

Division of Ecology and Evolution

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Message from the Chair **Michele Nishiguchi**, Chair-Elect **Art Woods**, and Secretary **Michael Finkler**

Greetings from the DEE officers! We are looking forward to January's meeting in Seattle where DEE will be co-sponsoring five symposia:

1. Animal Regeneration: Integrating Development, Ecology, and Evolution.
2. Metabolism, Life History and Aging.
3. Advances in Antarctic Marine Biology
4. Marine Ecosystem Engineers in a Changing World: Establishing Links Across Systems.
5. Identifying the Architectures that Regulate the Development, Function, and Evolution of Fish Body & Fin Shape: a Truly Grand Challenge.

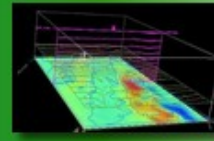
The DEE webpage features the research of its division members (<http://www.sicb.org/divisions/dee.php3>). Please consider contributing material to the site, which you can do by submitting text files (.doc or .txt), images (.tif, .jpg, .png, or .gif), and movies (.avi or .mpeg) to Michael Finkler (mfinkler@iuk.edu).

We thank those of you who have already signed up to serve as judges for the DEE Best Student Presentation Program. If you are interested in serving as a judge for the competition and have not already signed up, please contact Michael Finkler (mfinkler@iuk.edu), as we would be delighted to have your assistance. You may also sign up for judging when you register on-line for the Seattle meeting. Last year we saw a 60% surge in the number of presentations in the competition, but were able to manage the event thanks to our 31 volunteer judges. We hope that DEE members will continue this high level of participation in an invaluable experience for our students.

We encourage all DEE members who come to Seattle to attend the divisional business meeting. We would appreciate your input on how we might make the division more supportive of your interests.

Message from the Program Officer **Michael Sears**

I have just returned from my first Program Officers Meeting held last weekend in Seattle. My initial impressions are that Seattle will be an excellent venue for the meeting in January and that, as last year, there will be quite an abundance of presentations highlighting



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the new and exciting research from DEE. In fact, the society received the second highest number of abstracts for a meeting, second only to last year's meeting in Boston. This year, I would encourage all to attend talks from the symposia supported, in part, by DEE including the following:

Alexa Bely: [Animal Regeneration: Integrating Development, Ecology, and Evolution.](#)

James M Harper: [Metabolism, Life History and Aging.](#)

James B. McClintock: [Advances in Antarctic Marine Biology.](#)

Sarah Berke: [Marine Ecosystem Engineers in a Changing World: Establishing Links Across Systems.](#)

Michael Hart: [Evolutionary Paths among Developmental Possibilities: A Symposium Marking the Contributions and Influence of Richard Strathmann.](#)

Jeff Walker: [Identifying the Architectures that Regulate the Development, Function, and Evolution of Fish Body & Fin Shape: a Truly Grand Challenge.](#)

Additionally, I would encourage the membership to attend the DEE social on Tuesday January 6, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. This year, the social will be held along with DIZ, AMS, and members of the Strathmann Symposium. We hope that this is a well attended event across the divisions.

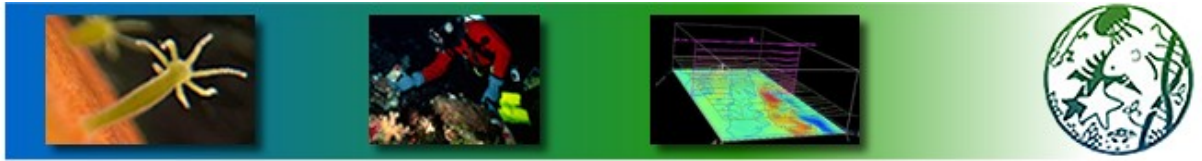
Also, on Wednesday Jan. 6, 2010 from noon to 3:00 p.m., Brian Tsukimura, the SICB Program Officer-Elect, will be heading an NSF-sponsored late-breaking workshop on Grand Challenges for Organismal Biology. This work-

shop will be an excellent forum to see the future direction of funding opportunities at NSF as well as an opportunity to help shape them. Here's a summary from Brian:

The Grand Challenges for Organismal Biology (Schwenk *et al.*, 2009) have refocused the importance of the organism in biological studies. The series of papers published in *ICB* have described how this principal is important in most lines of research. In order to begin discussions of how we implement these Grand Challenges, the SICB has organized a workshop to initiate discussions with the authors of these papers. The Program Committee has also invited leadership from external societies to participate in this discussion on implementation to enhance the scope of discussions and to allow these societal executive officers to bring the discussion back to their societies. The societies that agreed to participate are Sigma Xi, Ecological Society of America, Society for Developmental Biology, American Physiological Society, Animal Behavior Society, and American Society for Cell Biology.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, January 6, from noon to 3 p.m. We hope that you will be able to attend.

For the 2011 Meeting in Salt Lake City, DEE will be co-sponsoring several symposia which will be announced soon. In light of my first organizational experience, I would like to bring up an issue and opportunity with the DEE membership. Interestingly, a pattern seems to be emerging with regard to sympo-



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sia from our division. Although DEE has a relatively large membership, few if any symposia are submitted with DEE as the primary sponsor. During my tenure as program officer, I would like to change this pattern. Although it might seem early, I would like to encourage members of DEE to begin thinking about ideas for symposia for the 2012 meeting. (Note that proposals will be due next summer!) Symposia are not only a great way to promote and synthesize areas of research within the division, but they are also an excellent means for more junior members to advance professionally. Thus, I would especially encourage postdoctoral researchers to present ideas for symposia in addition to the usual suspects. Further, members have had an extraordinarily high rate of success in sequestering funds from NSF to help support these symposia. If you have questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me (email: msears@brynmawr.edu).