



## Division of Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology

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### DPCB Officers & Representatives

Michael Alfaro  
*Chair 2013-2016*

Kerin Claeson  
*Secretary 2012-2015*

Rachel Collin  
*Program Officer 2011-2014*

Graham Slater  
*Student/Postdoctoral Affairs  
Committee Representative  
2012-2015*

### Message from the Chair

Michael Alfaro, [Chair.DPCB@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DPCB@sicb.org)

I am excited about the upcoming meetings in Austin. We will be phasing in a major change to the student paper competition this year by holding all of the talks in a special student session. We will also be grouping all of student posters so that they will be shown in the same poster session. These changes should improve the visibility of student research to the SICB community and will allow us to have the same set of judges evaluate all student talks. To mark this reorganization, we have renamed the student competition the **David and Marvalee Wake Award for Best Student Presentations** in recognition of the outstanding contributions that Dave and Marvalee have made to the SICB phylogenetic community. We hope that this change will help highlight the quality research contributed by DPCB students to the meetings. So keep an eye out for the student sessions and please pass on any feedback you might have to me ([Chair.DPCB@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DPCB@sicb.org)), Kerin Claeson ([Secretary.DPCB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DPCB@sicb.org)), or Rachel Collin ([DPO.DPCB@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DPCB@sicb.org)).

Please also join us at the division's business meeting to discuss your ideas and get involved in the society. Check the annual meeting schedule to find out when that meeting will be held. There is a lot to talk about, including our upcoming elections for chair and secretary. I look forward to seeing you there.



View of Southern Side of the Texas State Capitol from North Congress Ave. (photo courtesy of Kerin Claeson)

### Message from the Program Officer

Rachel Collin, [DPO.DPCB@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DPCB@sicb.org)

At the end of September, the SICB Program Committee met in Austin to arrange the talks, posters and social events for the 2014 annual SICB meeting, and it looks like it will be a great meeting. This will be the second largest meeting ever with over 1500 abstracts



submitted. All of the sessions will be held in the Hilton Austin, located near 6th Street's restaurants and music venues.

This year's divisional social will be combined with socials from DIZ, AMS and DEDB. Come and enjoy finger food and meet your colleagues. The highlights this year, in addition to the inspirational Moore and Bern lectures, include a pub crawl (new this year), an improved meeting app to help you connect and plan your schedule, and a special DPCB best student paper session. Please look up this session and give our divisional students your support!

Again the program officers urge you to think about exciting integrative symposium topics for upcoming meetings. The society relies on great symposia to keep the journal on the cutting edge as well as attracting associated sessions to the meeting.

In other news - DPCB would like to congratulate Todd Oakley on his election as divisional Program Officer. Todd will join me as Program Officer-Elect for one year, starting at the January meeting before I step down in 2015.



Texas Memorial Museum Hall of Paleontology on UT Austin Campus  
(photo courtesy of Kerin Claeson)

### Message from the Secretary

Kerin M. Claeson, [Secretary.DPCB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DPCB@sicb.org)

Elections for a new chair and secretary will take place in Spring 2014. We wish to find candidates by the end of the January SICB meeting. The chair will appoint a nominating committee of good standing SICB members and that committee will name at least two candidates per position. According to Article III, Section 6 of the posted DPCB bylaws, if you (or someone you know) are interested in running for either of these positions, you may nominate said candidate via petition

with support of at least the (10) division members in good standing. Descriptions of both positions follow.

**Chair** – The Chair shall preside at the business meeting of the Division, shall be responsible for the program and meetings of the Division and shall promote in every practical way the interests of the Division. The Chair shall represent the Division on the Executive Committee of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. As, Chair-Elect during the year following election, the Chair-Elect shall attend meetings at which the Chair officially represents the Division whenever possible, in order to prepare for his/her term of office. Should the Chair have reason to resign, or for other reason be unable to continue, the Chair-Elect shall be prepared to assume the office of Chair.

**Secretary** – The Secretary shall keep the records of the Division, prepare the Division Newsletters and shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the Chair. The Secretary shall substitute for the Chair in the event that the Chair, Chair-elect, and Past Chair are unable to act. The Secretary-Elect shall assume the duties of the Secretary whenever that person is unable to act during the year following election.

As Michael indicated, during the last year, the changes were proposed regarding the best student presentation, or the "Wake Award." At the upcoming January meeting in Austin Texas, students giving oral presentations will be scheduled into the same session. Judging this year will not include evaluation of an extended abstract. Extended abstracts will be judged beginning with the 2014 submission cycle for the January 2015 meeting in West Palm Beach. We are currently taking submissions for a new logo for this award – see contest rules below.

Changes to the bylaws related to this award are listed as follows. A vote on these amendments will take place during the divisional business meeting in Austin.





### Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Proposed deletion = ~~strikethrough~~

Proposed addition = **bold underline**

### Article VII. ~~Best Student Presentation Awards~~ **David and Marvalee Wake Award for Best Student Presentations**

#### Section 1. Awards

At each annual meeting of the Society, two awards, each consisting of an appropriate monetary sum and a certificate, may be made for student research in systematic biology. One award may be made to the best student oral presentation, and one to the best student poster presentation.

#### Section 2. Participation

**Student-in-Training Members, Graduate Student Members and those SICB members who have received a Ph.D. within 12 months of the competition are eligible to compete for awards.**

~~Undergraduate and graduate students, and graduates within one year of receiving the Ph.D., who are members in good standing of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology and who have not previously won an award in the same presentation format (oral or poster) from an SICB division are eligible. The work should be original and principally the work of the student presenter. Students may apply to compete for the awards when submitting the abstract of their work for the Annual Meeting. A prize can be awarded only once to any student. A student who wins best oral may not compete in best oral presentation contest in this division in the future. A student who wins best poster presentation may not compete in best poster presentation contest in this division in the future.~~

#### Section 3. Selection Committee

A selection committee shall be appointed each year by the Program Officer, consisting of at least three members of the Division of Systematic and Evolutionary **Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology**. The selection committee will reserve the right to decline to make an award at any given meeting, based on the quality of presentations.

**CONTEST ALERT!** We are currently taking submissions for a new logo for this award. Please send your submissions to me ([Secretary.DPCB@sigb.org](mailto:Secretary.DPCB@sigb.org)). They will be included in the spring newsletter and a contest will be held at the same time as elections.

Rules are straightforward.

- Please include the full name of the award "David and Marvalee Wake Award for Best Student Presentations" OR simply "Wake Award."
- Logo must shrink down well to be printed on a poster at 4"x4".
- Logo should capture the essence of the division and the award's namesakes.
- Submissions must be received by February 14, 2014 at Noon EST to have full consideration.



*Design your own logo to be used as the official logo for the David and Marvalee Wake Award for Best Student Presentations*

### Proposed Wake Award Guidelines

*A vote will be held at the January 2014 divisional business meeting on the proposed guidelines for the Wake Award. The guidelines appear below.*

Students interested in entering the Competition must submit a 1-page summary on or before the SICB-wide deadline for abstracts. This 1-page summary is in addition to the normal abstract that SICB requests. Submit your 1-page summary as a pdf to the DPCB secretary via email ([Secretary.DPCB@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DPCB@sicb.org)).

All 1-page abstracts must conform to the five points listed.

1. Abstract must have a title, your name, current\* affiliation, and anticipated\* graduation date. (*If degree is completed, also list the date and institution where work was conducted.*)
2. Use 12-point font with 1-inch margins.
3. One small figure may be embedded in the 1-page summary.
4. Submission must be attached as a pdf file.
5. The abstract should be written in plain language and include details about the significance of the research question, methods, and outcomes.



We are especially interested in key tests of big ideas, new syntheses of formerly separate areas, and novel applications of phylogenetic and comparative methods. Summaries will be judged by a panel of at least three members of the Division of Phylogenetic and Comparative Biology.

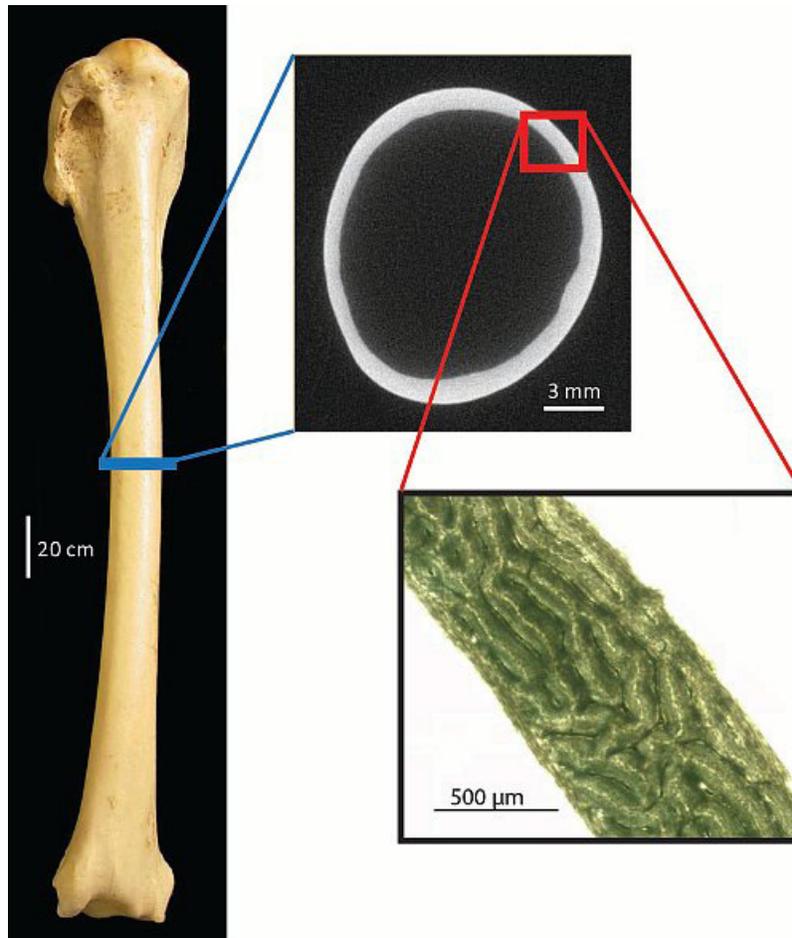
Eight finalists for the oral competition will be scheduled to present during a single speakers session at the annual meeting. Each student will have **15 minutes** which should be broken down into roughly **12 minutes of slides and 3 minutes** for questions from the audience. Failure to leave time for questions will result in automatic disqualification.

There will be no preset number of posters that can be accepted for the poster awards session. Poster semi-finalists will be scheduled for a single afternoon. All posters must include the SICB logo and the poster prize session logo for the Wake Award. All poster participants should prepare a five-minute presentation and be prepared to answer questions from a panel of judges who will identify themselves. A group of up to five finalists will be selected by the poster prize committee during the morning of the poster sessions based on poster layout and content presentation (without presenters in attendance). Judges will visit the finalist's posters during the poster session to evaluate knowledge of the material covered in the poster.

### From the DPCB Researchers Database

Contributions to the divisional database should be submitted to the divisional secretary

Evolution of the avian locomotor apparatus, *Erin Simons*



*Erin Simons*