: <http://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/giar/appopen.shtml>. Funding is awarded for field and lab equipment and/ or travel stipend needed for winning project proposals.
- **National Science Foundation:** for funding opportunities relevant to new and ongoing graduate students see: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/education.jsp?fund_type=2.

-Links to information on larger fellowships like the **Graduate Research Fellowship or Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant**, as well as specialized programs including integrative education and study abroad for doctoral students. **Deadlines ~ early-mid Nov.** for graduate fellowships.

Division of Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry (DCPB): 2008 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
 - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
 - [Message from the Secretary](#)
 - [Proposed DCPB Bylaws Revisions](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Joseph B. Williams

Election Results

DCPB members elected Jim Hicks Chair-Elect of DCPB for the coming term 1/2009-1/2010 and Kathy Dickson as Program Officer 1/2009-1/2011. Thank you to both for service to our community.



Kathy Dickson



Jim Hicks

Program News-Boston 2009

Our Program Officer, Don Mykles, has informed me that our upcoming meeting in Boston, Jan. 2009, will be the largest meeting that we have ever had, with over 1300 abstracts, 223 of which are from members of DCPB. Please see Don's newsletter entry below for details of this meeting. Don and other members of the SICB Program Committee recently met in Boston, Sept 26-28th, and made plans for our extravaganza in the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel. Don, thank you for all of your efforts on our behalf.



Katie Gilmour, Peter Wainwright



Stephen Secor, Malcolm Gordon, Lou Burnett

Bartholomew Award Committee

On behalf of DCPB, I wanted to thank Katie Gilmour (chair), Peter Wainwright, Stephen Secor, Malcolm Gordon, and Lou Burnett, for taking their time to evaluate the large number of applicants and nominations this year for the Bartholomew Award. Katie tells me that the application pool this year was exceptionally strong making the choice of a winner difficult. Katie, your efforts and those of the rest of the committee members, are indeed appreciated by all of the Division of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry.

Bartholomew Award Winner!

It is my pleasure to announce that Lynn "Marty" Martin is the winner of the Bartholomew Award for 2009. Named in honor of George A. Bartholomew, a past president of SICB and one of the founders of Physiological Ecology, this award is given annually to a young investigator for distinguished contributions to Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry or to related fields of Functional and Integrative Biology.



Marty Martin

Marty Martin received his Ph.D. from Princeton in 2004, and then went to Ohio State University for a Postdoctoral Fellowship. Although Marty's research interests are varied, he mainly focuses on understanding how physiological systems, in particular the endocrine and immune systems, constrain the pace of life of rodents and songbirds. He has pioneered new studies in ecological immunity of wild vertebrates. Marty, the one in the picture with the blue hat, will present the Bartholomew Award lecture on Sunday, Jan 4, 2009 at 6:30 pm.

When I asked Marty how his research questions are intertwined with the work of George Bartholomew, he said, *"I have tried to follow Bartholomew's path when seeking to understand animal physiology and in particular immunity. Bartholomew's approach was 'to remain flexible...and to some extent allow circumstances to determine the particular animals to be worked on and then allow their ecology to influence the questions to be asked.' This directive helped me contribute to the emerging field of ecological immunology. As Bart said, ecological immunology, and ecophysiology broadly, are 'operationally effective if one is willing to learn new techniques, deal with diverse animal types, work in the field with improvised facilities, and spend the effort to acquire the knowledge of the literature needed to meet the standards for publication in several different fields of research.' While modern immunology makes advances every day, I agree with Bart that the addition of the naturalistic, multi-disciplinary perspective would lead to even more rapid progress."*

At the lecture, John Lighton, founder of Sable Systems International and long-time member of SICB, will present Marty with a cash prize of \$1,000 in honor of Dr. Bartholomew, who was John's advisor at UCLA. The remainder of Marty's expenses will be paid by DCPB from the Bartholomew fund. Anyone interested in contributing to the Bartholomew Fund can do so on the SICB web page under "donations."

Nominating Committee-for Secretary of DCPB

A committee, consisting of Stephen Secor (Chair), Dick Tracy, Doug Altshuler, Lisa Crockett and Pat Walsh has been formed to put forward names of people that would be willing to serve as Secretary of DCPB for the next term. If you are interested in running for divisional secretary in the spring of 2009 or wish to nominate someone, please contact any member of this committee or any member of the divisional Executive Committee.

Undergraduate Steering Committee



Itzick Vatnick, Mark Hausman, Harry Itagaki



Chris Gillen, Bob Mauck, Dave Tapley

Last year, several DCPB members approached me about fostering more undergraduate participation in SICB meetings. Graduate students are often seen as the life-blood of our society, but undergraduates with research experience are the primary source of our best graduate students. Undergraduates who attend SICB meetings have commented to me how it changes their perspective about evolutionary and ecological physiology. To this end, we have established an undergraduate steering committee composed of Itzick Vatnick, Mark Hausman,

Harry Itagaki, Chris Gillen, Bob Mauck, and Dave Tapley. As a first step in achieving its goal, this committee has organized an undergraduate mixer on Tuesday of the meeting. Undergrads and their mentors who want to meet other undergrads that are also doing research should buy a box lunch and come to the mixer. Anyone who is interested in being involved with this committee, or who has ideas that would promote a positive experience for undergraduates at our meetings, please contact Itzick Vatnick at ivatnick@widener.edu. In addition, this committee is considering a symposium in 2010 entitled "Involving Undergraduates in Research." If you have ideas about this symposium and/or would like to be involved, please contact David Tapley (dtapley@salemstate.edu).

Judges Needed

The Division of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry honors its student presenters with Best Student Paper Awards, one for best oral presentation and best poster, at each year's annual meeting. Dave Tapley, the organizer for our judges this year, tells me that we have near 70 students that will qualify for the "best" presentation or "best poster" competition, about 30 more than we had last year in San Antonio, and the second-highest number of entrants ever. Hence we need people to volunteer to be this year to be a judge. If you are willing to provide some time to serve DCPB in this manner, please contact Dave Tapley (dtapley@salemstate.edu).



Don Mykles

Message from the Program Officer

Don Mykles

Upcoming SICB meetings

Boston 2009. The meeting is January 3-7, 2009 at the Westin Waterfront Hotel (<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1528>), located south and east of downtown (South Boston). It is an excellent venue with easy access to Logan International Airport and downtown restaurants and attractions. Taxi fare from the airport to the hotel is \$20-25. You may also use the T subway system (<http://www.mbta.com>) for \$2. Take the Silver Line (a bus) from the airport to the World Trade Center stop. The hotel is about a 5-minute walk. For visitor information, maps, and guides: <http://www.bostonusa.com/index.htm>.

The program is jam-packed. Over 1,370 abstracts were submitted, which is a new record! The division received 223 abstracts (includes 33 symposium-related talks), which were distributed between 94 platform

and 129 poster presentations. There are poster sessions on Jan. 4, 5, & 6. DCPB is sponsoring a society-wide symposium on **Insect Evolution**, organized by T. Bradley and A. Briscoe, and a regular symposium on **Biomaterials: Properties, Variation, and Evolution**, organized by B. Swanson and A. Summers. DCPB is hosting the reception following the Bartholomew Lecture on Sunday, Jan. 4. More details about the program are available on the meeting web page: <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2009/index.php3>.

Seattle 2010. The meeting is at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel (<http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2009/index.php3>) during the first week of January. DCPB is sponsoring a regular symposium on **Metabolism, Life History, and Aging**, organized by James Harper and co-sponsoring a society-wide symposium on **Advances in Antarctic Marine Biology**, organized by James McClintock, Charles Amsler, Amy Moran, Art Woods, and Bill Baker. The SICB Program Committee will consider proposals for late-breaking symposia; information on this will be announced later.

2011 Meeting. The location has not been selected. However, it's not too early to develop symposia for the 2011 meeting! Please feel free to discuss your ideas with me in Boston, or call me (970-491-7616).

Other upcoming meetings of interest

- **Skeletal Endocrinology.** Brescia, Italy, March 27, 2009. <http://www.skeletal-endocrinology.org/presentazione.asp>
- **Experimental Biology 2009.** New Orleans, LA, April 18-22, 2009. <http://www.eb2009.org/>.
- **The First International Conference of Hydrogen Sulfide in Biology and Medicine (H₂S Biology 2009).** Shanghai, China, June 26-28, 2009. <http://www.h2sbiology2009.org>
- **XXXVI International Congress of Physiological Sciences.** Kyoto, Japan, July 27-Aug 1, 2009. <http://www.iups2009.com>
- **11th International Congress on Amino Acids, Peptides and Proteins.** Vienna, Austria, August 3-7, 2009. <http://www.meduniwien.ac.at/ICAAP09/index.html>
- **The Crustacean Society Summer Meeting.** Tokyo, Japan, Sept 20-24, 2009. <http://www.soc.nii.ac.jp/cs4/TCSFirstPage1.html>

Consult the SICB DCPB web site (<http://www.sicb.org/divisions/dcpb.php3>) for other meetings of interest.

Message from the Secretary

Allen Gibbs

This year, we and the other divisions have worked to revise our bylaws. Many of the proposed changes aim for consistency across divisions in offices, terms, and other aspects of divisional business, and for consistency with society bylaws. The proposed bylaws would also limit Bartholomew Award nominations to SICB members. Please review the proposed changes (shown below), and send any comments to me (allen.gibbs@unlv.edu) or any of the DCPB Officers. Bring your thoughts to the Divisional Business Meeting in Boston, where we will discuss the proposed changes and vote on their adoption.

At the end of the meeting in Boston, Jim Hicks will begin his term as divisional Chair, and Kathy Dickson will take over as Program Officer. Nominations will be sought for Secretary; please feel free to volunteer to run, or nominate someone who is willing to do so.

Message from the Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative

Jennifer Ro

Hello DCPB students and post docs!

The annual SICB meeting is coming up soon, Jan 3-7, 2009 in Boston, MA. I look forward to meeting with all of you again. The deadline for early registration for the meeting is Nov.30, 2008.

For our upcoming SICB meeting, the Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) is organizing a workshop on "How to find a post doc position; how to apply for an academic job." If you have any suggestions or preferences on what should be discussed during the workshop, please contact me at ro.25@osu.edu. We would also like to invite several people as panel members for the workshop. Panel members are expected to be involved in a Q&A session during the workshop. We think it will be helpful to have a panel comprised of people from different career stages. For example: senior/junior faculty members, starting faculty members, post-docs who recently got hired. If you are willing to volunteer as a panel member, or would like to suggest panel members, please e-mail me.

For those of you who are looking for funding opportunities, here are some suggestions.

-Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid

This program awards up to \$1,000 to students from all areas of the sciences and engineering. For astronomy and vision related research allow for grants up to \$5,000 and \$2,500 respectively. Upcoming application due date is October 15.

Visit: <http://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/giar/index.shtml>

-Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology

Don't forget SICB also provides funding opportunities for students to support their research! Grants-in-Aid of Research awards are up to \$1,000. Visit: <http://sicb.org/grants/researchgrant.php3>

-The Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship is designed to "help support a first meaningful field-station experience for a first- or second-year graduate student or an advanced undergraduate." The award is up to \$1,200. Visit : <http://sicb.org/grants/hyman/>

-American Physiological Society

The American Physiological society provides several awards to APS student members annually. Here are some possibilities

-Shih-Chun Wang Young Investigator Award - The award is \$7,000 and given to individuals who demonstrated outstanding research in physiological science.

The Lazaro Mandel Young Investigator Award is a \$7,500 award given to individuals who demonstrate outstanding research in epithelial or renal physiology. Visit APS webpage for more information:
<http://www.the-aps.org/awards/society.htm>

DCPB Bylaws Revisions

To be discussed and voted upon at the divisional business meeting in January 2009.

Only the sections with proposed changes are included below. Additions are shown in **bold underline**, deletions are indicated by a ~~strikethrough~~.

(As amended December 1983; December 28, 1986; December 1988; September 1990; December 1993; March 1995; December 1995; January 2002; January 2004; **January 2008**)

Article II. Membership

~~Any member of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology may register with the Executive Director of the Society as a member of the Division of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry, and may withdraw from the roll of the Division at any time on notice to the Executive Director.~~ **Membership in the Division is open to all classes of members of the SICB. It is acquired by registration with the SICB business office.**

Article IV. Officers

Officers of the Division shall be a Chair, a Chair-Elect, a Past Chair, a Program Officer and a Secretary. ~~They shall be elected by a majority vote of the members conducted by a mail ballot prior to the annual meeting by a procedure consonant with the Bylaws of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. In the case when a divisional office is unexpectedly vacated, the current Nominating Committee will recommend to the Chair an interim officer who will be appointed to serve the remainder of the term.~~ **Elections of officers shall be held by both paper and appropriately secure electronic ballots. A brief biography of each candidate shall be made available on the ballot. The term of office of all elected officers and appointed representatives shall begin at the end of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to begin and will end at the adjournment of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to expire.** The Officers plus the graduate student representative shall constitute an Executive Committee responsible for divisional affairs. ~~The business year of the Division shall run January 1 through December 31.~~

In the circumstance where an elected officer is unable to complete his or her term of office, the following provisions are made: If the office of Secretary or Program Officer is vacated early, the Chair,

in consultation with the Divisional Executive Committee, will appoint someone to serve until elections can be held to fill the position. If the office of Divisional Chair is vacant, the Divisional Executive Committee, in consultation with the SICB President, will appoint someone to be the interim Chair until an election is held.

Article VII. Past Chair

The Past Chair shall assist the Chair and other members of the divisional Executive Committee in handling divisional affairs. The Past Chair assumes this position upon completion of a term as chair and shall serve for two years. The Past Chair shall serve as a member of the Nominating Committee. **The Nominating Committee will present two candidates for each office and certify to the Secretary that each candidate has declared a willingness to run for office, and to serve if elected.**

Article XI. Finances

Necessary expenditures of the Division shall be paid from the treasury of the Society within the limits set by the Executive Committee of the Society in the annual budget. Expenditures in support of international societies of which the Division is a member will be paid from an assessment levied annually on Division members, in addition to SICB dues. The amount of the assessment will be determined by the DCPB Executive Committee. Assessment funds will accrue across years, and be managed through the management company, and disbursed with authorization by the Chair, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Division. The Chair shall authorize all disbursements, and coordinate financial procedures with the Executive ~~Officer~~ **Director** of the Society.

Article XIII. Awards

B. Bartholomew Award

An annual prize may be given to a young investigator for distinguished contributions to comparative physiology and biochemistry or to related fields of functional and integrative biology. The formal title for this award is "The George A. Bartholomew Award." Eligible candidates are those who **are members of the SICB and who** have completed their doctorate within the past seven years. The Chair of the Division shall appoint an Award Committee consisting of at least three divisional members with diverse interests to serve as judges. The Chair of the Division will designate one of the members as the chair of the Award Committee. Committee members will normally serve for no more than three years, with at least one member being replaced each year. Candidates may apply directly or be nominated, but both types of candidates will be evaluated equivalently. Applicants shall submit to the Chair of the Award Committee a short description of their work, selected reprints, and curriculum vitae; and also request three letters of recommendation. Nominators must arrange for these same materials (except that only two additional letters of recommendation are required) to be submitted to the Committee. The Committee may recommend for approval one candidate to the Chair of the Division. Each year's winner will be invited to present a special address at the annual meeting. The Chair of the Division may authorize reimbursement of appropriate expenses incurred by the winner in attending the meeting. The Chair may also authorize a cash prize. The awardee will be presented with a certificate signed by all current Divisional officers.

Article XVI. Amendments

The Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present provided that notice has been given to all members at least sixty (60) days in advance or by at least two-thirds vote of the members responding to a mail ballot. In either case, it is the responsibility of the **Executive Committee** ~~divisional executive~~ to assure that opportunities for discussion, either verbal or written, occur before a ballot is taken.

Division of Developmental and Cell Biology (DDCB): Fall 2008 Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

Karen Crawford

Greetings! Since January, the Division of Developmental and Cell Biology has continued to rejuvenate as a division separate from the Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology (DEDB) and has rounded out its leadership with Scott F. Gilbert (Swarthmore College) as our Program Officer, Jennifer Dearolf (Hendrix College) as our Secretary, Michelangelo von Dassow (University of Pittsburgh) who will serve as our graduate student/postdoctoral fellow representative and, Richard Elinson (Duquesne University), who was enthusiastically approved to serve as our representative on the editorial board for the journal. Welcome all and thank you for your willingness to serve.

Further regeneration of our Division! In January Alexa Bely (University of Maryland) came forward with a wonderful idea for a symposium for the 2010 meeting in Seattle. For this she will team up with Sara Lindsay (University of Maine) to co-organize a session entitled "Animal Regeneration: Integrating Development, Ecology, and Evolution." Their plan is to bring together researchers studying regeneration from diverse perspectives and using a range of study organisms, including both vertebrates and invertebrates. The ultimate goal of this symposium is to create an environment conducive to the exchange and integration of ideas and knowledge of regeneration across disciplines and to identify needed areas for future work. Key questions that this symposium hopes to address include: Why do regeneration abilities vary across groups? What are the causes of frequency of tissue loss, leading to regeneration, in the field? What are the costs and benefits of tissue loss and regeneration? Which features of the regeneration process are homologous across major groups of animals? And, to what extent does regeneration employ the same developmental processes as embryogenesis, adult growth, and asexual reproduction? Her proposal to the planning committee was very well received and we look forward to an exciting new beginning for our division with this wonderful symposium. Kudos to Alexa and Sara for putting together such an exciting proposal!

As we continue to gain momentum as a division we look forward to an exciting meeting in Boston this January. Please contact any of us regarding your thoughts and ideas for the future of the Division of Developmental and Cell Biology.

Message from the Secretary

Jenn Dearolf

Salutations from Arkansas!

I am writing with the hope that some of you took my advice from the spring, really looked at your research focus and projects, and submitted an abstract for the upcoming Boston meeting to DDCB. And, I really hope that you encouraged your students to do the same. I know for myself, that a good number of my students' projects fit under the umbrella of our division, so you will find a big group of Dearolf lab students at our poster sessions.

Judges Needed

With these ideas in mind, I am asking you to consider being a judge for the student presentations, either oral or poster, in January. I am not expecting the number of student presentations to be large (that would be awesome!), but I would like to find a group of people (four to six) that would be willing to serve as judges. And, I am not leaving myself out. This card-carrying member of DDCB will act as an oral judge, since all of my students are presenting posters. But I can't do it alone, so I am calling on all of you to help me out! Please contact me if you are willing to serve.

Remember, being a judge doesn't just help the students. By visiting with the students presenting their work in our division, you get a chance to meet the best and the brightest. You might just be able to find the right student to fill a graduate position in your lab or your next post doc. And, you get a chance to see the directions in which the field is going. Finally, students are just excited about their research. Talking with them always helps me remember why I wanted to do research. I get a "shot in the arm," that helps me get back in the lab and keep up the fight.

So, please consider volunteering to be a judge of the student presentations in our division. If enough folks volunteer, I am confident that we will be able to accommodate the needs of everyone in the group. All of us will be able to attend the talks we want to hear and the poster sessions we find interesting and still make sure that all of the student presentations are evaluated. Help out our regenerating division and support our students! I hope to see you in Boston, and I look forward to working with some of you as judges.

Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology (DEDB): 2008 Fall Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

Linda Holland

The fall news is, of course, about the up-coming meeting in Boston where, at the moment, the leaves are probably just starting to turn. Lets all hope for a January thaw!

As our program officer, Wendy Olson, notes in her message below, DEDB is sponsoring one symposium "Cell-cell signaling drives the evolution of complex traits," organized by John Torday, and there will be several Evo-devo sessions as well as a plenary lecture by Sean Carroll.

This year Elaine Seaver will take over from Marcus Davis as DEDB secretary. Many thanks to Marcus for doing all of those things such as revising the bylaws and organizing nominating committees that the membership hardly notices, but still need doing if SICB is to keep going smoothly. I am very glad that Wendy Olson will continue as DEDB program officer. She has done a yeoman's job of putting together the evo-devo sessions for this meeting. Thank you Wendy for all of your hard work.

We broke precedent this year by postponing elections for DEDB officers until this fall. We need to elect a chair to take over from me after the 2010 annual meeting and a program officer to take over from Wendy also after the 2010 meeting. The candidates for Chair-Elect are Mark Martindale from the University of Hawaii and Maria Byrne from the University of Sydney. Running for Program Officer-Elect are L. Patricia Hernandez from George Washington University and Bob Zeller from San Diego State. Please don't forget to vote.

Billie Swalla, our past DEDB chair has recently sent the following message to the devo-evo lists to which you are all subscribed. "The University of Hawaii is seriously considering closing one of its two marine labs, Kewalo Marine Lab, where Mark Martindale and Elaine Seaver work. Marine labs are like evolutionary innovations, once you lose them it may take a very long time to get them back. You can add to the blog on the news story at this site: http://www.starbulletin.com/news/hawaii/news/20080923_Kewalo_labs_proposed_closure_protested.html." Billie goes on to say "I've sent a message to Dr. David McClain, the President of the University of Hawaii System and suggest that you send one too, if you are concerned about this unique marine lab being closed down. Dr. McClain's email address is mcclain@hawaii.edu." The trouble with the Kewalo lab is that it has a good view of Diamond Head. In this day of pinched budgets, U. Hawaii sees selling the property as a way to help alleviate budget deficits. I'm afraid that real biology can't compete with the developers.

The current membership list for DEDB includes over 300 people. I encourage all of you to attend the meeting in Boston as it promises to be of considerable interest to all of us devo-evo types. Boston is a great town. Public transportation in Boston is excellent and you can buy a map with all of the bus routes and subway (The "T") routes at any newsstand. If you have a little extra time, I recommend taking in the New England Aquarium, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of Comparative Zoology. I also recommend Legal Seafoods. There's a branch on Rowe's Wharf across from the New England Aquarium as well as in Logan Airport. Their clam chowder is the best I've ever had, and as a native New Englander, I consider myself an authority on such things.

Happy Holidays!

Message from the Program Officer

Wendy M. Olson

The leaves are finally turning - there must be a meeting coming up.

There were 1372 abstracts submitted for the 2009 SICB Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, setting us up for the largest SICB meeting in over 8 years. Definitely check the schedules ahead of time, because this meeting will be busy! I just got back from the Program Committee meeting in Boston, and I can tell you that the Westin Boston Waterfront is a beautiful, new hotel. That's about all I can say, because hurricane Kyle was in full swing at the time off the coast of New England. Between the rain and fog, I could barely see across the street. But it's near both the ocean and public transit lines.

DEDB is currently supporting one symposium at the 2009 meeting, "Cell-cell signaling drives the evolution of complex traits," organized by John Torday. And in addition to the Plenary, Bartholomew, and Bern Lectures, there will be an additional lecture given by Sean Carroll, which should be of interest to DEDB members. Paula Mabee may be giving a workshop on evolutionary ontology, which is a pretty hot topic in both evolution and development. Check the schedule for final details. Also note that we will have a combined social with DDCB, this year - just the two divisions (unlike last year's seven or so). Separation anxiety? Or a better chance to talk developmental genetics, morphogenesis, integration, and evolution over free food and a couple of overpriced drinks? Be there or be square.

You will all be happy to know that the abstract sorting went much better this year, and we have some strong evo-devo sessions. I tried to avoid overlap as much as possible, but please realize that it is literally impossible not to have any overlap whatsoever, especially given the size of the Boston meeting, not to mention the breadth of evo-devo.

And finally, we have nine students signed up for the BSP competition. If anyone is interested in being a judge, please let me know ASAP. The more volunteers we have, the less any one of us has to do (i.e., the more flexibility we have individually to get to the talks we really want to see). I will be sending out a mass email to ask for volunteers, as the meeting draws closer.

Best wishes, and I hope to see you all in Boston.

Message from the Secretary

Marcus C. Davis

Greetings mad scientists and hopeful monsters,

All right DEDB members, we've got a lot to do in this Fall Newsletter! We have some exciting candidates lined up for the positions of Chair-Elect and Program Officer-Elect. Please take the time to look over the candidate biographies included in this newsletter and then VOTE when the ballots are issued!

We also have some bylaws revisions on which to vote. The revisions were requested by the SICB Executive Committee in order to match the wording and guidelines of each division with that of the SICB Constitution. There are also some additional provisions and protections included that are a standard inclusion in other divisions' bylaws but that we have yet to include in ours. In this newsletter you will find the proposed revisions to our bylaws divided by Article. Following each Article revision is a rationale to explain the reasoning behind the proposed change. Someone owes me a beer for doing thisâ I'm just not sure who. These proposed revisions will appear again in the spring newsletter and voting will occur by electronic ballot in the spring.

On a final note, I'm departing as DEDB Secretary and the very capable Elaine Seaver will take the reins at the Boston meeting. I thank the two Chairs (Billie and Linda) and the two Program Officers (Ed and Wendy) that I have had the pleasure of working with. But I'm not going anywhere. You can look forward to my continued haunting of DEDB for many years to come.

Best wishes and happy holidays!

Elections: Candidates Chair-Elect



Maria Byrne

Current Position: Professor of Marine and Developmental Biology, and Director One Tree Island Research Station University of Sydney, Australia

Education: Ph.D. (Zoology), 1982, University of Victoria, Canada

Professional Experience: Associate Editor, Marine Biology. Editorial board memberships: Evolution and Development, since 2002; Biological Bulletin, 2006-present; Invertebrate Reproduction and Development, 2004-present; Invertebrate Biology, 1998-present

SICB Activities: Presented at the Complex-Life-Histories in Marine Benthic Invertebrates Symposium

Other Memberships: Australian Marine Sciences Association, Australian Coral Reef Society, Society for Invertebrate Reproduction and Development

Research Interests: My research interests are in the integrative biology and evolution of marine invertebrates with a focus on the Echinodermata and Mollusca. My multidisciplinary research involves investigation of life history, reproduction, genetics, phylogeny and environmental biology. I utilize the developmental diversity of closely related echinoderms species as a model system to document evolution of development and speciation.

Goals Statement: I have followed the great work of the Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology as it has grown to be a major Division of SICB and as an important focal point for the promotion of Evo-Devo. My major goals are in the promotion of a multidisciplinary approach to our understanding of generation of evolutionary novelty through developmental change. As chair I look forward to promoting interaction in the Division in all its facets.



Mark Q. Martindale

Current Position: Professor and Director, Kewalo Marine Lab, Pacific Bioscience Research Center, University of Hawaii

Education: Ph.D. (Zoology), 1985, University of Texas, Austin. B.A. (Natural Sciences), 1981, New College, Sarasota, FL

Professional Experience: Postdoc, Harvard Medical School; Assistant Professor, Univ. Chicago; Associate Professor, Univ. Hawaii; Editorial board: *Developmental Biology*, Section of Molecular and Developmental Evolution, *Journal of Experimental Zoology*, *Evolution and Development*, *Development*, *Genes*, and *Evolution (D.G.E.)*, *Acta Zoologica*

SICB Activities: Member since graduate school (prior to its name change). Co-Organizer, SICB Symposium, "Evolution of Animal Body Plans". St. Louis, MO. (1995), Co-Organizer, SICB Symposium, "Evolution of Development: Patterns and Process," Albuquerque, New Mexico (1996), Member-at-Large, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (1996-99), Co-founder of the new Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology (1999)

Other Memberships: AAAS, Society of Developmental Biologists, International Society for Invertebrate Morphology

Research Interests: I am an experimental embryologist interested in the origin of biological diversity. We study the cellular and molecular basis of pattern formation in a phylogenetic context.

Goals Statement: To understand biological diversity, we need to study biological diversity using modern imaging and molecular techniques. Detailed information from a handful of model systems has given us a false sense of understanding of the complexity of biological evolution, with theoretical ideas well ahead of the actual data needed to make informed hypotheses. The landscape of biology is changing in the 'post-genomic era' and we need to think and train the next generation of biologist in interdisciplinary ways (e.g. morphological, molecular, computational) in order to exploit the vast amount of information that will soon be available to us. The Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology has been the driving force in supporting the field of Evo-Devo here in the States as well as in other nations. I will urge our constituents to develop empirical approaches to study a broader spectrum of the biological diversity present in the natural world and to lobby for a continued understanding, appreciation, training, and financial support for modern comparative biology.

Elections: Candidates Program Officer-Elect



L. Patricia Hernandez

Current position: Associate Professor, The George Washington University, Washington DC

Education: Eckerd College B.S. (1987); University of South Florida M.S. (1994); Harvard University Ph.D. (1999)

Professional experience: 2002-2008: Assistant Professor, The George Washington University; 1999-2002: Postdoctoral Fellow Wesleyan University; 2001: Visiting Professor, University of Washington Friday Harbor; 1999-2000: Visiting Professor, Wesleyan University; 1992-1993: Adjunct Instructor, Eckerd College

SICB Activities: I have been a member of SICB since 1991. 2007-2010: Student Support Committee; 2007-present chair Committee on Broadening Participation; 2005-Participant in Symposium "Zebrafish in Comparative Context"; 2004-Chair of Nominating committee for DEDB; 2003-Organized roundtable discussion on increasing minority representation within SICB for the Membership Diversity Committee; 2002-Nominating Committee, DEDB; 2002-present: member of the Membership Diversity Committee; 2001: Chair of Nominating committee for DEDB; 2001: Participant in Symposium "Molecules, Muscles, and Macroevolution"; 2000-2002: Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Representative for DEDB

Other Memberships: International Society for Vertebrate Morphology; Society for Developmental Biology; American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists; American Association of Anatomists.

Research Interests: My lab is interested in the evolution of morphological novelty. Surprisingly we are using the zebrafish for much of our work. While the zebrafish has become a popular model organism in biomedical studies, we propose that the wealth of morphological novelties that characterize this cypriniform fish makes it ideal for investigating the development of evolutionary novelties. My research program focuses on understanding how developmental processes (both early embryonic and later ontogenetic processes) are involved in generating morphological variation and/or novelty within cypriniforms. Moreover, I am interested in understanding the long-term evolutionary consequences of such morphological variation.

Goals Statement: Perhaps the greatest strength of SICB is in its interdisciplinary approach to science. This is especially true in a division that is integrative by definition. Some of our greatest meetings have been characterized by interesting symposia that encompass the interests of a seemingly disparate group of

researchers. As program officer I will strive to continue this tradition of truly interdisciplinary investigation. We are a young division, yet this spirit of learning from all disciplines has made us a very popular division. Moreover, given our historical strength in supporting students I will continue my commitment to increasing student participation. I am especially interested in broadening participation from underrepresented groups.



Robert W. Zeller

Current Position: Associate Professor, Department of Biology, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

Education: Boston University, Boston, MA. B.A. in Biology Summa Cum Laude with Distinction, 1988. California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA. PhD in Developmental Biology, 1994

Professional Experience: 2007-Present: Associate Professor, Department of Biology, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA.; 2008: Visiting Scientist, Kewalo Marine Laboratory, University of Hawaii; 2006-Present: Visiting Associate in Biology, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA.; 2005-Present: co-Faculty Director SDSU Microchemical Core Facility, San Diego, CA.; 2001-2007: Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA.; 1998-Present: Faculty, Embryology Course, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA.; 1995-2000: Postdoctoral research, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA.; SDSU faculty member in the following cross-disciplinary programs: Coastal and Marine Institute (2001-Present); Center for Applied and Experimental Genomics (2003-Present); Computational Science Research Center (2005-Present).

SICB Activities: Session Moderator, Evo Devo and Morphogenesis, 2007.

Other Memberships: Society for Developmental Biology, American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Research Interests: My research interests focus on the evolution of developmentally important gene regulatory networks. In particular, my laboratory is interested in understanding how novel vertebrate cell types, such as neural crest cells and hair cells, evolved from an invertebrate ancestor lacking such cell types. We are currently studying relevant gene regulatory networks operating in early ascidian embryos to discover how pre-existing regulatory machinery was co-opted during chordate evolution. Our laboratory uses a combination of classical embryological approaches and molecular/cell biology to address these questions. Our laboratory is also developing novel tools (e.g. genome manipulation, transgenic embryo production) and approaches (e.g. functional genomics) to facilitate our research goals.

Statement of Goals: The DEDB division provides an excellent forum for evolutionary developmental biologists to come together to exchange ideas. As DEDB program officer, I would continue the work of previous program officers in developing ideas for symposia and meeting sessions and obtaining funding to support these and other programs. I would work with the program officers of other divisions to improve interactions between the DEDB and other divisions. I would strive to have greater student participation in our activities and develop additional opportunities and competitions for students. Because research funding for evo-devo is greatly strained (and has been limiting for a number of years), I would work with others to develop a strategy to lobby, on behalf of SICB, for increased national support of our educational and research endeavors.

Proposal for changes in the bylaws of DEDB

These proposed changes will appear on the spring ballot. Additions appear in **bold underline**, deletions are indicated by a ~~striketrough~~.

Article IV. Membership

~~Any member of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology who so desires may become a member without payment of additional dues. Notice in writing to the Secretary of the Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology shall be the only formality required.~~ **Membership in the Division is open to all classes of members of the SICB. It is acquired by registration with the SICB business office.**

Rationale: Article IV does not reflect current practice on how to acquire divisional membership. We propose to change article IV to reflect current practice.

Article V. Officers

The Officers of the Division shall be a Chair, a Past Chair, a Chair-Elect, a Program Officer, a Program Officer-Elect a Secretary and a Secretary elect. All Officers except the Chair, Past Chair, Program Officer and secretary shall be elected by majority vote of all those members responding to a **secure electronic** ballot submitted to the entire membership of the division, as required by the bylaws of the Society, at least sixty days before the expiration of the current officers' terms. **A brief biography of each candidate shall be made available on the ballot. Election ties will be handled according to the guidelines set in the SICB Constitution.** The post of Chair will be filled automatically every two years by elevation of the previous year's Chair-Elect. In addition, the office of Past Chair shall be occupied by the individual whose term of office as Chair has most recently ended. The post of Program Officer shall be filled automatically by the elevation of the Program Officer-Elect, who will be elected one year prior to the expiration of the Program Officer's term. The post of Program Officer-Elect shall be limited to one year, the year prior to his/her elevation to the office of Program Officer. The post of Secretary shall be filled automatically by the elevation of the Secretary-Elect, who will be elected one year prior to the expiration of the Secretary's term. The post of Secretary-Elect shall be limited to one year, the year prior to his/her elevation to the office of Secretary. ~~The terms of all officers shall be filled on the basis of the calendar year, beginning January 1.~~ **The term of office of all elected officers and appointed representatives shall begin at the end of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to begin and will end at the**

adjournment of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to expire. Graduate and postdoctoral representatives are appointed by the Chair.

Rationale: Article V does not specify the type of ballot used for officer elections, does not specify that candidate biographies will be included with the ballot, and does not specify resolution in the event of an election ending in a tie. Furthermore, Article V specifies DEDB officer terms associated with the calendar year, not with the conclusion of the Annual Meeting as specified in the SICB Constitution, Article II. Section 3. We, propose a change to Article V to reflect current practice and to match the terms of the SICB Constitution.

Proposed New Article Va. Vacancies in Office

In the circumstance where an elected officer is unable to complete his or her term of office, the following provisions are made: If the office of Secretary or Program Officer is vacated early, the Chair, in consultation with the Divisional Executive Committee, will appoint someone to serve until elections can be held to fill the position. If the office of Chair is vacant, the Divisional Executive Committee, in consultation with the SICB President, will appoint someone to be the interim Chair until an election is held.

Rationale: Article V does not specify how an unexpectedly vacated office would be filled. The SICB constitution, Article VI, Section III requires that each division set such a guideline. In accordance with the wording of other divisions and under the suggestion of the SICB-wide Secretary we propose a new article Va - Vacancies in Office.

Division of Ecology & Evolution (DEE): 2008 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Officers](#)
 - [Proposed Bylaws Changes](#)
-

Message from the Officers

George Bakken (Chair), Michelle Nishiguchi (Chair Elect), Mike O'Connor (Program Officer) and Michael Finkler (Secretary)

Greetings from the DEE officers. We are looking forward to returning to Boston for January's meeting where DEE will be cosponsoring four symposia:

1. The Biology of the Parasitic Crustacean
2. Genomics and Vertebrate Adaptive Radiation: A Celebration of the First Cichlid Genome
3. Cell-Cell Signaling Drives the Evolution of Complex Traits
4. PharmEcology: A pharmacological approach to understanding plant-herbivore interactions

The DEE webpage is still featuring the research of its division members (see <http://www.sicb.org/divisions/dee.php3>). If you would like to contribute material to the site, please submit text files as either Word or text documents, images as either .tif, .jpg, .png, or .gif, and movies as .avi or .mpeg, to Michael Finkler (mfinkler@iuk.edu).

Judges Needed

We will soon be soliciting volunteers to serve as judges for the DEE best student presentation competitions. Last year 48 students participated in the paper and poster competitions. Thanks to the assistance of 21 volunteers, we were able to minimize the number of presentations each judge had to evaluate. We hope that the DEE membership will continue this high level of participation in an invaluable experience for our students. Please contact Michael Finkler (mfinkler@iuk.edu) if interested.

Business Meeting

We encourage all DEE members who come to Boston to attend the divisional business meeting on Tuesday, January 6. Attendance at this important session has been low in recent years given the large membership in the division. We would appreciate your input on how we might make the division more supportive of your interests.

New Officers

We congratulate Art Woods of the University of Montana, who the membership selected as our new Chair-Elect (term begins at the end of the Boston meeting), and Mike Sears of Southern Illinois University, who has been elected as our new program officer (term begins at the end of the Boston meeting). The division will be well served through their leadership. We are also pleased to announce that Sarah Berke of the Smithsonian SERC has graciously agreed to serve and was appointed by the President as our representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee.

Also at the end of the Boston meeting, George Bakken will become Past Chair and Michele Nishiguchi will become Chair. Mike Finkler continues to serve as Secretary.

As we noted in the spring newsletter, our bylaws need to be revised to bring them into line with the Society generally and with some proposed changes regarding officer terms and the creation of two new positions (secretary-elect and program officer-elect). The proposed bylaws revisions are shown below. These proposed changes will be discussed at the DEE business meeting in Boston and placed on a ballot in the spring 2009.

Sad News

Finally, we are saddened to announce the loss of our immediate past program officer Jennifer Elwood, who passed away on 3 September 2008 due to complications from breast cancer. Jennifer received her Bachelors Degree from Lehigh University, her Masters Degree from Old Dominion University, and her Doctorate from Drexel University. She was most recently an Assistant Professor of Biology at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Maryland. Her research interests were in vertebrate evolution, functional morphology and physiological ecology with particular emphasis on salamanders. She was an accomplished laboratory and field biologist, a gifted teacher, and a member of several professional societies. We express our deepest sympathy to Jennifer's family, friends, and colleagues.

DEE Bylaws Revisions

The proposed changes are shown below.

Additions are shown in **bold underline**.

Deletions are indicated with a ~~striketrough~~.

Questions or comments about these changes can be addressed at the DEE business meeting in Boston. The proposed changes will appear again in the spring newsletter and voting will occur later in the spring.

(As amended May 30, 1980; January 1, 1985; May 20, 1986; September, 1990; December 1995; January 2000; **January 2008**)

~~Article I. Name and Purpose~~

Section 1. Article I. Name

The official name of this division shall be "The Division of Ecology and Evolution."

Section 2. Article II. Purpose

The purpose of this Division shall be to advance, coordinate, and assist research and publication of knowledge regarding the ecological and evolutionary relations of organisms, and to act as a liaison agency between investigators in the several scientific disciplines involved.

Section 3. Article III. Organization

The Division of Ecology and Evolution shall be a subdivision of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology and shall be governed in all its operations by the Constitution and Bylaws of that Society.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1.

Membership in the Division is open to all classes of members of the SICB. It is acquired by registration with the SICB business office, e.g., via the SICB web site or when the member pays dues.

~~Any member of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology may become a member of the Division of Ecology and Evolution by notifying either the Division Secretary or the Society Secretary of his/her intent. No additional dues payment shall be required.~~

Article V ~~III~~. Administrative Organization

Section 1. Officers

A. The officers of the Division shall be Chair, Past Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, ~~Secretary-Elect~~, Program Officer, and ~~Program Officer-Elect~~. These six offices shall constitute the Divisional Executive Committee and shall be responsible for the affairs of the Division. The term of office of all elected officers shall begin at the end of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to begin and will end at the adjournment of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to expire.

B. The term of office for the Chair, Chair-Elect, Program Officer, and Secretary shall be two (2) years. The term of office for the Secretary-Elect and Program Officer-Elect shall be one (1) year.

C. In the circumstance where an elected officer is unable to complete his or her term of office, the following provisions are made: If the office of Secretary or Program Officer is vacated early, the Chair, in consultation with the Divisional Executive Committee, will appoint someone to serve until elections can be held to fill the position. If the office of Divisional Chair is vacant, the Divisional Executive Committee, in consultation with the SICB President, will appoint someone to be the interim Chair until an election is held.

Section 2. Elections

A. All Officers except the Chair, Past Chair, Program Officer and secretary shall be elected by majority vote of all those members responding to a ballot submitted to the entire membership of the division, as required by

the bylaws of the Society, at least sixty days before the expiration of the current officers' terms.

B. Elections for Chair-elect and Secretary elect shall be held alternate years. Elections for the secretary-elect, and program officer-elect will be held such that their term of office begins 1 year prior to the end of the term of office for the chair, secretary, and program officer. Balloting for a new Chair-Elect will be conducted in the second year of office of the incumbent Chair and Chair-Elect.

C. The Past Chair, Chair, Program Officer, and Secretary, upon the completion of the second year in office, shall automatically be succeeded by the Chair, Chair-Elect, Program Officer-elect, and Secretary-elect, respectively.

~~D. Election of officers shall be by e-mail and paper-mail ballots. The Secretary shall make e-mail ballots available during the fall election on the SICB webpage and mail paper ballots to those members who request paper ballots. A brief biography of each candidate shall accompany the paper ballots and be available on the SICB webpage.~~ **Elections of officers shall be held by both paper and appropriately secure electronic ballots. A brief biography of each candidate shall be made available on the ballot.** The Secretary shall count, tabulate, record the votes received by 1 December and notify the candidates for office of the results. In the event that a vote results in a tie, the members of the **Divisional** Executive Committee shall vote to resolve the tie. **In the event of a tie vote by the officers of the division, the division chair shall cast the deciding vote.**

~~The Chair-Elect shall be elected biennially and shall then automatically become Chair for the two years following his/her tenure as Chair-Elect. The Secretary and Program Officer shall be elected triennially and hold office for three years, but not to commence in the same year; neither shall be eligible for reelection.~~

Section 3. Procedures for Nominations

The Nominating Committee shall consist of **three members of the Divisional Executive Committee and one member-at-large.** ~~three persons. (1) Chair-Elect, (2) the most recent Past Chair, or if she/he is not available, the next most recent Past Chair, and (3) an appointee of the Chair. Two candidates shall be presented for each office. The Nominating Committee must certify to the Secretary that each candidate has declared a willingness to run for office, and to serve if elected. The candidates shall be announced in the Spring Newsletter of the Division. Additional nominations for any office may be made in writing to the Secretary by ten members of the Division prior to 1 August.~~

Section 42. Divisional Executive Committee

~~In intervals between meetings, Management of the Division is vested in the **Divisional** Executive Committee consisting of the officers of the Division, **student and postdoctoral members excluded.**~~

Section 56. Committees

Committees will be formed as needs arise. Members will be appointed by the Chair in consultation with the Divisional Executive Committee. ~~Standing committees on Education, Membership and Policy shall consist of three members, each appointed for three-year terms, one new member being appointed to each committee annually by the Chair in consultation with the Executive Committee. The joint NSF Study and Advisory Committee, a standing committee, shall consist of two members of the Division appointed by the Chair to serve four-year staggered terms, plus two members from each of those other academic societies in ecology and evolutionary biology which elect to participate. Special committees, authorized by the Executive Committee, shall be appointed by the Chair for one year. The need for each special committee will be reviewed annually by the Executive Committee. Committee reports shall be presented at the annual meeting~~

~~and printed (in full or in abstract) in the Newsletter.~~

Section 67. Finances

The necessary expenses of the Division shall be paid from the treasury of the Society, but in no year shall the total expenses of the Division exceed the amount allocated for this purpose in the annual budget of the Society. No officer or member of the Division shall have authority to incur any expenses in the name of the Society, except as above specified.

Article I VI. Duties of the Officers

Section 1. Chair

The Chair shall preside at the business meetings of the Division, shall be responsible for the programs and meetings of the Division, and shall promote in every way practical the interests of the Division. The Chair shall represent the Division on the ~~Executive Committee Council~~ of the Society.

Section 2. Chair-Elect

The Chair-Elect shall assume the duties of the Chair whenever that person is **temporarily** unable to act.

Section 3. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the records of the section, prepare the newsletters, and perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned for secretarial attention. **Normally, a minimum of two Newsletters shall be distributed each year to inform the members of Division activities.**

Section 4. Secretary-Elect

The Secretary-elect shall assume the duties of the Secretary whenever that person is temporarily unable to act.

Section 54. Program Officer

The Program Officer shall arrange programs for meetings of the Division and shall coordinate special programs with Program Officers of the parent and related societies. The Past Program Officer shall serve one year as a member of the **Divisional** Executive Committee ~~of the Division~~.

Section 6. Program Officer-Elect

The Program Officer-Elect shall assume the duties of the Program Officer whenever that person is temporarily unable to act.

Section 7. All Officers

All officers are expected to notify the Chair when they are temporarily unable to carry out their duties or are unable to complete their term. In the event the Chair is temporarily unable to carry out the duties of the office or is unable to complete the term of office, the Secretary should be notified.

Article VII. Meetings of the Section

Section 1. Business Meeting

The business meeting of the Division shall be held at least once a year, ordinarily concurrent with the regular annual meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. If a concurrent meeting is not feasible, then the **Divisional** Executive Committee ~~of the Division~~ shall decide when and where the annual business meeting will be held.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Divisional meetings may be held at other times and places on call of the Chair or when requested by ten (10) members of the Division. Notice shall be sent to each member of the Division sixty (60) days in advance of any meeting.

Article VIII. Quorum

Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum of the Division and three a quorum of the Executive Committee.

Article ~~VII~~ IX. Amendments to the Bylaws

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws may be originated by the **Divisional** Executive Committee or by the members of the Division. Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of those responding by ~~e-mail or mail~~ ballot provided that notice has been given to all members at least sixty (60) days in advance.

Article ~~VIII~~ X. Best Student Paper Awards

A certificate and monetary prize will be awarded for a) the Best Contributed Paper, and b) the Best Poster presented by a student at the annual meeting. Students who have not yet taken the Ph.D. degree, as well as new Ph.D's who have received the degree not more than 12 months prior to the meeting, are eligible to compete for the awards. The work presented must be original and must be carried out principally by the student presenting the paper or poster. Students submitting abstracts of work to be presented at the Annual Meeting may apply to compete for the awards. A student who applies must be a member of the Division of Ecology and Evolution, and a prize can be awarded only once to any student. If, in the opinion of the judges, none of the papers or posters presented is deserving of an award, the awards may not be presented that year. In the case of a tie, duplicate awards may be presented. The Chair of the Division will appoint an awards committee who will act as judges. All papers identified as competing for the prize must be attended by at least two judges, and preferably by three judges. No member who has a student competing for a prize shall be eligible to vote or comment on their student.

Criteria for judging papers and posters are modeled after those used in the judging for the 1989 best student paper competition. Each judge receives, in advance, an evaluation form which has the name of the student, the paper or poster number, and a copy of the abstract. The form is provided to aid the judge in evaluating the paper or poster for content and presentation. The content and presentation of the paper or poster will be judged upon:

Content (60%)

1. Originality of the research
2. Efficacy of approach and methods used

3. Freedom from statistical or analytical flaws
4. Logical connection between conclusions and data
5. Importance of research

Presentation (40%)

1. Clarity of the objectives
2. How well the presenter helped the audience follow the various parts of the presentation and recognize the parts as integrating into a whole
3. How well the presenter integrated the presentation into the fabric of science represented by the work and showed the importance of the contribution to the field
4. Ability of the presenter to answer questions
5. Quality of graphics
6. Lack of annoying distractions from the research presented

The results of the judging shall be tabulated by the Secretary, and a copy of the results given to at least one other member of the Divisional Executive Committee before leaving the meeting.

Division of Invertebrate Zoology (DIZ): 2008 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 Selection Committee Chair](#)
 - [Proposed Changes to DIZ By-Laws](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Janice Voltzow

Dear Invertebrate Zoologists, Have you ever been to any of these places?

Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory (University of the West Indies, Jamaica), Duke University Marine Laboratory (Beaufort, North Carolina), Friday Harbor Laboratories (University of Washington), Forfar Field Station (Andros Island, Bahamas), The Whitney Laboratory (University of Florida), Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce (Florida), Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution (Florida), Los Roques (Venezuela), Harvard Forest (Petersham, Massachusetts), Marine Biological Laboratory (Woods Hole, Massachusetts), La Parguera (University of Puerto Rico), El Verde Field Station (University of Puerto Rico), Kewalo Marine Laboratory (University of Hawaii), Heron Island Research Station (The University of Queensland, Australia), One Tree Island Research Station (University of Sydney, Australia), Oregon Institute of Marine Biology

Chances are, if you're like me, you had your first real sense of the excitement of invertebrate zoology through an early experience at a field station. I have had the good fortune to have visited all of the above, and hope that my list continues to grow. If you have had a similarly rich experience at field stations, please consider donating to this year's **auction** to benefit the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship fund. This scholarship provides support for advanced undergraduates and beginning graduate students to have their first meaningful experience at a field station. We're hoping for an eclectic mix of books, art, memorabilia, and other treasures to tempt you. But we need your help in two ways. First, please think of what you have that you might donate: a vintage FHL tee-shirt, your first dissecting kit, your own creative product, or anything else you think might bring in bids. You can bring your treasures with you to Boston or send them to me, whichever is easier. Second, please be sure to come to the auction with an open mind and an open wallet. Each year the selection committee, currently chaired by Bruno Pernet, receives an increasing number of competitive applications. Your donations will make it possible for more students to have that first field experience that can be so important to their careers. I look forward to seeing you in Boston and encourage you to give generously!

I would like to congratulate this year's winner of the Libbie Hyman Scholarship, Dennis Evangelista of the University of California at Berkeley. Dennis used his award to study invertebrates and biomechanics this past

summer at the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Laboratories. Helping Bruno on this committee were Will Jaeckle and John Zardus. I greatly appreciate all their work.

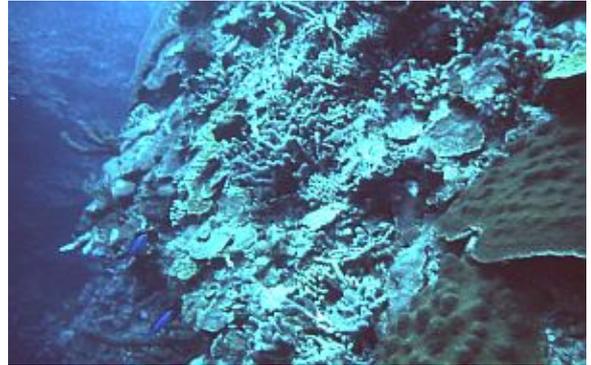
This meeting marks the end of my term as chair of DIZ. I thank the other officers who have worked with me during my tenure, Tom Wolcott, Bob Thacker, Amy Moran, Renae Brodie, and Jim McClintock. I am especially grateful to Dianna Padilla, who will take over the reins of DIZ at the end of the Boston meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in Boston!

Janice



Biomechanics class posing on the dome, designed by Steve Vogel and built as a class project, summer 1981



Pear Tree Bottom, Jamaica, summer 1979

Message from the Program Officer

James McClintock

Dear DIZ members,

The SICB program committee convened in Boston at the end of September to tour the Boston conference venue and plan the 2010 meetings in Seattle. Based on the outcome of this meeting, I am pleased to inform you that we can all look forward to another great meeting in Boston in January 2009, as well as in Seattle in 2010. There were an all time record number of abstracts submitted for the Boston meeting, with a final count of approximately 1400, up from about 1000 last year! This continues our recent string of large and well-attended meetings. DIZ is co-sponsoring two symposia: (1) "The Biology of the Parasitic Crustacea" organized by Jeffrey Shields and Christopher Boyko; sponsored by The Crustacean Society, DEE, DIZ, DSEB and AMS, and (2) "Cell-Cell Signaling Drives the Evolution of Complex Traits" organized by John Torday, sponsored by DCE, DEDB, and DIZ. Both of these symposia, along with all the others that will be held in Boston, have their own web pages you can access via the SICB meeting page.

The Boston meetings will take place at the impressive Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel, which is easily accessible from the airport and with walking distance of a number of restaurants. DIZ will again be joining

several other divisions for an evening social on Monday night at the Westin Waterfront Hotel. Don't miss the Opening Plenary Address by veteran science correspondent and award-winning TV journalist Ira Flatow who is the host of Science Friday.

Immediately following our social, please plan to take part in yet another exciting Invertebrate Auction that is currently being organized by our DIZ Chair, Janice Voltzow, with the assistance of our former Program Officer, Amy Moran. If you have something you would like to provide for the auction, please contact Janice at voltzowj2@scranton.edu. I encourage you to participate, as this has been a wonderful way to raise needed funds for our Libbie H. Hyman fund that "provides assistance to students to take courses or to carry on research on invertebrates at marine, freshwater, or terrestrial field stations."

The 2010 meeting will be held in Seattle and DIZ will be involved in sponsoring both of the society-wide symposia including "Advances in Antarctic Marine Biology" organized by James McClintock, Amy Moran, Charles Amsler, Bill Baker and Art Woods; and "Animal Regeneration: Integrating Development, Ecology, and Evolution" organized by Alexa Bely and Sarah Lindsay. DIZ will also be sponsoring an additional three symposia including "Marine Ecosystem Engineers in a Changing World: Establishing Links Across Systems" organized by Sarah Berke and Linda Walters; "Assembling the Cnidarian Tree of Life" organized by Pauly Cartwright and Mary-Megan Daly; and, "Evolutionary Paths among Developmental Possibilities: A Symposium Marking the Contributions and Influence of Richard Strathmann" organized by Michael Hart and Bob Podolsky. Congratulations to these organizers on both their timely topics and their superb proposals! Good job!

Janice Voltzow is ending her term as Chair of DIZ at the 2009 Boston meetings and Dianna Padilla will be moving into the Chair position. It has been a great pleasure working with Janice, and I know I speak enthusiastically on behalf of our entire division in thanking her for her outstanding efforts over the past three years!

I have enjoyed my first year as Program Officer for DIZ very much, and I would like to thank Amy Moran, our past DIZ program officer, for her friendship, guidance, and for filling in for me at this year's Program Committee meeting (I had covered her last year when she was deployed to Antarctica). It's never too early to think ahead about symposia for 2011- proposals will be due in August 2009; so please contact me well in advance with your ideas.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you and our other 1,399 fellow participants anticipated to attend the Boston meetings this January!

Message from the Secretary

Rena Brodie

Dear DIZ Members,

I hope that many of you will be able to make it to the meeting this year in Boston, where we will have our second invertebrate auction. Personally, I am hoping to add to my mounted crab collection.

I would like to thank everyone who voted for DIZ chair and welcome Dianna Padilla, who will be taking over

for Janice Voltzow at the end of the 2009 meeting. I want to thank Janice for her able leadership and good cheer during her term as chair. Speaking of elections... Please read through the proposed changes to our division bylaws at the end of this newsletter, which clarify language and reflect advances in technology. We no longer vote by mail, for example, and new members join DIZ using an online form. These changes are part of a wider effort led by the Society-wide Secretary, Lou Burnett, to bring all of the divisional bylaws up to date. If you have any questions or comments about the proposed changes, please bring them up at the DIZ business meeting in Boston. The proposed changes will be reprinted again in the spring newsletter and voting will occur later in the spring.

Finally, if you'd like to post a picture and paragraph describing your research on the Researchers Database, please send them to me at rbrodie@myholyokey.edu.

Message from the Graduate Student - Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Jann Vendetti

Dear graduate students and post-docs,

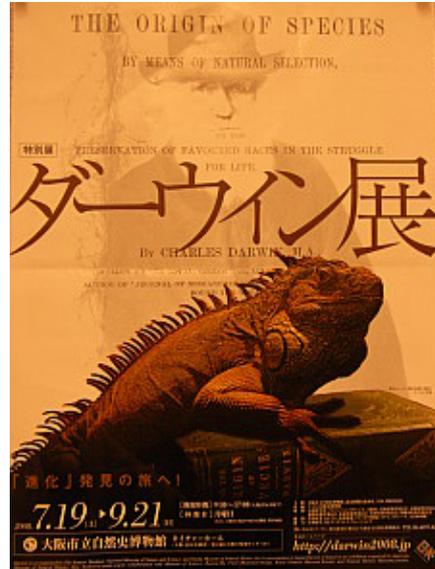
I hope that you had a productive and enjoyable summer. I spent a sweltering 9 weeks in Japan working with a colleague, traveling to museums, and learning about the research and lifestyles of Japanese faculty and graduate students. I appreciate, now more than ever, the many funding opportunities that we have as American students, through both large funding agencies and from small grants. SICB offers two grants for graduate students, both with deadlines that passed in early November. The GIAR (Grant-in-Aid of Research) funds up to \$1,000 of research costs and the FGST (Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel) provides up to \$2000 for travel to a distant laboratory, museum, or field site. If you missed the deadline this time, keep them both in mind for next year.

If you are a graduate student near completion you will be happy to hear that SICB's upcoming Boston meeting will feature a student/postdoc workshop with you in mind. Tentatively titled, "How to Find a Postdoc Position & How to Apply for an Academic Job", this panel discussion and Q&A should be informative, interactive, and most of all--useful. If you are a postdoc looking for a job, check out the SICB job announcement site, it just might list just what you are looking for (<http://www.sicb.org/jobs.php3>).

Welcome back to the Fall semester and good luck to all student DIZ members who are in the process of preparing their talk or poster for Boston's meeting. What a way to usher in the Year of Science 2009 (<http://www.yearofscience2009.org/>)!



Jann at a temple in Rikuzen-Takata, Japan in Iwate Prefecture



An advertisement for museum recognition/exhibits of the publishing of the Origin. This was a popular flyer in paleontological museums

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 and Poster awards. I encourage all post-graduate members who are attending the meetings in Boston to sign up as judges. This year attendees were given the option to sign up for judging during registration. However, you are still welcome to volunteer as a judge. Judges are asked to referee 4 or fewer presentations. Simply email me (benjamin.miner@wwu.edu).

Unlike past years when I have assigned judges particular talks, this year judges will go online and select the talks they want to judge. When the schedule is complete, I will email your assignments and judging instructions-typically mid December.

I thank past judges for their time and effort, and ask for their continued help. If you have not volunteered as a judge, I strongly encourage you to volunteer. Judges are often in short supply yet necessary to continue to offer student awards. If you have any questions about what is required of a judge, please email me.

See you in January.

Message from the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Committee Chair

Bruno Pernet

Twelve candidates -- a mix of undergraduates and graduate students, from schools all around the United States -- applied for the 2008 Libbie Hyman Memorial Scholarship, which is intended to support coursework or research on invertebrates at a field station. As I suspect will generally be the case, the committee (Will Jaeckle, John Zardus, and I) found it difficult to select just one of these to receive the scholarship. But after some discussion, we settled on one student who we felt best addressed all the application criteria, and who we felt could really make excellent use of the award. That student was Dennis Evangelista, a second-year graduate student in Mimi Koehl's laboratory at UC Berkeley. Dennis used the award to support his participation in two courses, Biomechanics and Marine Invertebrate Zoology, at Friday Harbor Labs during summer 2008. Look for him in Boston, where he will present results of one of his class projects, on the biomechanics of amphipod jumping. Thanks much to Will and John for their service on the committee, as well as to Ruedi Birenheide for making the web-based application process work efficiently.

We're looking forward to hearing from another group of strong candidates in 2009 -- so please encourage your best students to apply! Applications are due March 6, 2009 and the application form is available at <http://sicb.org/grants/hyman/>. If you or your students have questions about the application process, please feel free to contact me via email (available at that site).

One of our goals is to increase the number of awards that can be routinely given out to two per year, so we encourage you to contribute to the Scholarship Fund. One undoubtedly entertaining way to do so will be by participating in the 2nd DIZ Auction at the 2009 meeting. Who knows what fabulous invertebrate-themed items you might pick up (me, I'm hoping for more polychaete paraphernalia), or which respected colleague you might crush in a bidding war! Since all auction proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund, they may eventually help fund field station coursework or research by your very own students. Of course, we also welcome direct contributions made via the SICB website (click on Donate to SICB on the SICB web site or send 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. Thanks for your help!

Proposed Changes to DIZ By-Laws.

The proposed changes are shown below.

Additions are shown in **bold underline**.

Deletions are indicated with a ~~striketrough~~.

Questions or comments about these changes can be addressed at the DIZ business meeting in Boston. The proposed changes will appear again in the spring newsletter and voting will occur later in the spring.

Article III

Any member, ~~Student Member, Emeritus Member or Corresponding Member~~ of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology may become a member of the Division of Invertebrate Zoology by ~~registering with the Secretary of the Division and/or the Executive Director of the Society~~ **selecting this divisional affiliation on the online registration form**. A member may withdraw from the roll of the Division at any time by notifying the Secretary of the Division and/or the Executive Director of the Society.

Rationale: Membership in the society is already defined in the SICB constitution. This article currently states that the Division Secretary is responsible for adding or removing DIZ members from the rolls. This hasn't been done for some time and would cause a great deal of extra and unnecessary work.

Article V

The Officers of the Division shall be: Chair, Past Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, **Past Secretary**, ~~and~~ Program Officer **and Past Program Officer**. The Chair-Elect shall be elected triennially. The Chair-Elect should attend the annual meeting that follows her/his election. At the end of this annual meeting, the Chair-Elect shall automatically become Chair for three years. He/She shall serve as Past Chair during the succeeding two years. The Secretary and the Program Officer shall be elected triennially and shall hold office for three years. The expiration date of the terms of the Chair, Secretary and the Program Officer shall be arranged so that only one of them need be elected in any one year. The officers shall assume their duties at the end of **the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the next Annual Meeting** ~~the next annual meeting~~ following their election.

The above officers, ~~together with the retiring Secretary and retiring Program Officer (if any)~~ shall constitute an Executive Committee and be responsible for the affairs of the Division.

Rationale: We propose to add the Past Secretary and Past Program Officer to the list of officers at the beginning of this article; this change also allows us to make the last paragraph clearer.

Article X

The Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three members who shall submit to the Secretary ~~on~~ **by** March 1 a list containing not less than two candidates for each office to be filled. The Nominating Committee must certify to the Secretary that each candidate has declared a willingness to run for office and serve, if elected. The candidates shall be announced in the next Newsletter of the Division. Additional nominations for any office may be made in writing to the Secretary by any ten members of the Division not later than April 1.

Rationale: This small change to Article X would allow the nominating committee to give the Divisional Secretary a list of candidates *before* March 1.

Article XI

Elections of officers shall be held by ~~mail~~ **both paper and appropriately secure electronic ballots**. ~~The Secretary shall mail ballots to the membership of the Division in May.~~ A brief biographical sketch for each candidate shall accompany the ballots. ~~The Secretary or SICB Executive Director shall count, tabulate, record the votes received by August 1, and notify the candidates for office of the results of the election.~~ **The DIZ**

Secretary shall make certain that ballots are made available to the entire membership of the Society and allow one month for their return, the due date being stated on the ballot. The Society-wide Secretary shall be responsible for overseeing the counting, tabulation, and recording of the votes and shall notify the candidates of the results of the election. In the event that a vote results in a tie, the members of the **DIZ** Executive Committee shall vote ~~by mail~~ to resolve the tie.

Rationale: These changes will update our voting procedure to reflect the fact that voting is now done on-line with the option of paper ballots, rather than by mail.

Division of Neurobiology (DNB): 2008 Spring Newsletter

Message from the Officers

James A. Murray (Chair), Thomas J. Pirtle (Secretary), and Duane McPherson (Program Officer)

Greetings to all in the Division. We are all looking forward to the upcoming annual meeting in Boston, especially the symposia on Sensory Biomechanics and Psychoneuroimmunology. We hope to see you all there, and we encourage you to bring your students. Roger Croll is now the representative of our division on the editorial board of the SICB journal *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. The officers (Jim Murray, Duane McPherson, Tom Pirtle) would also like to hear from the members about their interests regarding sponsoring symposia. Rich Satterlie found considerable support for our Recent Advances series of symposia, so we would like to know what new research would be of interest to members, and would perhaps attract new members to our symposia.

We did not receive any proposals for a DNB-related symposium for the 2010 meeting in Seattle. We are hoping for a compensatory increase in contributed oral and poster presentations! Duane (Program Officer) is in the process of planning a symposium for the 2011 meeting on Central Pattern Generators, and would welcome suggestions and a collaborator for that project. And we can certainly propose more than one symposium, if there is interest.

There are 37 neurobiology abstracts scheduled for the 2009 meeting; 16 of these are oral presentations and 21 are posters. This does not include oral presentations in the sessions related to the Sensory Biomechanics symposium. The numbers are good and represent an increase from 2008 (11 oral, 19 posters, not counting symposium-linked). Please consider serving as a judge for poster and oral presentations. An email will be sent in the coming weeks to the DNB membership to ask for participation in judging.

Division of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (DSEB): 2008 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
 - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
 - [Announcement: *Phylogenetics for Dummies*](#)
 - [Message from the Secretary](#)
 - [Proposed Bylaws Changes](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Anne Maglia

The upcoming meeting in Boston promises both an outstanding venue and, as usual, many excellent talks and symposia. Plan to attend the DSEB co-sponsored symposia "The Biology of the Parasitic Crustacea" and "Insect Evolution," the Phylogenetics for Dummies workshop, and the divisional business meeting. And we are always looking for judges for our student paper competition. This is a great way to be active in the division while seeing some fantastic presentations. Looking forward to seeing you in Boston!

Message from the Program Officer

Rachel Collin

The 2009 SICB meeting will be exciting and larger than we have had in a few years. More than 1400 abstracts have been submitted and organized into a large number of exciting sessions, from Sunday January 4 through noon on Wednesday January 7. The venue - The Boston Waterfront Westin - is beautiful and within walking distance of some waterfront restaurants. And I can personally attest there are some yummy options.

The program officers hope that participants can plan to arrive early on January 3 to be sure to catch the plenary lecture and welcome social.

DSEB is co-sponsoring two symposia: "Biology of Parasitic crustaceans" and "Insect Evolution." DSEB will be co-sponsoring a divisional social with DIZ, DEE and the Crustacean Society. The social will be followed by the DIZ auction to benefit the Libbie Hyman Fellowship Program (please see the information from the DIZ newsletter for information on how to donate materials). The posters will be presented over 3 afternoons and we have several exciting lectures scheduled for the evenings including **Sean Carroll** (evo-devo) and **Ira Flatow** (science communication).

The Phylogenetics for Dummies program is organized by **Mike Alfaro** and will focus on using "R" to conduct comparative analyses. The workshop will be divided into two sessions held over 2 days. A description of the workshop follows.

See you all in Boston!

Phylogenetics for Dummies

Michael Alfaro

The Division of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology will host the two-day workshop "**Intro to Phylogenetic Comparative Methods in R**" as part of the Phylogenetics for Dummies series. R is a powerful, free(!), high-level statistical computing language with a number of well-developed packages that focus on tree manipulation and comparative analysis. In R it is easy to:

- perform independent contrasts analysis;
- test for correlation of traits on a tree or across a distribution of tree under many different evolutionary models;
- reconstruct ancestral states;
- examine correlated patterns of trait evolution and lineage diversification;
- simulate character evolution;
- create publication-quality plots of trees and graphs

The first day of the workshop will be aimed towards users that are completely new to the language and will cover topics like: R language essentials, getting your data into R, manipulating trees and tip data, printing trees and figures, and calculating independent contrasts. The second session will cover a range of comparative analyses including: Brownian and OU models of character evolution, diversification analysis, ancestral reconstruction, and simulation methods.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own data sets (in nexus and/or csv format) as well as a laptop computer. If you are interested in attending please email M. Alfaro so that we can better gauge the interests and experience levels of the attendees.

Instructors: Michael Alfaro (UCLA, michaelalfaro@ucla.edu) is an evolutionary biologist studying morphological evolution and species diversification in fishes. Marguerite Butler (University of Hawaii, mbutler@hawaii.edu) studies comparative physiology and morphological evolution in lizards and damselflies and is a contributor to the OUCH package for OHRNSTEIN-UHLENBECK analyses in R. Luke Harmon (University of Idaho, ljarmon@uidaho.edu) studies ecological and evolutionary aspects of adaptive radiations and is the author of the GEIGER package for detecting evolutionary radiations in R.

Message from the Secretary

Marta deMaintenon

Aloha! Looking forward to seeing everybody in Boston! I will wear my snuggies and look forward to good seafood. The big news at this point is to report on the results of officer elections this past spring. We had candidates running for chair-elect and secretary-elect, and 102 votes were cast. Our new chair-elect is Patrick O'Connor, Asst Professor of Anatomical Sciences at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. Our new secretary-elect is Todd Oakley, Asst Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology at UC Santa Barbara. Please join me in extending a welcome to our new officers!

The next piece of business to attend to is some proposed by-laws changes. Lou Burnett, society secretary, has taken on the Herculean task of going through all of the divisional by-laws and has recommended changes that each division makes to bring all the societal by-laws into agreement. In addition, we had one proposed change from the meeting in San Antonio. These proposed changes will appear again in the spring newsletter and voting will take place later in the spring.

Proposed Change to DSEB By-Laws:

The proposed changes are shown below.

Additions are shown in **bold underline**.

Deletions are indicated with a ~~striketrough~~.

Questions or comments about these changes can be addressed at the DSEB business meeting in Boston. The proposed changes will appear again in the spring newsletter and voting will occur later in the spring.

1. Division Chair Term:

Article III. Section 1

The Chair-Elect shall be elected before one annual meeting and serve for a term of one year, and shall then successively and automatically become Chair for a term of ~~two~~ **three** years and then successively and automatically become Past Chair for two years."

Rationale: A proposal was made at the last meeting to adjust the term length of the Division Chair, to be consistent with lengths of terms of our other officers and officers in other divisions.

2. Changes suggested to fix inconsistencies between society and division:

a. Membership

Article II. Section 1

Any member of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology may become a member of the Division of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology by registering with **the SICB business office** ~~the Secretary of the Division or the Executive Director of the Society, without payment of additional dues.~~

Rationale; Membership is actually much simpler than our bylaws suggest.

b. Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Officer

Article III. Section 1

"The officers of the Division shall be a Chair, Past Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, Secretary-Elect, Program Officer, and Program Officer-Elect, ~~and Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Officer~~. The Chair-Elect shall be elected before one annual meeting and serve for a term of one year, and shall then successively and automatically become Chair for a term of two years and then successively and automatically become Past Chair for two years. The Secretary-Elect shall be elected triennially, and shall hold office for a term of one year, and then successively and automatically become Secretary for three years. The Program Officer-Elect shall be elected to serve for one year and shall then successively and automatically become Program Officer for three years. ~~The Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Officer shall be elected by the Student and Postdoctoral members of the division, and serve for two years. Candidates must be Student or Postdoctoral members of the division at the time of election, and may not be re-elected.~~ The Chair may be re-elected to serve another term following the two-year term as Past Chair; the Secretary and Program Officer may be re-elected to successive terms."

New Section 2 (renumber all following sections). Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Representative

The Division Chair shall appoint a Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Representative for a term concurrent with the Division Chair. The Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Representative will contribute to the biannual Division newsletter and represent DSEB at the graduate student/postdoc lunch at the annual Society meeting. The Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Representative will serve on the Division Executive Committee as a non-voting member.

Article IV. Section 7

Section 7. Student/Postdoctoral Affairs ~~Officer~~ **Representative**

The Student/Postdoctoral Affairs ~~Officer~~ **Representative** shall represent Student and Postdoctoral members of the division on the divisional Executive Committee, and on behalf of the division society-wide.

Rationale: Our bylaws are in conflict with the society bylaws in that we have an elected Student/ Postdoctoral Affairs Officer; under society rules, students and postdocs may not run for SICB offices. The suggested changes to fix this involve giving the person a slightly different title, and appointing them rather than electing them.

c. Officer term beginning

Article III. Section 2

"All officers and appointed representatives shall assume the duties of their office ~~at adjournment of the next annual Society business meeting~~ at the end of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to begin, and will end at the adjournment of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to expire.

Rationale: We have officers assuming duties after the SICB business meeting; however this isn't supposed to happen until after the second SICB Executive Committee meeting.

d. Executive Committee

Article III. Section 6

~~In intervals between meetings,~~ The management of the Division shall be vested in an Executive Committee consisting of the officers of the Division."

Rationale: Management occurs between and during meetings.

Division of Vertebrate Morphology (DVM): 2008 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

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

Message from the Chair

Kurt Schwenk



The really big news, of course, is the economy-or lack thereof. The Division has its own money woes, as I will discuss further, below. As part of an 'emergency rescue plan' to bail out DVM-and in my capacity as Chair (and, you will recall, Commander)-I took the unprecedented step of firing the entire DVM Executive Committee. I figured that this would not only save money for critical divisional needs (e.g., more canapes at socials), but would make the decision-making process more streamlined (no more pesky 'disagreements'). However, Secretary Gillis pointed out that none of the Executive Committee is actually paid anything for all the time and effort they put into society business. Thus, against my better judgment, I reinstated them (they would say that they never actually went anywhere, but that is typical of people in denial).

The second really big event since I last wrote, is that I bought a new and improved motorcycle. As divisional Chair I feel compelled to represent our interests even while on the road, so I've adopted a DVM theme for my bike (see photo). There is no sacrifice too great.



DVM Bylaws: Change We Need or Change We Can Be Proud Of?

If the title doesn't ring a bell, you need to bone-up on presidential politics! Regardless, I am forced to be serious and consider some DVM business that is, in fact, important. Specifically, I wish to alert the membership to upcoming proposed changes in the DVM bylaws. The first two of these are unlikely to be controversial, however the last is something we need to discuss as a division: (i) small changes to language suggested by SICB Secretary, Lou Burnett, to make it consistent with current society structure, etc.; (ii) changes to update the language related to the divisional Executive Committee, the election schedule and the tenure of the Chair-Elect; and (iii) changes in the bylaws that permit us to charge a divisional dues' of \$5. The rationale for this last change is discussed below. Note that each of these sets of bylaw changes will be voted on separately by the membership in the spring after ample time for discussion/comment.

The Need for DVM Membership Dues

This topic was broached at the last business meeting in San Antonio, but the situation has become critical and needs to be acted on now. As most members will recall, SICB has changed the way it budgets money for individual divisions-back in the day, money was apportioned according to division size, whereas now, divisional budgets are the same across the board (presently \$3100 total). This resulted in a significant decline in the funds DVM has available to support its activities. At the desire of the membership attending the business meeting, I made a motion at the SICB Executive Committee meeting last winter to return to a proportional method of divisional funding, but the motion was resoundingly defeated (only one other person voted with me). Regardless, society officers feel strongly that the flat-rate budgets have big advantages for the society, as a whole, and they may be right. From a self-serving perspective, given the fractioning of DVM into daughter divisions, we are no longer the largest division and our budgets would never return to what they were in the past, in any case. Thus, we must deal with what we have now. Of the \$3100 total DVM budget, \$2000 is earmarked for DVM-sponsored symposia. There is no budget category for regional meetings, so we are now forced to use the symposium budget to support these also. Consequently, in a year like this one, in which we had five symposia to sponsor and two regional meetings (southeast and northeast), there's not much money to go around. In fact, what we were able to give to each of these worthy recipients was a pittance! The issue was discussed extensively among DVM Executive Committee members and there was unanimous support for the principle of giving some money to regional meetings, in addition to our sponsored symposia (at the national meeting). Indeed, without divisional/SICB support, it would not be possible to have a regional meeting in most cases. I personally, am strongly in favor of regional meeting support and I therefore made the final decision to give a substantial part of our budget to the regional meetings this year. But there was no optimal solution to this problem and the issue obviously needs to be considered by the entire membership.

The Solution

With the crashing economy, the fiscal state of SICB is less solid than it was a year ago. We are likely to see more red ink in the near future. Thus, we are very unlikely to see an increase in our divisional budget anytime soon. Indeed, we may have to cut back. I am therefore urging the membership to support the institution of a small divisional fee (dues) to supplement our budget and give it the flexibility it needs to support vital regional meetings, as well as other initiatives. I am proposing a nominal fee of \$5 across the board to be added to annual SICB membership fees. This dues structure is already practiced by two other divisions (Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry; and Comparative Endocrinology) and is therefore not without precedent. To be completely direct, without divisional dues, we will be unable to have regional meetings in the future (unless hosts are able to obtain institutional or external funding) and we will continue to have frugal socials, poorly funded national symposia and limited student support. The money generated by dues could be spent according to the discretion of the membership and the DVM Executive Committee (within bounds, of course) and would therefore provide much greater flexibility in the activities we can fund.

Given the importance of these fiscal matters, please make an effort to attend the DVM business meeting at the SICB annual meeting in Boston. Encourage your students, postdocs and other DVM members to attend, as

well. After discussion of this and other issues at the business meeting, the modified bylaws will be posted on the web for member feedback and then the three proposed sets of modifications to the bylaws (including language related to divisional dues) will be voted on in the spring 2009. I hope you will support the dues initiative, but come to Boston with your questions, concerns and comments in any case. We need to consider every option.

A Call for Student Paper/Poster Prize Judges

We have an urgent need for people to help judge the student papers competing for the DVM poster prize and the D. Dwight Davis award. We need enough people on the committee to make sure there are at least three judges at every student paper. I would LOVE to see wider participation in divisional business. Please email me right away if you are interested in joining us in this most important task (kurt.schwenk@uconn.edu). Postdocs and new faculty are urged to volunteer (sorry grads-not for this one). Please don't make me come find you-I have pictures.

Regional Meetings About to Hit the Fan!

As this newsletter goes to press, two DVM regional meetings are about to take place: a combined DVM/DCB southeast regional meeting at Clemson University on 11 October, organized by incoming DVM Program Officer, Rick Blob and grad student, Gabriel Rivera, and a DVM northeast regional meeting at the University of Connecticut on 25 October, organized by outgoing DVM Chair Kurt Schwenk and grad students Tobias Landberg and Diego Sustaita. These are fantastic meetings and anyone who can make one or both of them is urged to do so.

I've run-on enough... See you in Boston-and don't forget to attend the Business meeting!

Message from the Program Officer

Jeff Walker



Bring your appetite for clam chowdah and grilled haddock because the 2009 SICB meetings are on the waterfront in Boston, only a short walk from the docks and a high density of restaurants serving fresh seafood. All of the sessions will be held in the meeting hotel, but that is no excuse to fail to wake up early and get in an icy run along the Charles, a short skating session on the frog pond, or a few laps of xc skiing at the Weston ski track. But get back to the hotel by 8AM because we have a record number of abstracts for these meetings, and again, many, many sessions include DVM speakers. There are several symposia that DVM is co-sponsoring, including Hormonal Regulation of Whole-Animal Performance, Sensory Biomechanics, Biomaterials, and Genomics and Vertebrate Adaptive Radiation. In addition to the regular array of evening presentations, Sean B. Carroll will give the 1st annual Moore lecture and Ira Flatow will give the plenary presentation on the opening evening. There are two important notes on future symposia. First, there are important updates on symposium funding. Registration re-imburement will be \$100. SICB will continue to pay page charges (\$135

per page) for up to 10 pages and the cost of one color plate (\$600). Second, not a single DVM related symposium proposal was submitted for the 2010 meetings in Seattle. I accept most of the blame for this; it is my job to actively encourage DVMists to submit symposium proposals. But this conspicuous absence of DVM should plant a seed of guilt in all of us for not taking the initiative to develop good DVM related symposia. VM is not a languishing science, but it will be viewed that way and become one if we do not actively market our best stuff! I look forward to hearing about your symposium ideas for the 2011 meetings (Denver? Salt Lake? New Orleans?) this January in Boston.

Message from the Secretary

Gary Gillis



As I try to clear my head from haze that comes with getting little to no sleep for the past 8 months (here you can see me trying to share my enthusiasm for coffee with one of my twin sons), one thing that is clear is that I am extremely excited about the upcoming SICB meeting. There will be amazing talks, fabulous symposia, and the opportunity to re-connect with old friends and new colleagues, but from my perspective, I have to confess, nothing can surpass the fact that I'll have a hotel room to myself for at least two of the four nights!

On the topic of upcoming meetings, the success of the annual Northeast Regional DVM meeting has spread south and this year Gabe Rivera, Rick Blob and Ty Hedrick are hosting a jointly sponsored DVM/DCB southeast regional meeting at Clemson University on October 11. I expect it will be a great success and indeed look forward to hearing about it soon. I'm also looking forward to the Northeast regional meeting at our commander's very own institution, UConn, on October 25. These meetings are always great opportunities to practice for the upcoming SICB sessions and to share progress with the local DVM community.

I want to congratulate Rick Blob and Lara Ferry-Graham on being elected DVM Program Officer and Secretary, respectively. They will be in their elect position for 2009 and will transition into action at the Seattle meeting in 2010. I also want to say thanks to Alice Gibb and Kris Lappin for agreeing to run for these positions.

As a division, we've been relatively slow, in fact, inactive is probably a better descriptor, when it comes to highlighting our members online. A quick glance at the SICB website will reveal that many divisions are well on their way to compiling a "researcher database," in which a fancy picture (or compilation), along with some text about research interests, are used to describe various members within the division. Kurt, Jeff and I, as well as the newly elected officers-to-be, Mark Westneat, Rick Blob and Lara Ferry-Graham aim to get something up in the near future and we'll be asking you to do the same. I'll have more to say on this at the meeting in Boston. I look forward to sharing chowdah with some of you soon...