

SICB Fall 2002 Newsletter

Contents

Message from the President

Marvalee H. Wake

Message from the Program Officer

Ron Dimock

Message from the Treasurer

Ron Dimock

Message from the Secretary

Penny M. Hopkins

News and Announcements

- NSF: Evolutionary Synthesis Center Workshops Report
- AMS/SICB Meeting: Mildred and Ralph Buchsbaum Prize for Excellence in Photomicrography

Committee Reports

- Educational Council
- Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee

Division Newsletters

Animal Behavior (DAB)

- Message from the Secretary

Comparative Endocrinology (DCE)

- Message from the Chair
- Message from the Program Officer
- Message from the Secretary

Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry (DCPB)

- Message from the Chair
- Message from the Program Officer
- Message from the Secretary
- Message from the Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative
- Remembrances of Peter Hochachka and Ladd Prosser

Developmental and Cell Biology (DDCB)

- Message from the Chair
- Message from the Program Officer

Evolutionary Developmental Biology (DEDB)

- Message from the Chair
- Message from the Program Officer
- Message from the Secretary

Ecology and Evolution (DEE)

- Message from the DEE officers

Invertebrate Zoology (DIZ)

- Message from the Chair
- Message from the Program Officer
- Message from the Secretary
- Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship
- Message from the Graduate Student–Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Neurobiology (DNB)

- Message from the Chair
- Message from the Program Officer and the Secretary

Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (DSEB)

- Message from the Officers

Vertebrate Morphology (DVM)

- Message from the Chair
- Message from the Program Officer
- Message from the Secretary

Message from the President

Marvalee H. Wake

I hope to see all of you at our upcoming annual SICB meeting in Toronto in early January! The preparations for the meeting are well along, and our Program Officer, Stacia Sower, and the Divisional Program Officers, as well as several of our committees, with exemplary facilitation by BAI, have an exciting and stimulating meeting, scientifically and socially, in store for us. It is a particular pleasure to be able to meet in Canada, and with the Canadian Society of Zoologists. Our program will include symposia featuring Canadian science, as well as some co-sponsored by divisions of both of our societies. This year's Evolution Town Meeting, ably organized by our Public Affairs Committee, includes the participation of Canadian and US scientists. This meeting is a wonderful opportunity to meet with friends, and possibly to establish some new international collaborations. I look forward to joining you in welcoming our Canadian colleagues, and to working with them.

We have had a year of notable accomplishment for SICB, in my opinion. First, our journal is now changed in name and format; congratulations to our Editor, John Edwards, and all who work with him, on this achievement. I've heard mostly praise for it, including from library personnel. As you may be aware from the long time before you received numbers 1 and 2 this year, Allen Press needed that time to effect the new format, but everything is well on line now. Good progress is being made in reducing our backload now, and symposia are being published quickly—John expects that ICB will shortly be able to publish the opinion pieces, teaching contributions, etc., that we long have planned.

Our Treasurer, Ron Dimock, and our Executive Director, Brett Burk, have been managing our funds most ably during a year in which we've all witnessed our difficult economy. The Treasurer's Report is likely to be a presentation of more good news than bad, at a time when the reverse is usually true.

Our management group, Burk and Associates, continues to work effectively and creatively with us. Brett, Sue, Micah, Mike, Heide, and many others are usually highly responsive, and come up with not only great ideas, but the mechanisms for putting the best of them into action. As you've seen, we are now able to do our elections electronically, and our newsletters and e-mails to you are done in that manner. We keep 'tweaking the system' as we hear suggestions, comments, and even complaints from you, so please read all of these items, and tell us what you think of them! Even more importantly, please RESPOND to them, if they are appropriate to your interests—we have begun asking you for information pertinent to various issues that are arising for biologists, and welcome your contributions.

Because so much has changed in terms of management and format for SICB, I determined, with the advice and consent of the Officers and the Executive Committee, that a revision of our Constitution and Bylaws was in order to bring us up-to-date in terms of current practices, and to provide for our future. An ad hoc committee chaired by our Secretary, Penny Hopkins, has been hard at work on this, and we will have a draft to present to you for discussion at our meeting in Toronto.

Our committees have been working hard and well; their chairs and members are loyal and committed. Our new Membership Diversity Committee has many plans, and our longer-standing committees continue their good work. At the same time, I must note that we always need new members for our committees (and candidates for our offices), so please think of ways that you can contribute to SICB. I am especially grateful to all of the folks who have agreed to be candidates for office in our upcoming elections.

Finally, because this is my last message to you, as I will hand over the gavel (or would, if we had a gavel) to John Wingfield at the second Executive Committee meeting in Toronto, I want to thank many people for many things: to Ron Dimock for being the perfect Treasurer; to all the other officers, both society-wide and

divisional, for their loyal support and hard work; to Brett Burk for being willing to take on all sorts of suggestions, always with a pleasant demeanor; to all the folks at BAI for all their help and ideas; and to all of you for your participation in SICB. I continue to believe in the enormous potential of integrative and comparative biology in dealing with complex issue, problems, and questions in science, and in SICB as a nearly ideal way of expressing and realizing much of that potential. So, welcome to John Wingfield and to all the other incoming and continuing officers and committee members, and very best wishes for much success!

Message from the Program Officer

Stacia Sower

We are all very much looking forward to another exciting SICB meeting in Toronto. We have an outstanding group of symposia, contributed oral and poster presentations, special lectures, workshops, get-togethers, and socials. In addition, due to President Marvalee Wake's goal of increasing our international perspective, this meeting will include one official Canadian Society of Zoology symposium and two divisional symposia that are co-sponsored with CSZ. These symposia will be posted on the SICB website by mid-November. Almost 800 abstracts have been submitted, arranged into sessions, and are being posted on the SICB website for your perusal. We also plan this year to send the program in pdf format so you will be able to review the program prior to the meeting in Toronto.

Martin Feder, Professor of Organismal Biology and Anatomy and a long-time member and past-president of SICB, will open the meeting Saturday evening with a talk entitled "Days of Miracle and Wonder: The Future of Integrative and Comparative Biology." Professor Feder's research is on evolutionary physiology and adaptation, and exploits emerging synergies among integrative biology, molecular biology, and genome-enabled science. His talk will explore how new modes of integration – scientific, social, and electronic – may revolutionize how we think about organisms. This is a terrific way to start our meeting. Following this session, we will have an opening welcome reception.

In addition to Martin Feder's opening talk, there will be two other special lectures at the Toronto meeting. On Sunday evening, the DCPB George A. Bartholomew Awardee will give the Bartholomew Lecture. The following evening Dr. Hubert Vaudry, a pre-eminent endocrinologist from the European Institute for Peptide Research, France, will give the second DCE Howard A. Bern Lecture entitled "Synthesis of biologically active steroids in the brain of amphibians: regulation by neurotransmitters and neuropeptides".

There will be one Society-wide symposium entitled "Selection and Evolution of Performance in Nature". The official society-wide CSZ symposium is entitled "Biology of the Canadian Arctic". These symposia promise to offer very exciting, wide-ranging topics.

The ten Division-sponsored and CSZ-co-sponsored symposia include "Contemporary Approaches to Endocrine Signaling", "Flash Communication: Fireflies at Fifty", "Comparative and Integrative Vision Research", "Patterns and Process in the Evolution of Fishes", and "Comparative Biology of Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator". In addition a special Kowalevsky Minisymposium on Wed, Jan 8, will provide a formal forum for presentations by eight recent recipients of the "Alexander Kowalevsky Medal", a prestigious international award given by the St. Petersburg Society of Naturalists. Check the Divisional Program Officers' messages in this newsletter for their accounts of the Divisional symposia, and view the symposium descriptions on the SICB website.

Again this year the oral and poster presentations will be organized by topics, effectively mixing the interests of many of the divisions, and facilitating exchange of ideas and viewpoints.

Among the special sessions planned will be workshops in conjunction with three of the symposia, a Media Workshop on "Killer Websites" by Ruedi Birenheide (SICB's outstanding webmaster), the Evolution Town Meeting and a workshop on Phylogenetics for Dummies. The Graduate Student/Postdoc Committee continues to organize events for students, the heart of our Society, with a luncheon on Sunday, a workshop Tuesday evening and finally a society-wide social later that evening. In addition, NSF will hold two workshops as well as have a booth for people interested in funding opportunities.

Since this is my first message as Program Officer for SICB, I would like to acknowledge and say many thanks

to John Pearse, Past Program Officer, who did an outstanding job the last four years. John provided invaluable experience and knowledge of aspects of programming for SICB especially during the transition between Smith–Bucklin and Burk & Associates. In the past two years, he spent two to three months putting the program together with the assistance of DPOs, and oversaw the shift from divisionally arranged contributed sessions to topical sessions. This required much more effort from the society Program Officer than in previous years. John has cared deeply for the programming of SICB and put many long, thoughtful hours into its arrangement. I have been absolutely amazed, as I have taken over for him, at the amount of time that he dedicated to SICB. MANY thanks, John.

In regard to my short tenure as program officer, my goals are to promote programs and symposia to enhance the concepts of integrative and comparative biology, and to maintain strong divisional structure. In order to accomplish these goals and to achieve new program directions and initiatives, with the assistance and input of Sue Burk and others of Burk & Associates, Ruedi Birenheide (SICB webmaster), the Executive Committee and Divisional Program Officers, I have initiated several new ideas and ways of programming. One of these ideas was the development of the web–page for promoting submission and evaluation of symposium proposals. This process allows among other things more general input from the Executive Committee, Program Advisory Committee, Divisional Program Officers and past officers to help provide advice and long–range planning. Decisions for symposia are now made over a year in advance, allowing the symposium organizers to have time to prepare their symposia and to apply for funding.

In addition, we have now added an annual program meeting in early Fall of each year to fully develop a comprehensive and cohesive program. This meeting includes all the divisional program officers, SICB Program Officer, Past Program Officer and Meeting Director and Assistant Director (Burk & Associates). The first meeting was held Sept 28 and 29, 2002, in Toronto, and it was an outstanding success. All divisions were represented, and with everyone's hard work and participation, we accomplished all of the objectives, especially putting together the entire program for the Toronto meeting and approving the symposia for New Orleans. Such meetings will be an excellent means of scheduling upcoming meeting programs as well as enabling long term planning. Since the program is the core of the SICB meetings, this annual planning meeting allows the divisional program officers to be more actively involved in this process. In the long–term this involvement will help promote continuity for SICB and will provide energy, vision and excitement for future programming. Importantly, having this meeting will facilitate getting the program to the members well in advance of the annual meeting.

Finally, I am so totally pleased that SICB chose Burk & Associates as our business managers. It has been a great pleasure to work with Sue Burk, Lori, and the rest of the staff as well as with the incredible webmaster and longtime member of SICB, Ruedi Birenheide. Sue and Ruedi have been simply outstanding and wonderful to work with.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Toronto.

Message from the Treasurer

Ron Dimock

The financial condition of SICB continues very solidly in the black, and is as good as can be expected given the present economic climate. The Finance Committee has transferred \$650,000 in assets, essentially \$200,000 per quarter, to LPL Financial Services under the management of Matthew Tederick. Of this total, \$200,000 has been placed in a real estate investment trust (REIT). Along with nearly every other endowment and personal portfolio in the country, the assets in the several mutual funds that comprise part of SICB's portfolio are down from their initial value, about 10%. However, the good news is that the REIT pays an annual dividend of 8.3% (i.e., \$16,600 on the current principal) and includes an automatic share repurchase program. This dividend will offset the current losses among some of the mutual funds and reduce the overall negative fund balances to about 6% loss. Therefore, the overall position of the society remains very favorable.

We continue to enjoy the cost-cutting benefits of now being managed by Burk & Associates, Inc. For example, although the final auditing of the 2002 annual meeting in Anaheim is not yet complete, at the end of the 2nd quarter the Annual Meeting was about \$17,000 in the black (in contrast to a budgeted deficit of \$48,000). In comparison, at the end of the 2nd quarter of 2001, the annual meeting in Chicago showed a deficit of \$6000, which ultimately proved to be only \$76 at the end of the year. If that pattern obtains this year, we clearly are on track to have a profit from the meeting in Anaheim. This would be the first time in a very, very long time that the annual meeting paid for itself, or more.

As part of the new financial health of SICB the Student Support Committee has initiated a new Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel competition, which is over and above the continuing Grants in Aid of Research program from the SSC. This new award (up to \$2000 per recipient) is specifically to enable graduate students to engage in 'long distance' or international travel to visit research sites, museums, laboratories, etc., which they otherwise would be unable to do. The GIAR program also had its budget increased by 100%. Both of these programs, as well as the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship, can be viewed under the '[Award Program](#)' section of the 'for SICB Members' link on the SICB home page. It is these kinds of innovative uses of SICB's resources that the Executive Committee is especially interested in supporting.

The solicitation of budget requests for fiscal/calendar 2003 has gone out to all Divisions, Committees and other cost centers of SICB. This year the requests provided for tentative projections of aspirations and needs for fiscal 2004. Although there will be a formal call for the 2004 budget information next fall, having these budget requests for 2003 and 2004 much earlier than usual will enable the Finance Committee and the Core Officers to consider financial matters at the upcoming Strategic Planning meeting in late November.

The dues renewal notices have gone out, reflecting both the reduced fee schedule (\$85 for full members) that was instituted for 'early bird' renewal last year (and which will now remain in effect for some time) and the reinstated category of Life Member. Life membership can be attained upon payment of \$1000, either as a single payment or in two consecutive annual payments of \$500. Please consider whether this is a good option for you, and also make an effort to recruit new members among your colleagues, students and friends.

Message from the Secretary

Penny M. Hopkins

"Change, indeed, is painful yet ever needful." Carlyle

This year the Society is attempting to bring the SICB Constitution and By Laws into compliance with current practice. In view of the fact that the documents that govern our society have not been changed since well before we began hiring an executive organization to run the society, this is not an inconsequential exercise. There are many errors in wording and mistakes about appropriation of duties in these important documents that need to be brought up to date.

To my mind, one of the most egregious problems is the method described for amending either the Constitution or the By Laws. Somehow, somewhere down the line it became easier to change the Constitution than the By Laws. To change the Constitution, all that is required is a two-thirds majority of those voting. To change the By Laws requires two thirds of the entire membership. We hope to change the wording of this section. As far as I know, the entire membership has never voted in toto: thus, if only three people took the time to vote on changing the Constitution, a total of two members could determine those changes in this important document, whereas it would take a few hundred members to determine changes in the By Laws.

I would appreciate having input from society members as to which parts of the Constitution and By Laws you may have had interaction with and, as a result, you feel need to be changed. We will be posting the proposed changes sometime soon on the Web site and will ask for input at that time also. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions please feel free to send them to me at phopkins@ou.edu and I will have the ad hoc committee discuss them. Thanks in advance.

SICB Fall 2002 Newsletter News & Announcements

- [NSF: Evolutionary Synthesis Center Workshops Report](#)
 - [AMS/SICB Meeting: Mildred and Ralph Buchsbaum Prize for Excellence in Photomicrography](#)
-

NSF: Evolutionary Synthesis Center Workshops Report

Recently the National Science Foundation convened two workshops to explore the need for national center devoted to the synthesis and analysis of evolutionary biology and its relationship to other areas. These workshops have produced a report, which is available in its entirety, including an executive summary, at frog.biology.yale.edu/esc/index.html. NSF has asked the major professional societies of evolutionary biology, including SICB, to comment on this report. Would such a center be beneficial for science in this area and in the national interest? Please feel free to comment by email to margaret.riley@yale.edu; all comments will be transmitted to NSF.

AMS: Mildred and Ralph Buchsbaum Prize for Excellence in Photomicrography

The American Microscopical Society is pleased to announce the creation of the Mildred and Ralph Buchsbaum Prize for Excellence in Photomicrography, which will be awarded at the SICB/AMS annual meeting in Toronto January 4 – 8, 2003. The new program has been established as a memorial to Ralph Buchsbaum, a pioneer in cell and tissue culture of invertebrates and vertebrates and a champion of photomicrography of cells and unicellular organisms, and to his wife, who co-authored many of his publications.

Membership in AMS is welcome, but not required. The award carries a prize of \$75.00. In addition, the winning entry will be published in *Invertebrate Biology* and will be displayed on the AMS website. Information on submitting entries and on contributing to the Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum Fund is posted on the AMS website www.amicros.org. If you have questions, please contact Bill Kier at billkier@bio.unc.edu.

We invite you to share some of your best photographs with those attending the meeting.

Committee Reports

- [Educational Council](#)
 - [Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee](#)
-

Educational Council

Wendy L. Ryan, Chair

The SICB Award for Excellence and Innovation in Science Education will be awarded for the first time at the annual meeting in Toronto. The award will be given in recognition of the outstanding presentation, whether poster or paper (oral) format, given at the annual meeting in any area pertaining to science education. Competition will be open to all presenters, with one of the criteria favoring newer faculty and/or students. The intent of this award is to increase the profile of innovation in science education within and beyond SICB, and also to attempt to highlight the contribution of such activities towards the goal of increasing science literacy in the general population. A general email will be coming out soon to let you know how to have your educational presentation considered for this award, or you can contact me directly. This will be an exciting opportunity to highlight some of the excellent efforts of SICB members in the area of science education, and we look forward to the challenge of identifying just one presentation. We hope that this award becomes a highlight of the SICB annual meeting and that you will all consider future opportunities to participate in this unique award program.

The Education Council has generated a list of additional ways in which we might support science education within SICB, which we will discuss during the annual meeting in Toronto. We seek additional input from the general membership as we move toward implementation of some of these ideas. If you have suggestions for activities or programs that we could implement to improve support of science education within SICB, please forward your ideas to any council member or consider joining our council meeting in Toronto.

The annual meeting also marks the end of terms for some Council members. If you are interested and willing to serve on the Council please let me know so that I can discuss the commitment and responsibilities of the Council with you and hopefully fill any vacancies in a timely fashion. We are always looking for new members who represent the diversity of disciplines within SICB, so if your division is not represented on the Council and you have an interest in science education we would be particularly interested in having you join us.

Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee

Kevin M. Kelley, Chair

At all SICB Annual Meetings, the SPDAC hosts three larger events, the **First Timer Orientation**, the

Student/Postdoc Luncheon, and the **Student/Postdoc Workshop**. At the First Timer Orientation, we serve as one of the first official voices of the SICB, and thus we make every attempt to make new attendees feel welcomed, well-supported, and connected to the Society via our committee. The Student/Postdoc Luncheon provides for a great opportunity for all of the student and postdoctoral members to convene over lunch, meet new colleagues, and provide direct input to the SPDAC. The 'main event' for the SPDAC at annual meetings is the Student/Postdoc Workshop, with its subject matter changing every year.

For the January 2003 meeting in Toronto, the SPDAC is organizing a workshop on the subject of successfully landing academic job opportunities. We will be tapping into the experience of SICB faculty members who have been on faculty search committees at their universities. The title of this year's workshop is "**Views from Inside the Faculty Search Committee: What Works and What Doesn't**". Students and postdocs who are working toward landing faculty positions in academia will have an opportunity to interact directly with invited panel members who are charged with the task of providing a candid perspective on what search committee's typically like –and don't like– in the applications they receive. Tips on the written application (e.g., how to get attention without overdoing!) will be given first, followed by some discussion of the interview process itself. Faculty representing various types of academic institutions will be present to share what they know. These popular workshops have always been considered to be very informative and useful by SICB's student and postdoc members. See you there!

To All Student & Postdoctoral Members of the SICB ——— Keep an eye on us! The SPDAC has some new developments underway, including the development of an SICB web-page oriented around your specific interests.

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR SICB's STUDENT AND POSTDOC MEMBERS:

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

For further contact or additional information, contact the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Chair (kmkelley@csulb.edu) or see the Committee's SICB webpage (given above)

Division of Animal Behavior (DAB): 2002 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Secretary](#)
-

Message from the Secretary

Peter Smallwood

Symposia

I would like to call your attention to the Society-wide symposium, "*Selection and Evolution of Performance in Nature*", organized by Joel Kingsolver and Ray Huey. This symposium was originally to be co-sponsored by DEE and DAB, but has been chosen as a society-wide symposium. Details of this symposium (and all other symposia for the Toronto meeting) can be found at www.sicb.org/meetings/2003/symposia. This symposium is a great example of what SICB is all about: integration across several of the subdisciplines within biology. You won't want to miss this one.

Zuleyma Tang-Martinez is organizing a symposium for the 2004 meetings (in New Orleans!), tentatively titled "*Bateman's Principle: Is it time for a re-examination?*" The Division of Animal Behavior is proud to sponsor this symposium: we will send you further information in the next newsletter.

We are a small division, but we have a tradition of putting on great symposia. We are always on the prowl for good symposium ideas. What special topic are you most interested in, what 8–12 speakers would you like to see in one meeting? If you have ideas for symposia, please contact our new program officer, Paul Cupp, (Paul.Cupp@eku.edu), our chair, David Pfennig (dpfennig@email.unc.edu), or me (psmallwo@richmond.edu).

Officers

This year is my last as secretary for the Division of Animal Behavior. Tom Hahn is running for the office: PLEASE VOTE. You should have received e-mail instructions on voting some time ago: the deadline for voting is November 8, 2002. To vote, simply go to www.sicb.org/elections/.

At this year's business meeting, we also need to nominate a candidate for Chair of DAB, to stand for election next year at this time. Please come to the business meeting. The exact time and place will be available on the web page soon.

Opportunities for Graduate Students

Support for Meeting Attendance: If you are a graduate student or have graduate students attending the Chicago meetings, make sure they are aware of the Student Support Program. In past years, SICB has been able to provide a room (shared) or waive registration for almost all students requesting such aid. In return, the student serves for one half day as a room monitor, slide projectionist, or registration assistant. If you or your student did not check the box for Student Support on the abstract transmittal form, contact the SICB business office for more information and application materials.

Grants-in-Aid of Research: SICB has instituted a program of awards to support graduate student research. For more details and application materials, go to www.sicb.org/awards.php3

Division of Comparative Endocrinology (DCE): 2002 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

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

Message from the Chair

Michael C. Moore (michael.moore@asu.edu)

We are looking forward to a very exciting meeting in Toronto. Details of the meeting are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. We are especially excited that Dr. Hubert Vaudry from the University of Rouen, Mont-Saint-Aignan Cedex, France has accepted our invitation to present the 2nd annual Howard A. Bern Distinguished Lecture in Comparative Endocrinology. The title of Professor Vaudry's talk will be "Synthesis of biologically active steroids in the brain of amphibians. Regulation by neurotransmitters and neuropeptides". This is obviously an area of extremely high current interest and Professor Vaudry is an international leader in the field well known for giving exceptional presentations. Not to be missed.

While on the subject of the Bern Lectureship, it is now time to begin the process of selecting the person to present the 3rd Bern Lecture at the next (2004) meeting in New Orleans. Please send your nominations to me or one of the other officers. Selection will be made shortly after the Toronto Meetings.

We are pleased to announce a new service for DCE Members. Jim Carr and I have worked with the SICB office to establish a DCE Electronic Message Board. Any DCE member can use this service to send email announcements to the DCE Membership. Appropriate announcements would concern upcoming meetings and symposia, funding opportunities and job announcements for faculty positions, postdocs, technicians and graduate fellowships. If you wish to use this service, please send your message in an email to either myself or Jim Carr.

Finally, I raised a number of issues in the spring newsletter about the organization and promotion of Comparative Endocrinology as a discipline and about opportunities available because of the very rosy financial condition of SICB. These comments elicited essentially no response from the membership suggesting to me that people are relatively content with the status quo. If you have any views on these issues, I would love to hear them either through email or in conversations at the Toronto meeting. See you there!

Message from the Program Officer

Miles Orchinik (m.orchinik@asu.edu)

I just returned from the program officer's meeting in Toronto at the Sheraton Center Hotel, site of the 2003 SICB meeting. We were all impressed with the facilities and with Toronto – at least during the 30 minutes we escaped from meetings. Those of us acclimated to warm environments were encouraged to see that fifty

restaurants are accessible from the Sheraton Center, without stepping outside, through pleasant underground concourses.

The program officer's meeting was a first for SICB but quite successful with a lot of interaction between the divisions. I gather it is quite unusual to be this far along in planning the symposia, contributed papers, and abstracts by early October. Another first is that the talks and abstracts were sorted by general theme, rather than division affiliation. Most of the abstracts from DCE members will be under Regulatory Biology, which will have the following sessions: Emerging Technologies (contributed papers to accompany the related symposium organized by Sunny Boyd and Juli Wade), Immunity, Neural Substrates and Behavior, Reproduction, Hormone Structure and Evolution, Growth and Metabolism, Developmental Endocrinology, and Stress and Environmental Endocrinology. In addition to the contributed papers, DCE will be sponsoring John Hatle's symposium on Phenotypic Plasticity, the Emerging Technologies symposium mentioned above, and there will be a symposium on Fish Endocrinology and Metabolism organized by Dr. Vijayan. More detailed information about these symposia is available on the SICB web site. We attempted to schedule these symposia with minimal overlap with each other or with related contributed paper sessions. The Toronto meeting will be a busy one for DCE members with major sessions every day.

The DCE Business Meeting will be on Tuesday evening, followed by The Bern Lecture, given by Dr. Hubert Vaudrey, and the DCE social.

At the New Orleans meeting in January 2004, DCE will sponsor a one and a half day symposium on "EcoPhysiology and Conservation: The Contribution of Endocrinology and Immunology." This important symposium will be organized by Rob Stevenson and Shea Tuberty. It will be a rather unique symposium that integrates the perspectives of environmental/stress physiology with reproductive failure, population extinctions and habitat degradation. Speakers will attempt to bring endocrine physiology of vertebrates and invertebrates into the discussion of species distribution, environmental contamination, and conservation issues.

Message from the Secretary

Jim Carr (jamescarr@ttu.edu)

The 21st Conference of Comparative Endocrinologists was held in Bonn, Germany, August 26–30. The meeting was co-sponsored by the University of Bonn and the European Society for Comparative Endocrinology. The meeting was a great success by all estimates, with a balanced program of state of the art lectures, several topical symposia, and numerous oral and poster presentations, all combined with an excellent cultural program. The meeting was well-represented by SICB DCE members (see photos below). The 22nd Conference of European Comparative Endocrinologists will be held at August 24–28, 2004 at Uppsala University (www.neuro.uu.se/medfarm/cece2004/index.htm) and will be organized by Dan Larhammer and colleagues (congress@ukkab.se), so mark your calendars.

An International Symposium on Amphibian and Reptilian Endocrinology and Neurobiology will be held November 4–6, 2003, at Cheju National University Park on Jeju Island, Korea. This symposium will address all aspects of amphibian and reptilian endocrinology and neurobiology, particularly the fields of reproduction, development, and conservation biology. It will consist of oral presentations and poster sessions open to all participants. Contact the conference chair, Dr Hyuk B. Kwon (kwonhb@chonnam.ac.kr), for further information.

The next Western Regional Conference on Comparative Endocrinology will be held in Boulder, Co., March 22 and 23, 2003. Contact Dave Norris (david.norris@colorado.edu) or Pei Tsai (pei-san.tsai@colorado.edu)

for details.

The 15th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology will be organized by Burk and Associates and will be held May 23–28, 2005 in Boston. Check the website (<http://www.bu.edu/ICCE15/boston.html>) for details.



Attendees Jean Joss, Henry John–Alder, and Veerle Darras enjoy local German wine at the 21st CECE Banquet.



Howard Bern tells a joke in between courses at the 21st CECE Banquet. The Rhine river can be seen in the background.



Earl Larson (left background) gets some peptide pointers from Bob Dores (left foreground) and Michael Conlon (far right), as Neil Hazon (right foreground) looks on.

Division of Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry (DCPB): 2002 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
 - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
 - [Message from the Secretary](#)
 - [Message from the Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative](#)
 - [Remembrances of Peter Hochachka and Ladd Prosser](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Nora B. Terwilliger

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the deaths of Peter Hochachka and C. Ladd Prosser, two outstanding scientists and leaders in the field of comparative physiology and biochemistry. George Somero has shared some of his thoughts on Peter Hochachka and Linda Mantel has written an essay in memory of Ladd Prosser that I have included below in this newsletter.

The recent APS Intersociety Meeting, "The Power of Comparative Physiology: Evolution, Integration and Application," held in San Diego in August 2002, was a resounding success. The organizing committee, Jim Hicks, Al Bennett, Barbara Block, Steve Hand, Don Jackson and Steve Wood, and APS Executive Director Marty Frank, put together a stimulating and informative program that highlighted recent accomplishments and provided a forum for new approaches in comparative physiology. Participation by members of the American Physiological Society, Society of Experimental Biology, Canadian Society of Zoology, European Society for Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry, German Society for Zoology, Australian and New Zealand Society for Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry, and of course the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology/ Division of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry, insured strong presentations, stimulating conversations and new opportunities for collaboration and learning.

Three graduate students won cash awards for their outstanding poster presentations at the San Diego meeting. Congratulations to John Zehmer, Arizona State University, who won the DCPB/SICB award for his poster authored by Zehmer, A. Sanchez and J. Hazel, "Plasma Membrane Rafts of Rainbow Trout are Subject to Thermal Acclimation". Kudos also to Todd Gillis, Simon Fraser University, winner of the APS Scholander Award, for his work on "Sequence Mutations in Teleost Cardiac Troponin C that are Permissive of Cardiac Function at Low Temperature" by Gillis, C. Moyes and G. Tibbits. The SEB award winner was Scott Kirkton, Arizona State University, "Oxygen Delivery Problems May Reduce Jumping Performance In Larger Locusts", another excellent poster authored by Kirkton, G. Timmons, D Hartung, J. Niska and J. Harrison.

This is a stimulating time for researchers in Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry. As Jon Harrison, DCPB Program Officer, describes below in more detail, our annual SICB meeting in Toronto in early January 2003 will feature excellent symposia, talks, posters, the Bartholomew Award Lecture and special sessions sponsored by DCPB and the other divisions. The following month, February 2003, another significant international gathering of comparative physiologists will occur in Australia. This meeting, the sixth

International Congress of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry, continues a series that began in Liege in 1984 and has continued every four years. These opportunities to share data and ideas with our colleagues in the US and around the world lead to exciting science and positive global interactions. I look forward to seeing you at these meetings.

Newsflash! This year's recipient of the Bartholomew Award is Adam Summers, U.C. Irvine. Congratulations to Adam and a reminder to all to include his Bartholomew Award lecture in your schedule at the January 2003 SICB meeting in Toronto.

Message from the Program Officer

Jon Harrison

The 2003 Toronto meeting will, as usual, have an excellent set of symposia relevant to comparative physiologists and biochemists. Three symposia are sponsored or co-sponsored by DCPB:

- Comparative and Integrative Vision Research, organized by Mason Posner, Todd Oakley and Sonke Johnsen (Mon. Jan. 6).
- Comparative Biology of Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator, organized by William Marshall (Sun. Jan. 5).
- 30 years of Biochemical Adaptation: A Symposium Honoring Peter W. Hochachka, organized by Raul Suarez (Wed. Jan. 8). This symposium will bring together an outstanding set of scientists to pay tribute to Peter's intellect, leadership, and most of all, enthusiasm for our field.

Each of the society-wide SICB, PAC-funded and CSZ symposia also have significant physiological/biochemical components:

- Selection and Evolution of Performance in Nature, organized Joel Kingsolver and Ray Huey (Sun. Jan. 5).
- Biology of the Canadian Arctic, organized by Saber Saleuddin, Rudy Boonstra and David Hik (Mon. Jan. 6).
- Recent Developments in Neurobiology, organized by Rich Satterlie (Tues. Jan. 7)
- NSF Integrated Research Challenge in Environmental Biology: Biological Stoichiometry from Genes to Ecosystem, organized by me (Tues. Jan. 7)!

Other symposia will also be of interest to many DCPB members, please check the SICB website for specifics. I look forward to seeing you there! I will be soliciting judges for the DCPB best student paper/poster competition soon. If you would like to volunteer for this important role, please email me (j.Harrison@asu.edu).

Planning is moving ahead for an excellent New Orleans (2004) meeting. DCPB symposium approved for New Orleans are:

- Ontogeny of physiological regulatory mechanism: Fitting into the environment, organized by Carl Reiber.
- Selection Experiments as a Tool in Evolutionary and Comparative Physiology: Insights into Complex Traits, organized by John Swallow and Ted Garland.

The society-wide symposia will also be of interest to our members:

- Integrative Biology: A Symposium Honoring George A. Bartholomew, organized by Ray Huey
- The Integration of Comparative Genomics and Ecological/Evolutionary Studies, organized by R. Scott Winters
- In Vino Veritas: The Comparative Biology of Ethanol, organized by Robert Dudley and Michael Dickinson.

Other meetings of interest:

- The 6th International Congress of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry, February 2–7, 2003, Mt. Buller, Australia. (<http://www.zoo.latrobe.edu.au/iccpb/>).
- Society for Experimental Biology annual meeting, March 31–April 4, 2003, Southampton. (<http://www.sebiology.org/meetings/2003/Southampton/index.htm>).
- XXXV International Congress of Physiological Sciences: From Genes to Function. March 31–April 5, 2005, San Diego, CA (<http://www.iups2005.org/>).

Message from the Secretary

Mary E. Chamberlin

This year there was some confusion as to whether DCPB was having a best student talk and poster competition. A new link on the SICB website was added for students to follow when entering the competition, but this link only described the Bartholomew award. We will need to discuss how to rectify this problem at the DCPB business meeting in Toronto. Please come to the DCPB business meeting and participate in this discussion!

Martin Feder wants to remind you that every year the Annual Review of Physiology includes a section entitled "Comparative Physiology". If you have suggestions, nominations, or self-nominations for reviews to appear in this section, please contact Martin Feder (m-feder@uchicago.edu, 773-702-8096). Topics could be within comparative physiology, but also evolutionary, ecological, and environmental physiology as well as comparative biochemistry and physiological ecology.

Message from the Graduate Student/Postdoc Representative

Jennifer Head

After attending this summer's APS meeting (The Power of Comparative Physiology: Evolution, Integration, and Application), my eyes were opened to myriad potential directions for my research that I had not previously considered. It seems that many biologists are exploring a more "top down" approach to solving the questions that we have been striving to answer, made possible by the ever evolving technologies available to comparative physiologists. Thanks to techniques such as microarrays, physiologists can now study arrays of transcripts expressed under certain conditions and identify the genes upregulated (or down regulated), not

only helping to substantiate the roles of the genes that we anticipate to be expressed under a given set of conditions, but also to establish new roles for those whose expression was more unexpected. Tools such as these will be instrumental in fully understanding the mechanisms by which certain organisms deal with changes in the conditions that they are exposed to on a daily or seasonal basis, for example, and perhaps untangle the complex web of genetic interactions involved that we have only begun to understand.

As everyone is aware, there is an annual SICB meeting rapidly approaching. For those of you who will be attending this year's meeting, don't forget to enter yourself into the DCPB divisional "best student talk and poster" competition. You can enter the competition directly by sending an e-mail with your name and presentation title to Jon Harrison, program officer, at: j.Harrison@asu.edu. In addition, there are several other student award programs not associated with the meeting such as GIAR and FGST. Consult the website for more information.

For those of you who are graduate students and are more interested in science and technology policy issues, an internship program has been brought to my attention. It is called The Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Internship Program of the National Academies (in Washington, D.C.) For more information see national-academies.org/internship.

Hope to see you all at SICB in January. As always, feel free to e-mail me with questions, comments, and/or suggestions. Until next time! Happy researching.

PETER HOCHACHKA

1937–2002

Per F. Scholander, one of the founders and giants of comparative physiology, titled his autobiography, "Enjoying a Life in Science." I can think of no better phrase to describe the career of another giant of our field, Peter Hochachka, who died of cancer at age 65 on September 16th. For over three decades, Peter was the continuously ebullient catalyst of our field. He stimulated us with his creative insights into the mechanisms of adaptation to the environment and he encouraged us to enjoy the pleasures that exploration—intellectual and geographical—of the natural world had to offer. Like Per Scholander and a handful of other great figures in comparative physiology, Peter showed the intellectual and hedonistic merits of combining field and laboratory work in a creative manner. Such an approach to biology can lead to critical new insights into the mechanisms that enable organisms to perform their tasks in widely different habitats and into how these adaptive mechanisms are fabricated during evolution. The field plus laboratory focus also keeps biologists working in the "real world," where the abundance of different types of organisms allows one to address important questions that narrowly focused studies of so-called "model" organisms cannot approach. Peter's curiosity about nature was unbounded in both taxonomic and geographic senses. His study subjects included deep-sea fishes, Antarctic seals, Amazon fishes, squid, salmon, shrews, race horses, turtles and high-altitude-adapted members of our own species. And, of major importance for those of us who had the honor and pleasure of having him as our mentor, his curiosity was highly infectious. The forty-two graduate students he mentored and the large number of postdoctoral scholars and visitors who arrived at his laboratory from all over the world lived in a research environment that tended to bring out one's best, scientifically and personally. Whether the research site happened to be Peter's laboratory at the University of British Columbia, where he enjoyed a 36-year career, on a ship off the Galapagos Islands or on the Amazon

River, in a shack on a mountainside in the Andes, or in a small hut on the Antarctic ice, the working environment had the special qualities that made research under Peter's tutelage so unique. What were these qualities? In a classic study, the sociologist of science Robert Merton sought to determine what accounted for the fact that a disproportionate fraction of distinguished scholars in a field cut their scientific teeth in a very small number of laboratories. Merton discovered that the key feature of these distinguished mentors was not hands-on instruction in technique or continual over-the-shoulder inspection of the student's progress. Rather, it was the intellectual atmosphere—the "bright ambience" to quote Merton—of these special laboratories that attracted the best young scholars and led so effectively to their intellectual growth. All who experienced the atmosphere of Peter's laboratory would agree that Merton was right on target in his analysis of what makes a lab a great learning environment. We were always encouraged to engage in a sort of intellectual play, where novel conjectures could be tested and new species brought into study. Rather than engage in work on sure-things—the "collection of stamps"—we were challenged to do something new, even if it meant taking some intellectual risks in the process. Moreover, Peter's encouragement for his associates to be creative and productive came with the clear message to be an open and interactive person willing to share excitement and data with others. He was a role model in showing us how to conceive and do science and how to work most effectively and honestly with one's peers.

Peter was also a master of communication, whether at the podium or the word processor. His participation in scientific meetings was legendary. He seemed to be present whenever and wherever an exciting meeting on comparative physiology was held. The correlation here certainly suggests an underlying cause-effect linkage: Peter's activities at meetings, whether in presenting one of his multi-screen plenary lectures, in asking insightful questions after a talk or in discussing physiological issues over beers into the wee small hours of the next morning, provided the type of stimulating give-and-take that can make science so exciting. The impact of his publications was—and continues to be—enormous. This impact cannot adequately be measured only in terms of raw numbers of publications (about 400 papers and seven books). Rather, the impact of his writing must be seen especially in terms of how he has set the directions and raised the challenges for many sub-disciplines within comparative physiology. Peter was a master in writing a provocative theoretical paper in which a novel hypothesis was presented to the community, effectively challenging his peers to see if this bright idea had merit. It usually did—and it usually set into motion research programs in many other laboratories!

Taking the broadest possible view of Peter's contributions to comparative and evolutionary physiology, I think it's fair to say that he gave life, excitement, and relevance to the 'metabolic map.' Each of us who has taken a class in biochemistry has had to confront the complex and often bewildering inter-linked chains of chemical transformations that constitute 'metabolism.' It is common for these reactions to be presented as an abstract 'map' that entirely lacks signposts giving information about just who is carrying out these reactions and under what circumstances various functions are or are not needed. Peter's studies of metabolism provided unique insights into the ways that a relatively common set of metabolic reactions, such as those providing the ATP needed to do cellular work, could be modified adaptively to give organisms the ability to work under a vast array of environmental conditions, notably those of limiting oxygen availability. These metabolic studies taught us how invertebrates withstand exposure to low tides, how migrating salmon shuttle their energy resources to keep the locomotory muscles functioning, how seals manage to spend considerable periods of time in breath-hold diving beneath the ice, how goldfish survive hypoxia by producing ethanol, how training shapes muscle function, how—and why—metabolism varies as it does with body size, and how humans in the Andes and Himalayas have adapted to the hypoxic stress found at high altitude. His creativity in coining questions was paired with an ability to learn and adapt whatever technologies were needed to find the answers he sought. He moved easily between in vitro biochemistry, field studies in extreme environments, and whole animal magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

The achievements Peter made in science brought him many rewards. He won a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Killam Research Prize, a Science Council Gold Medal, the NSERC Gold Medal for Science and Engineering

and the Canada Council/Killam Memorial Prize. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and was awarded the Order of Canada in 2000. The latter is approximately the Canadian equivalent of British Knighthood, but I doubt that any of us would have felt it appropriate to address our friend and colleague formally as "Sir Peter"! He will receive posthumously the Commemorative Medal for the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

In a moving letter written to his academic offspring a few days before he died, Peter not only re-affirmed his joy in having had such a wonderful career, but also offered us well-considered advice about our science: Don't 'collect stamps' in doing comparative work, don't worship technology for its own sake, and keep the organism and its environmental relationships squarely in focus. If contemporary philosophy can be described as penning 'footnotes to Plato', much of what we do in comparative physiology can be seen as creating 'footnotes to Peter'. His creative impact will be with us for decades. Suffice to say that he figuratively and literally 'wrote the book' of biochemical adaptation.

At the final research conference that Peter was involved in organizing, one sponsored by the Company of Biologists and held at Dunsmuir Lodge in Canada shortly before his death, a final evening of tributes to him ended just as the Aurora Borealis began brilliantly to light up the dark northern sky. What a fitting way for the nature he so loved to study to applaud the "bright ambience" that characterized this wonderful man's life and work. His research accomplishments and his personal example of how to conduct science will continue to serve as a powerful beacon to light the path of future research in our field.

George Somero
October 9, 2002

IN MEMORY OF C. LADD PROSSER

May 12, 1907–February 3, 2002

The DCPB and the field of Comparative Physiology lost one of its founding fathers with the death of Dr. C. Ladd Prosser on February 3, 2002, at the age of 94. His textbook, Comparative Animal Physiology, which appeared first in 1950 and went through three subsequent editions, was the "bible" for many of us who were students in the 1950s–1980s and was instrumental in defining the field. Dr. Prosser's main interests, neurophysiology, contractile cells, and physiology of adaptation, occupied him simultaneously throughout his career and were the topics of exploration for his 45 Ph.D. students and many post-docs.

Ladd Prosser was raised in upstate New York and attended the University of Rochester, from which he received an A.B. in Biology in 1929 and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He entered the doctoral program at Johns Hopkins University and spent a summer at Mt. Desert Island with Dr. S.O. Mast working on the effects of temperature, pH, and salts on *Amoeba proteus*, which resulted in his first publication. For his thesis work, he studied phototaxis in *Lumbricus sp.* and development of the brain and behavior in *Eisenia foetida*. He completed his degree in 1932 and the resulting papers were published in 1934.

As a post-doctoral fellow in the lab of Hallowell Davis at Harvard, Ladd took advantage of the

opportunity to record electrical activity from the nervous system of invertebrates with an oscilloscope. He was the first to find that central ganglia lacking sensory input showed spontaneous electrical activity; he also discovered the photoreceptive properties of the sixth abdominal ganglion in crayfish. After a year of neurophysiology research in England, at both Cambridge and Oxford, Ladd took a position at Clark University, where he taught physiology and continued his research. In 1939, he was invited to join the Zoology Department at the University of Illinois, where he remained for the rest of his career, except for a few years of service to the government during World War II. He was named Professor Emeritus in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics in 1975, but retained his research, collaborations, and mentorship of young scientists for another 20 years.

Much of Ladd Prosser's research on marine organisms was carried out at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, MA, where many of his students and colleagues became part of that scientific community. I spent three summers there as a graduate student and had the opportunity to meet many of the major players in physiological research.

Ladd played an important role in expanding the boundaries of physiology beyond the medical area. He served as President of the American Society of Zoologists (the predecessor of SICB), of the Society for General Physiology, and of the American Physiological Society. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1974 and served as head of their section on Physiology for three years. He was on many editorial boards and served as American editor of the *Journal of Comparative Physiology and Managing editor of Physiological Zoology*. He traveled extensively to Europe, Japan, and Australia and had many colleagues and collaborators abroad. Particularly in his later years, he thought and wrote deeply about the broader questions of adaptational biology, evolution, and the relationship of molecular biology to comparative physiology.

On a personal level, Ladd Prosser was a most supportive mentor, even though my work was unrelated to that of anyone else in the lab. He introduced me to everyone who came through Champaign–Urbana or Woods Hole. He was an excellent role model, who inspired me to treat my own students as well as I had been treated. I was finally able to close the circle by coming to Woods Hole as a faculty member in the Experimental Invertebrate Biology course in 1977. Over the years, I enjoyed keeping up with Ladd's news and meeting the new students at the annual ASZ meetings.

I last saw Ladd in March of 1998, when I visited him and Hazel in their retirement home. Hazel had had a stroke, but I am sure she recognized me. Ladd complained that when he sent "the boys" to the library to get things for him, they never found quite the right items. Although his knees were not in good shape, his head and his sense of humor were the same as ever.

The scientific world has lost a unique and wonderful fount of information and superb teacher. Scientists with Ladd's vision and breadth of interests aren't made any more, and we are all poorer for that.

Linda H. Mantel
October 10, 2002

Reference: C. Ladd Prosser, *Scientific Autobiography and Personal Memoir*, edited and produced by Essie Meisami and Ian Meinertzhagen. Stipes Publishing Co., Champaign, IL. 2001.

Division of Developmental & Cell Biology (DDCB): 2002 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

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

Message from the Chair

Patricia Glas

Dear Colleagues,

Once again time creeps up on us. The SICB Annual meeting is just a few months away. I realize many of you are active participants in SICB, but our Division is in dire trouble. Lack of interest in the Division processes has us threatened with extinction. I am seeking those willing to spend a little time and effort recruiting graduate students and new faculty to our division. Cell and Developmental Biology are the backbone of so much research that it is hard to believe there is no interest in research in those areas. This division is an excellent place to start reporting on new research or a change in direction. It is the ideal area for new graduate students to recruit ideas and ask for expert guidance in direction. New faculty can use the Division as a place to test new ideas and areas of research or teaching strategies with the realm of Cell and Development. So nudge your neighbor and rally your grads! If Canada is too far, remember, the 2004 meeting will be in the Southeast (New Orleans). Start planning now, and schedule the Divisional meeting into your plans! Regroup with old friend and new ideas and support your Division.

Pat Glas

Chair, Division of Cell and Developmental Biology

Message from the Program Officer

Jessica Bolker (jbolker@cisunix.unh.edu)

Greetings,

The program for the upcoming meeting in Toronto has just been completed, and there is much that will be of interest to DCDB members, both in our own division and in DEDB, with whom we are cosponsoring a number of sessions. There will be 3 full oral sessions and 2 half sessions of developmental papers. The topics are: Larval Biology/Ecology/Transitions (Sun. AM), Patterning and Regulation (Sun. AM), Developmental Neurobiology (Sun. PM), Theory (Sun. PM), Bone and Cartilage (Mon. AM), Testing Theories (Mon. PM), and Heads (Mon. PM). The meeting will end up with the Kowalevsky Award winners' mini-symposium on Weds. AM well worth staying for. Poster sessions have been moved to lunchtime on all days: Sunday/Monday development-related areas are Pathways & Genes, and Developmental Morphology and

Metamorphosis; Tuesday/Wednesday poster areas are Photoresponse in Marine Invertebrates (Theory and Practice), Invertebrate Developmental Neurobiology, and Eco-Devo (Ichs & Herps).

There are no strictly developmental symposia at the Toronto meeting, though a number of the symposia from other divisions as well as the society-wide symposium are likely to be of interest. For next year's (2004) meeting in New Orleans, DDCB will be cosponsoring with DEEB a symposium on Morphological Innovation, organized by Gerd Muller and Stuart Newman. Also in New Orleans, DDCB will co-sponsor DIZ's symposium on Invertebrate Hormone Disruption. Believe it or not, now is a good time to start working on symposia for the following year, in San Diego. Please contact me if you have ideas for symposia, or questions about the process, including applying for outside funding.

Finally, I will soon be stepping down as PO for DDCB. If you are interested (or know someone else who might be interested) in taking over, please say so. The new mechanism for organizing the meeting schedule involves all the POs meeting on-site a few months ahead of time so if you sign up for the job, you can look forward to a trip to New Orleans next fall.

Hope to see you in Toronto!

Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology (DEDB): 2002 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

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

Message from the Chair

Günter Wagner

Dear member of DEDB,

For the fall newsletter I want to be brief again and focus on a few issues:

1. One of the most important functions of a Division within the society is to foster the exchange of ideas and results in our respective fields. Hence the most important function of DEDB is to aid the development of Evolutionary Developmental Biology by sponsoring symposia on exciting topics in our discipline. In the last year the Division has received several requests for co-sponsorship of symposia coming from other divisions but only one proposal from DEDB. Fortunately it was an excellent proposal on the Origin of Evolutionary Novelties (by Gerd Muller, Vienna/Austria and Stuart Newman, New York), which was approved at the meeting of the program officers this year for the meeting in 2004. I do know, however, that there are many more exciting developments in our discipline that we should talk about at our meetings. **I urge you to consider submitting a symposium proposal next year for the 2005 meeting of the society. The chances of actually getting approved and the support of the society are excellent, if you get into the action early!**
2. I want to thank **Ken Halanych** (WHO), who served as the division's secretary till June 30 of this year. I really appreciate his dedication to the Division. At the same time I want to welcome our new secretary, **Frietson Galis** (University of Leiden, Netherlands), who took over from Ken this summer. I am grateful for her willingness to serve the Division! Please see her newsletter item below.
3. **Please do not forget to vote** for the Chair of our division. We have two excellent candidates, Paula Mabee and Brian Hall. Burk and Associates have made voting easier than ever before. You can now cast your ballot on a website. It only takes less than a minute (I just did it myself).
4. Please come to our **business meeting and social on January 6th** during our meeting in Toronto! There is important business to conduct there. I will recommend a number of changes to our constitution that should make the Division more efficient. I am looking forward to meeting you in Toronto and to hear about the exciting science you will report there.

Message from the Program Officer

Eduardo Rosa–Molinar

Saludos! I have news hot of the press regarding the scientific program of the 2003 SICB meeting in Toronto. We just completed this weekend formalizing the scientific program and it looks outstanding. This year there will be a mixture of division specific and joint (DEDB and DCDB) oral and poster sessions.

The DEDB will co–sponsor with the Division of Systematic Biology and Evolution the "*Patterns and Processes in the Evolution of Fishes*" symposium organized by Francesco Santini. This symposium will begin on Monday afternoon and continue Tuesday morning. The speakers are outstanding and it looks like it will be an excellent event.

The DEDB will also hold the *Alexander Kowalevsky Mini–Symposium* organized by Gunter Wagner and myself (check out our website: piscis.cnnnet.clu.edu/sicb/toronto2003) on Wednesday morning the last day of the meeting. This mini–symposium will bring together for the first time the recipients of the Alexander Kowalevsky Medal and allow them to present their work to the SICB membership. I promise that this will be a great event. Each talk will be approximately 30 minutes each with 10 minutes for questions. For a total of 6 speakers.

We will have four joint DCDB and DEDB poster sessions. The topics for the sessions are:

Sunday/Monday:

Pathways and Genes (6 posters)

Development/Morphology and Metamorphosis (6 posters)

Tuesday/Wednesday:

Photoresponses in Marine Invertebrates/Theory and Practices (4 posters)

Invertebrate Developmental Neurobiology (4 posters)

Eco–Devo/Ichs and Herps (8 posters)

There will be 3 full oral sessions and 2 half sessions. The topics are:

Sunday (morning)

Larval Biology/Ecology/Transitions (8–9:40; DCDB)–Patterning and Regulation 10–12 AM (DEDB)

Sunday (afternoon)

Developmental Neurobiology (1–2:40 PM; DCDB)

Theory (1–4:20 PM; DEDB/DCDB)

Monday (morning)

Bone and Cartilage–(8–10 AM; DEDB &DCDB)

Tuesday (afternoon)

Testing Theories (1:20–3:00; DEDB/DCDB)

Heads– (3:20–4:40; DEDB &DCDB)

Wednesday (morning)

Alexander Kowalevsky Mini-Symposium (8 AM–12:00 PM; DEDB)

The DEDB will be very well represented in this years meeting. The oral and poster presentations are fantastic. This will be a very exciting and productive meeting. I encourage you to make your travel plans to ensure that you stay for the Alexander Kowalevsky Mini-Symposium. We are going to get a lot of press about this and this will again make our division and our society look good.

For the 2004 SICB meeting in New Orleans, Gerd B. Müller and A. Stuart have organized a symposium entitled "Evolutionary Novelties." This symposium will focus on organismal formative processes that extend beyond the genetic level, physical/material properties, architectural constraints, and the dynamical properties of reaction-diffusion systems embodied in genetic and developmental networks. A group of impressive speakers have been assembled to describe experimental and theoretical analyses that illuminate scenarios of morphological innovation in a variety of vertebrate and invertebrate systems. Keep checking the SICB website and DEDB newsletter for updates regarding this symposium and others that DEDB will co-sponsor. Finally encourage your graduate students and colleagues to join SICB and the DEDB and keep sending your original research papers and/or symposia to *Evolution and Development* (Blackwell Science, Inc.), *Molecular and Developmental Evolution* or to *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. These journals are sponsored by SICB. I hope to see you all in Toronto.
Saludos!

Message from the Secretary

Frietson Galis

Dear members of DEDB,

I have recently with pleasure taken over as secretary from Ken Halanych. I want to thank him for his efforts and his help.

I would like to continue Ken Halanych's work on improving our website. We have a list of student and post-doc members of DEDB and we will complement this with the other members. We hope to soon post this on our webpage to facilitate communication between members. We are grateful to Ruedi (Ruediger Birenheide) for his work as webmaster in making this possible.

The division provides the opportunity for mailing out evo-devo information (symposia and job announcements, etc.). Please feel free to contact me for this (galis@rulsfb.leidenuniv.nl).

Finally, I hope to see you all at the meeting in Toronto, at the talks, but also at the business meeting of our division on Monday evening, January 6 from 5:15–6:15 pm and at our first social that will follow the business meeting.

Division of Ecology & Evolution (DEE): 2002 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the DEE officers](#)

Message from the Chair *Cathy McFadden*, Secretary *Michael Temkin* and Program Officer *Brian Helmuth*

The DEE Officers hope you all had pleasant and productive summers and are looking forward to another stimulating meeting in Toronto. The SICB Program Officers recently met at the Sheraton in Toronto (on Sept 27–29) to discuss symposia for the Toronto 2003 and New Orleans 2004 meetings. For the upcoming Toronto meeting, DEE is co-sponsoring the symposium "Patterns and Processes in the Evolution of Fishes", organized by Francesco Santini and Gustavo Ybazeta, and the society wide symposium "Selection and Evolution of Performance in Nature", organized by Joel Kingsolver and Ray Huey. In addition, DEE is the primary sponsor for approximately 50 contributed talks and 50 posters that will be presented in Toronto. For the 2004 New Orleans meeting, DEE is sponsoring a symposium organized by Mike Angilleta entitled, "The Evolution of Thermal Reaction Norms for Growth Rate and Body Size in Ectotherms". Remember it's not too early to begin thinking about symposia for the 2005 meeting in San Diego.

Make sure you mark your calendars for the joint DEE/DIZ/AMS social, to be held immediately following the DEE divisional meeting in Toronto on Monday January 6. At the divisional meeting we will be discussing the following items:

1) Changes to the rules concerning the judging of the Best Student Paper competition. Should students be judged by the division to which they belong (the current policy) or by the division which best fits the topic of their paper or poster? The outcome of this discussion will not affect the Best Student Paper competition in Toronto (for which we have 28 applicants) but it will affect the policy for the 2004 meeting

Anyone who would be interested in serving as a judge for the best student paper competition in Toronto should contact Mike Temkin (mtemkin@stlawu.edu).

2) Changes to the DEE by-laws concerning the mid-term replacement of officers and the duties of the past-president and past-program officer. At the 2002 Anaheim meeting, divisional officers were charged with reviewing their division's by-laws to determine if a procedure was in place for replacing an officer mid-term. (This review was precipitated by the untimely death of Larry McEdward, which left DIZ without a Program Officer and with no specified procedure for mid-term appointments.) DEE does not have a replacement procedure in its by-laws, and at our divisional meeting in Anaheim we discussed several possible models for handling mid-term replacements (see Minutes of the DEE Business Meeting in the Spring Newsletter). The DEE Executive Committee has since drafted a replacement policy to be voted on at the 2003 Toronto DEE Divisional Meeting (see below).

In addition, while reviewing the DEE by-laws we discovered several inconsistencies in the specification of

Officer's duties. While Article III ("Administrative Organization") lists the Past–Chair as a member of the DEE Executive Committee, no duties are assigned to this position in Article IV ("Duties of the Officers"). Conversely, Article IV specifies that "The Past Program Officer shall serve one year as a member of the Executive Committee of the Division", but Past Program Officer is not listed as an Executive Committee member in Article III. The current officers feel that having the Past–Chair and Past Program Officer each serve a year on the Executive Committee is beneficial to the Division as there is otherwise little temporal overlap among incoming and outgoing officers. Having the Past–Chair and Past Program Officer available to assist new officers will help maintain continuity and facilitate information transfer within the Division. The Chair–Elect currently serves a one–year term concurrent with the second year of the Chair's term, and is formally charged to "assume the duties of the Chair whenever that person is unable to act". We suggest that it be specified that the Past–Chair serve a one–year term concurrent with the Chair's first year, and that the duties of this position be the same as those of the Chair–Elect. Past–Chair and Chair–Elect will never serve concurrent terms, but will each be available in alternate years to fulfill the duties of Chair if necessary.

Following are the proposed changes to the by–laws (underlined text) that will be discussed and voted on in Toronto:

Article III. Administrative Organization

Section 1. Officers

The Officers of the Division shall be Chair, Past–Chair, Chair–Elect, Secretary, Program Officer and Past Program Officer. The Chair–Elect shall be elected biennially and shall then automatically become Chair for the two years following his/her tenure as Chair–Elect. Upon completion of his/her term as Chair he/she shall serve as Past–Chair for one year. The Secretary and Program Officer shall be elected triennially and shall hold office for three years, but not to commence in the same year; neither shall be eligible for reelection. If for any reason a divisional office should become vacant before the expiration of the normal term and there is no officer–elect to assume the duties, the Executive Committee, in consultation with the President of the Society, will appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.

Article IV. Duties of the Officers

Section 2. Chair–Elect and Past–Chair

The Chair–Elect or Past–Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair whenever that person is unable to act.

(The full text of DEE's by–laws is available on the SICB website at: sicb.org/handbook/bylaws.php3#deebylaws)

Division of Invertebrate Zoology (DIZ): 2002 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

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

Message from the Chair

Rachel Ann Merz

Greetings All,

I hope this note finds you well and happily involved in the pursuit of knowledge about Invertebrates and/or the dispensing of same to eager students. The Toronto meeting looks to have a wonderful array of DIZ papers and posters. In addition, we will have our annual shared social with AMS, and have invited DEE to join us this year to increase our opportunities to interact with those in the society who have interests close to ours. The main agenda items for the business meeting include voting on the following amendment to our bylaws, discussing ways to boost the Libbie Hyman Scholarship endowment and welcoming in the new DIZ Chair. Please let me know if you have other things that you would like to see on the agenda or any comments about the proposed amendment. Hope to see you in Toronto

Proposed Amendment the DIZ bylaws:

"In the circumstance where an elected DIZ 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 DIZ Chair, in consultation with the DIZ Executive Committee and the SICB President, is empowered to appoint someone to serve until elections can be held to fill the position. If the office of Division Chair is vacant, the DIZ Executive Committee, in consultation with the SICB President, must appoint someone to be the interim Chair until an election is held."

Message from the Program Officer

Penny Barnes

The upcoming SICB meeting in Toronto promises to be both exciting and diverse and I encourage DIZ members to attend. Although DIZ has no sponsored symposia in the upcoming meeting, a number of the symposia will contain presentations of interest to DIZ members. As usual, DIZ will be well represented in the contributed paper sessions. An exciting event scheduled for the 2003 Toronto meeting is the Kowalevsky Mini-Symposium, in which recipients of the Kowalevsky Medal will address diverse topics in the area of comparative and evolutionary embryology. Don't forget to attend the social! The DIZ/AMS joint social has expanded and, in Toronto, members of the Division of Ecology and Evolution will be joining us. The first DIZ/AMS/DEE social is scheduled for the night of January 6th (Monday) from 6:30 to 8 pm (check the meeting program to confirm).

Great news! DIZ has three symposia scheduled for New Orleans in 2004. Scott Nichols and Gert Wörheide are co-organizing the symposium "Sponges: new views of old animals". DIZ and the SICB Division of Evolutionary Developmental Biology will join together to sponsor "Model Systems for the Basal Metazoa: Cnidarians, Ctenophores, and Placozoans" organized by Neil Blackstone. In addition, SICB's Division of Comparative Endocrinology and DIZ will co-sponsor "EcoPhysiology and Conservation: The Contribution of Endocrinology and Immunology" organized by Rob Stevenson and Shea Tuberty. Congratulations to all on excellent proposals! All symposia proposals submitted for consideration were impressive and the Program Officers had an extremely difficult task in selecting symposia for the New Orleans meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that symposia are now planned more than one year in advance. For example, proposals for the 2004 New Orleans meeting were submitted in early September 2002. So, after the upcoming Toronto meeting, please start thinking about symposia ideas for the 2005 meeting in San Diego! Remember that the symposia are key elements of the SICB annual meeting and are the primary means by which the interests and activities of the various divisions are promoted within the society.

See you in Toronto!

Message from the Secretary

Will Jaeckle

I hope that you all have had a successful research year and will arrive at the SICB meeting in Toronto willing to share the results of your efforts. As our Program Officer (Penny Barnes) has noted in her message, there are a number of symposia that should be of interest to all of us and I'm certain that our Division will be well represented in Contributed Paper and Poster sessions.

I encourage our membership to assist Student Awards Committee Chair Sara Lindsay in the demanding job of evaluating student presentations in competition for our Division's Best Student Paper (oral presentation) Award and Best Student Poster Award, and the Adrian Wenner Strong Inference Award. In addition to the awarding of these honors, your evaluations of student presentations serve to help our students learn the art of successfully and succinctly conveying information to an audience of their peers.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Divisional Business Meeting.

Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship

We continue to make the effort to expand the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Fund toward the goal of awarding two scholarships each year, one to an undergraduate and one to a graduate student. A field station experience can help shape a student's career.

In the last round of awards we were able to award a scholarship to Roger Redondo, a land-locked, first-year graduate student in the Biology Department at the University of Central Arkansas. Roger used this scholarship to travel to Friday Harbor Laboratories to study how activity of the Pedal cell 3 (Pd3) motor neuron affected the ability of the marine nudibranch *Tritonia diomedea* to turn and to orient to flow.

Contributions, large or small may be sent to: SICB Business Office, Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Fund, 1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 402, McLean, VA 22101. Checks should be made payable to SICB and marked as a "Contribution to the Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship Fund." All contributions are tax deductible. This scholarship, in memory of Libbie H. Hyman, one of America's foremost invertebrate zoologists, provides assistance to students to take courses OR to research on invertebrates at a marine, freshwater or terrestrial field station. The Hyman is intended to help support a first field station experience for a first- or second-year graduate student or an advanced undergraduate student.

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

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

Deadline: MARCH 3, 2003

Notification of Awards: APRIL 3, 2003.

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

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

For more information contact:

Dr. Amy S. Johnson
Chair, SICB Libbie Hyman Scholarship Committee
Biology Department
Bowdoin College
6500 College Station
Brunswick, ME 04011
FAX: 207-725-3405
Email: ajohnson@bowdoin.edu

Message from the Graduate Student-Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative

Ben Miner

Hello fellow students. The Toronto meeting is quickly approaching, and I would like to remind student

members that the due date for meeting registration is Dec 10. When registering, don't forget to indicate that you are a member of the Division of Invertebrate Zoology (DIZ).

In addition, there are several interesting student/postdoc events you should be aware of. The student "first timer" orientation will be held on Sunday, January 5, from 11:30 AM–12:50 PM, the student/postdoc workshop will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 6:15–7:30 PM, and the SICB Society–wide evening social in honor of students and postdocs will be held on January 7, from 7:30 – 9:30 PM. Graduate Students and Post–docs are also invited to the Division meeting on Sunday, January 5, 5:15–6:15 pm and the joint AMS/DIZ/DEE social scheduled from 6:30 pm to 8 pm on Monday night. These events provide an excellent opportunity to gain skills and interact with other students and fellow invertebrate zoologists. I hope to see you all in January, and don't forget to bring warm clothes.

If you have any suggestions, please email them to me at miner@zoo.ufl.edu. Good luck with your studies and research!

Division of Neurobiology (DNB): 2002 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Officers](#)
-

Message from the DNB Officers DNB in Toronto

The Division of Neurobiology would like to invite SICB members to join us at several interesting sessions and events at the upcoming Toronto meeting.

1. A symposium entitled "Firefly Flash Communication: Physiology and Behavior" will be held on Sunday, January 5th. Its organizers are Drs. Jonathan Copeland and Albert Carlson. This symposium will be followed by the DNB business meeting.
2. A second symposium, "Recent Developments in Neurobiology: Neural regulation of locomotion", organized by the DNB Program Officer Rich Satterlie, is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7th. The DNB social will follow this symposium, with members of Harold Atwood's University of Toronto lab as featured guests.
3. The Neurobiology section of platform presentations will take place on the morning of Wednesday, January 8th. There will be 11 presentations and one coffee break during the session. The scheduled neurobiology talks cover a broad range of topics, ranging from synaptic transmission at the fly neuromuscular junction to computational modeling of calcium domains within presynaptic nerve terminals.
4. Posters will be on display for two entire days.

Please note how the Program Officers cunningly timed these events so that there would be *no scheduling conflicts*! Those of us involved in neurobiology can thus attend each and every one of the presentations that interest us. We look forward to seeing everyone in Toronto in January.

Division of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (DSEB): 2002 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Officers](#)
-

Message from the Officers

Miriam Zelditch, Chair; Donald Swiderski, Program Officer; Ingrid Kaatz, Secretary

The program for the 2003 meeting holds much to interest DSEB members. We especially want to highlight the symposium "Patterns and Processes in the Evolution of Fishes" organized by Francesco Santini and Gustavo Ybazeta. They have brought together a remarkable diversity of speakers and perspectives; there is certain to be something of interest for everyone, ichthyologist or not. In connection with this symposium, Francesco and Gustavo are organizing this year's installment of the popular "Phylogenetics for Dummies" workshop. Their topic is the problem of character identification. They will be presenting examples using morphological, molecular and behavioural data.

We want to congratulate and thank Jonathan Jeffery and Robert Guralnick. Their proposal for a symposium on the uses of sequence data was accepted at recent program officers meeting. This symposium will be presented at the 2004 meeting in New Orleans. The speakers will discuss analyses of many different kinds of sequences, including developmental patterns.

Now is a good time to begin developing your idea for a DSEB symposium for the 2005 meeting. Email your ideas, even primordial ones to Don Swiderski (dlswider@umich.edu).

We look forward to seeing you in Toronto.

Division of Vertebrate Morphology (DVM): 2002 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- [Message from the Chair](#)
 - [Message from the Program Officer](#)
 - [Message from the Secretary: DVM Candidates for Election](#)
-

Message from the Chair

Kathleen Smith

I look forward to seeing you all in Toronto and to welcoming Frank Fish as the new chair of the Division. Bret summarizes below our schedule for the meetings, and there will be much to interest us all.

Diane Kelly will be stepping down as the chair of the committee for the Dwight Davis award; on behalf of the division I extend my thanks for her service. Jeff Walker has agreed to chair the committee this year. Diane's advice for students whether or not they are competing for this award is posted at the end of this newsletter.

Please be on the lookout for a couple of messages from the Division, which we'll send out as an email to all DVM members. First, we are hoping to organize a "video night" for the night of the social. At this event, we'll invite everyone to bring any cool, funny, amazing or otherwise entertaining research video that you just haven't yet been able to incorporate into your talks. Think of it as a combination of an amazing animals and bloopers—and-outtake kind of show. Second, as summarized below, members of the division organized a highly successful Northeast meeting this past fall. There are possible plans for a mid-West and perhaps mid-Atlantic meeting in the coming year. Stay tuned.

Message from the Program Officer

Bret Tobalske

If last year was a crest with regard to the sheer number of symposia sponsored or co-sponsored by DVM, it seems that we are entering into a trough. In 2001, we sponsored or co-sponsored three symposia, and many DVM members had a challenging time shuttling between symposia and regular sessions. Time budgets will probably be easier to arrange this time around. At the upcoming meeting in Toronto, we are co-sponsoring only one symposium, but it will be an interesting one: "Patterns and Processes in the Evolution of Fishes," organized by Francesco Santini and Gustavo Ybazeta. The SICB-wide symposium, "Selection and Evolution of Performance in Nature," organized by Joel Kingsolver and Ray Huey, will also be of interest to many of us in DVM. The general consensus at the DVM business meeting last year was that approximately one symposium per year represents a good pace, so we are on target for Toronto. However, no proposals have been submitted requesting DVM sponsorship for symposia at the New Orleans meeting in 2004.

Before we panic, I suggest that the lack of upcoming symposia in New Orleans may be a natural pattern. People require time to develop new directions in research before the need arises to review and integrate those directions into a symposium. Certainly DVM is an active division, as we have nearly 160 abstracts submitted for the Toronto meeting with functional morphology as a key topic. A quick glance through abstract titles indicates that feeding and locomotion remain prime areas of interest, but there is also a healthy diversity of topics in other areas of morphology. So, as the meeting approaches this year, I urge everyone in DVM to reflect on the vigor and identity of our division and consider the merits of proposing fresh symposia in 2005. If you have an interest in organizing a symposium, please contact me; I will be happy to talk over your ideas and point you in the right direction with regard to proposal submission.

I look forward to seeing you in Toronto; best wishes for a productive autumn.

Message from the Secretary

Audrone Biknevicus

1. George Lauder and Dan Lieberman submitted the following report of the Northeast Regional DVM meeting held late this summer at Harvard University:

On Saturday September 14th, the Northeast regional meeting of the Division of Vertebrate Morphology was held at Harvard. Organized by Dan Lieberman and George Lauder, nearly 100 people registered and 54 talks were presented in a very successful (and busy) one-day format. In order to fit everyone in, all talks were limited to 5 minutes, but 20 minute breaks were scheduled each hour to allow plenty of time to interact with speakers. Despite some initial skepticism about the value of 5 minute talks, the overwhelming consensus after the meeting was that this format worked exceptionally well. Speakers got right to the point, most even left time for a few short questions, and there was plenty of time for interaction during the numerous breaks, lunch, and dinner. Box lunches were provided which allowed all participants to stay at the meeting and chat during lunch, and dinner was catered in Romer Hall, permitting viewing of the public museum exhibits as everyone relaxed after the papers. We were fortunate also to have participation from visitors outside the immediate Northeast area. Ken Kardong had the record for distance traveled to the meeting (from Washington State), and we are very grateful for his presence. Others coming from a distance included visitors from Duke and the University of Michigan, and their presence added considerably to both the intellectual and social atmosphere of the day.

2. I am pleased to reprint Diane Kelly's sage advice to graduate student on preparing effective presentations:

Tell a story

Whether you're giving a talk or a poster, your results will be more meaningful to your audience if you present them as a part of a story. But given your time (or space) limitations, it has to be a short story. Journal articles can be like novels, with sections that elaborate on side issues. This isn't an option when you have at most 20 minutes to get your point across. You will only have time to present a single overall message, and all your efforts should go toward developing that message. Any diversion away from your main point is more likely to confuse your audience and reduce the overall impact of the talk than to wow them with your breadth. This is not to imply, however, that you should just read off a list of your data and be done with it. Your

audience needs a context in which to appreciate your results, so you will need to spend some time giving them enough background information to understand where your project fits in to vertebrate morphology and what makes it a new contribution. If you have specific predictions about your system, make sure the audience knows what they are before you go on to discuss how your data relates to them.

Make your visuals clear

We are a visual species, and good pictures can do much to drive home a point. Computers have made it much easier for even the most graphically-challenged of us to make beautiful pictures, but they come with their own pitfalls. Bear in mind that just because a program has a lot of special features doesn't mean that you should use them. Keep it simple. Presentations in twelve different colors or with titles that swish in and out of the frame are more likely to give your audience headaches than impress — unless those colors actually convey important scientific information. Any text should be large enough to read from the back of the room, and your graphics should be free of nonessential information. Effective images reinforce the points you are making in your presentation, so your audience can concentrate on the data and your interpretation instead of wondering what that thing in the picture is supposed to be.

Rehearse

Ideally, you want to be able to speak clearly and project your voice (so those pesky people in the back row can hear what you have to say). And the best way to be able to do this is to be comfortable with your material. And that means rehearsing. Practice your talk beforehand. If you can get a group of people to watch you, so much the better.