

Division of Invertebrate Zoology



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Message from the Chair

Dianna Padilla

Dear members of DIZ,

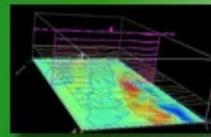
First, I want to thank Renaë Brodie for her hard work as the secretary of our division for these past several years. Her dedication to the division has been tremendous, including getting these newsletters out! Although I am sure she is looking forward to being a "regular citizen," we will miss her efforts. She will be passing the baton to Erika Iyengar after the meeting in Seattle. Please give Renaë a big thank you when you see her!

I hope you all are planning to attend our 2010 meeting in Seattle. As you see from Jim McClintock's report, DIZ is sponsoring five symposia, including two society-wide symposia, at the meeting. Invertebrates will be represented well this year! One of the symposia will be honoring Richard Strathmann, who has recently retired. To celebrate, DIZ will be hosting a social in Richard's honor with AMS and DEE on Tuesday evening, January 5. So, plan on attending and wish Richard well. Also, please plan to attend the DIZ business meeting, which will be in the Conference Center on Monday evening January 4 from 6 to 6:45 p.m.

As you have seen from the essays on Grand Challenges in Organismal Biology that have been appearing in each issue of ICB, SICB has taken a leadership role in identifying and **exploring the grand challenge issues. This work will continue at the Seattle meeting, where discussions about actions to address grand challenge questions will begin in earnest.** Please take advantage of these meetings to share your ideas with oth-



Dianna hangs out with an old friend.



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ers, especially the SICB Executive Committee and representatives from NSF that attend our meeting. This is a great time to have a real impact on the future of our science.

Finally, I would like to take some time to remember two freshwater invertebrate biologists who recently passed away, Stanley I Dodson (University of Wisconsin) and Lawrence (Larry) Slobodkin (Stony Brook University). Although these two scientists were not recent members of our society, they impacted

our field. Their careers and work illustrate the power of studying invertebrate systems, which have proven to be models for addressing biological questions of all types at all levels of organization.



Stanley I Dodson

Larry and Stanley shared many characteristics. Both found their passion for invertebrates while at Yale under the tutelage of G. Evelyn Hutchinson, Larry as a PhD student (completing his PhD at age 23), and Stanley as an undergraduate.

Stanley found a career in studying his beloved *Daphnia*, among other invertebrates, and produced an amazing array of papers and an extraordinary number of students. His first paper, which is from his undergraduate research (Brooks and Dodson 1965 *Science* 150:28-35), on size selective predation, is a citation classic. Stanley was unafraid to explore new areas of science and was always pushing the edge of his approach to science and the questions he asked. His work covered everything from the basic biology of freshwa-

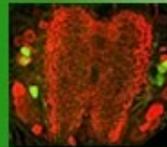
ter invertebrates, to phenotypic plasticity, biogeography, invasion biology, community structure and patterns of diversity to pollution and water quality. Stanley's work on inducible defenses and phenotypic plasticity has stimulated many studies (and dissertations) on a variety of invertebrate systems, as well as several symposia and presentations at our meetings.



Larry Slobodkin

Larry was a real trailblazer. He came to Stony Brook from the University of Michigan to found the first ever Department of Ecology and Evolution. He was a "big thinker" and is known widely in ecology for his fundamental work identifying the energetic inefficiencies in transfer among trophic levels, trophic cascades and interactions among trophic levels in communities, and links between complexity and stability of systems. Less generally known was his passion for invertebrates. He worked not only on *Daphnia*, but also on *Hydra* and was intrigued by the coexistence of green and brown *Hydra*. He was an inspirational teacher, and quirky enough to engage even seemingly disinterested students. His one teaching regret was that he was never able to teach Invertebrates. His quick humor and charm made him a delightful colleague, and he never relented in asking those hard questions that really make you think.

Stanley and Larry were both clever, creative, lateral thinkers who loved science, discovery and teaching. Both were very generous with their thoughts and ideas, and were outstanding critical thinkers, colleagues and



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mentors. Both loved natural history and were astonished not only by the diversity, but the cleverness of nature. And, both will be missed by those who knew them, and the rest of the invertebrate biology community who read their papers and are inspired by their ideas. So, drink a toast to Stanley and Larry, and the wonders of invertebrates.

Message from the Program Officer

James McClintock

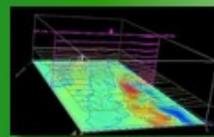
Greetings! The January 3-7, 2010 SICB meetings to be held at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel in Seattle are rapidly approaching. Having recently toured the facilities at both our hotel and the convention center conveniently located just across the street, I can assure you that we are in very good hands! I was especially impressed with the huge amount of open ballroom space available for our poster sessions. No squeezing awkwardly past one another again this year! Seattle appears to a very popular site for the 2010 meetings as there were a 1,318 abstracts submitted (2nd most in SICB history). Also contributing to the meetings popularity are five outstanding symposia that DIZ will be co-sponsoring. Two of these five are society-wide. These two include the symposium organized by Michael Hart, Molly Jacobs, and Bob Podolsky entitled *Evolutionary*



Jim in Antarctica

Paths among Developmental Possibilities: A symposium Marking the Contributions and Influence of Richard Strathmann, and also the symposium organized by myself, Charles Amstler, Amy Moran, Art Woods and Bill Baker entitled "*Advances in Antarctic Marine Biology*." The other three symposia include *Animal Regeneration: Integrating Development, Ecology, and Evolution* organized by Alexa Bely and Sara Lindsay, *Assembling the Cnidarian Tree of Life* organized by Paulyn Cartwright and Marymegan Daly, and *Marine Ecosystem Engineers in a Changing World: Establishing Links across Systems* organized by Sarah Berke and Linda Walters. You may also be interested in attending a special workshop open to all SICB meeting participants entitled *Implementation of the Grand Challenge* that will be held during the early afternoon of Wednesday, January 6. There will be an invited panel of speakers and ample opportunity for open discussion. This is a unique opportunity for you to personally help craft and conceptualize future key directions of research (hopefully you have been reading the series of recent Grand Challenge publications in *ICB*). Given that NSF has requested our leadership in this process, the society is optimistic that this effort may ultimately result in the availability of targeted NSF research funds down the road.

On the social front, this year DIZ will join DEE and ASB in hosting an evening social along with those attending and participating in the society-wide symposium honoring Richard Strathmann. It will be a very special evening. Please do plan to attend so as to offer your personal congratulations to Dick. I also en-



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courage you to plan to arrive on Sunday so that you can attend the opening plenary lecture by our Past President, Dr. John Pearse. John is sure to be both entertaining and insightful, as well as kick off the meetings in style! There are many excellent restaurants within easy walking distance of the hotel. I had a very good dinner at *The Daily Grill* located on the first floor of our hotel (the bar features local draft beers). Importantly, I also found an inexpensive burrito restaurant in the lower level of our convention center!

I look forward to seeing you in Seattle!

Message from the Secretary

Renaë Brodie

Hi Everyone,

I am pleased to welcome our new secretary, Erika Iyengar, to whom I am passing on the plume. Erika is an associate professor at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania, where she is a behavioral ecologist with a special interest in the kleptoparasitic snail *Trichotropis*. I would also like to thank Jonathan Allen for running in the election and everyone who voted.



Renaë and her F1s
at Plum Island, MA

Please take a moment to visit our DIZ homepage (<http://www.sicb.org/divisions/>

[diz.php3](#)). If you would like to post an announcement or advertise a course or a job or there, please send me an email (rbrodie@mtholyoke.edu). Finally, send me a picture and paragraph describing your research if you would like to be included in the Researchers Database. The Database is a marvelous tool for attracting potential advisors, if you are a young researcher, or students, if you are a seasoned PI.



Erika Iyengar,
new DIZ secretary

I look forward to seeing all of you in January and hearing about your research over Redhook and many coffees.

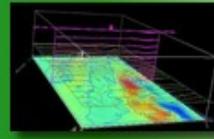
Message from the Graduate Student - Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Jann Vendetti

I hope that you are having a productive Fall semester and are looking forward to SICB-Seattle in January. DIZ has sponsored a variety of exciting symposia that range in topic from Antarctic biol-



Jann looking at a snail in the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP)



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ogy to regeneration. Check out the SICB meeting page to learn more about them. Also, don't miss the "Grand Challenges in Organismal Biology" series in the society's journal *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, found online at <http://icb.oxfordjournals.org>.

The Student/Postdoc workshop at the Seattle meeting is titled, "Careers Outside of Traditional Academia" and will feature a panel of SICB members from museums, government, and industry. It should be an excellent opportunity to explore some potential applications of your training in biology that are suited to alternative careers in science.

I wish you the best in your research and writing this Fall. See you in Seattle!

Message from the Student Awards Committee Chair

Ben Miner

Another meeting is upon us and we anticipate many students to vie for DIZ's Best Student Paper and Poster awards. I encourage all post-graduate members who are attending the meetings in Seattle to sign up as judges. Similar to last year, this year attendees will have the option to sign up for judging as a part of the on-line meeting registration. However, you are still welcome to sign up as a judge by contacting me directly. Simply email me (benjamin.miner@wwu.edu). Judges are asked to referee 4 or fewer presentations.

Last year we allowed judges to choose talks to judge via the web, and the feedback from judges was very positive. So, we will keep this method in place. Judges will go online and select the talks they want to judge, first come first choose. When the schedule is complete, I will email your assignments and judging instructions-typically late 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 (benjamin.miner@wwu.edu).

This is my last year in this position. I would like to thank Elizabeth Davis-Berg for volunteering for the position. We will both be at the meeting to ensure that the transition is smooth.

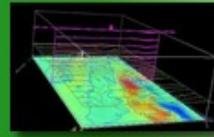
See you in January.

Message from the Libbie Hyman Scholarship Selection Committee Chair

Bruno Pernet

We had an excellent pool of applicants for the 2009 Libbie Hyman Memorial Scholarship – 26 candidates, including undergraduates and graduate students from schools





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all around the United States. There were substantially more applications than normal (in my three years of experience on this committee, at least), which I attribute to the fact that we advertised the scholarship's availability to SICB members as a whole, not just to DIZ members. The committee (Will Jaeckle, John Zardus, and myself) examined all of these applications carefully, spent some time debating their merits, then settled on one awardee. That was Fredrick Larabee, a graduate student in the Department of Entomology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; he had proposed to use the scholarship to fund a summer's fieldwork on jaw-based propulsion in trap-jaw ants at the Archbold Biological Station in Florida.

I corresponded with Fred Larabee in October, and it sounded like his summer at Archbold was exactly the kind of field experience that the Libbie Hyman Scholarship exists to support. At Archbold Fred had his first field encounters with his study subjects – always a memorable event! – eventually capturing four species of trap-jaw ants in two genera. He spent much of his time in the field studying the foraging behavior and diets of these ants, as well as jaw-based propulsion in its natural context, and now continues to work on samples collected this summer, studying the kinematic parameters of the ants' mandible strike as well as the material properties of their mandible cuticle. Fred noted that “overall it was a terrific trip, not just because of the work that I was able to accomplish but because of the seeds for future studies that were planted just from observing my study organ-

isms (and other insects at the station).”

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 2010 -- so please encourage your best students to apply! Applications are due March 5th, 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 continuing 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. Click on Donate to SICB on the SICB home page (www.sicb.org) or sent to:

SICB Business Office
Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Fund
1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 402
McLean, VA 22101

Checks should be made payable to SICB and marked as a "Contribution to the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Fund." All contributions are tax deductible. Thanks for your help!