



Division of Vertebrate Morphology

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Lara Ferry
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Richard W. Blob
Program Officer 2010-2012

Joanna Mandeck
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2011-2014

Lara Ferry
ICB Editorial Board Representative
2011-2016

Message from the Chair

Kiisa Nishikawa

Greetings fellow vertebrate morphologists as we plan for the annual SICB meeting in Charleston, SC!

As Chair, my duties fall chiefly to congratulations and thanks! So... thanks first to the collective DVM membership, not only for outstanding participation in the 2011 Salt Lake City meeting, but also for record-breaking abstract submissions for the upcoming meeting in Charleston! Thanks also to last year's symposium organizers, Susan Williams, Brooke Flammang and Robert Dudley, for providing intellectually stimulating and enjoyable symposia in Salt Lake City, as well as to Matthew Wund, Douglas Altshuler, Harvey Lillywhite, Laura Miller and Billie Swalla for organizing upcoming DVM-sponsored symposia. You can read more about these upcoming symposia in the Program Officer's Message.

According to Rick Blob, the Charleston meeting will combine 27 oral sessions and a full slate of posters with a convenient and comfortable venue, and free transportation to downtown Charleston! The Society as a whole, as well as our division, will be experimenting with 'lightning talks' this year. The abstract deadline has passed, but don't forget to register for the Charleston SICB meeting!

We recently had our DVM regional meetings at the University of Rhode Island and Wake Forest University. These remain largely self-sustaining thanks to the amazing efforts of the organizers, Cheryl Wilga and Miriam Ashley-Ross, respectively. These continue to be an invaluable source of collegial exchange for many of our members.

Finally, congratulations to the new incoming DVM Chair-Elect, my esteemed colleague Alice Gibb, and many thanks to Audrone Biknevičius for her willingness to run for Chair-Elect. Thanks to our outgoing Program Officer, Rick Blob, who has done a superb job of planning the DVM



DCB/DVM Regional Meeting: Carolyn Roberts, Sandy Kawano, Rick Blob



Jeremy Greeter



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DCB/DVM Regional Meeting: Carol Strohecker, director of CDI, addresses the group.

program for the past two meetings, and to Lara Ferry, our exemplary and efficient secretary! At the Charleston meeting we'll thank Rick and Lara for their service, and welcome Rita Mehta as the incoming Program Officer and Susan Williams as the incoming Secretary in 2012. (These officers turn over at the end of the 2012 annual meeting.) Thanks again Rick and Lara for your outstanding service!

See you in Charleston!

Message from the Program Officer

Rick Blob

I've always enjoyed the fall, with the extra crispness in the air, colors in the leaves, and the excitement of baseball playoff season more than making up for the groaning piles of exams that need grading by the beginning of October. Over the last two years, having the chance to help plan the SICB program has been part of my fun for fall, and reviewing abstracts for this year's meeting in Charleston was especially enjoyable. The response this

year was fantastic – 1467 abstracts total (a new record), with 270 designating "Morphology" as a primary focus (up 15% from last year!). This translated to 27 oral sessions (at last count) and full slates for all three days of posters, in addition to several outstanding symposia and complementary sessions of interest for DVM members. Even with 4 whole days for talks, this made for a very full program! As always, the Program Committee worked hard to put together interesting themed and integrative sessions. We couldn't completely avoid overlapping topics in sessions scheduled against each other, but the fact that we'll have to choose among multiple exciting options is really a testament to the great work produced by DVM and Society members.

Along those lines, your DVM and DCB POs worked together to organize a test run of a new talk format that we discussed at the Business Meeting last year, and that was encouraged by the Executive Committee. Nine volunteers will be giving 5-minute 'lightning talks' in three groups of three, with 5-minute decompression periods between each block. These will fit into three of our standard 20-minute slots early in the meeting, and should give us a forecast of how such talks would run (and what logistics we need to recognize) if they were to be implemented on a wider scale. We are the only divisions implementing this format this year, so please have a look, see what you think, and give your feedback at this year's business meeting.

The venue at the Convention Center in Charleston is very convenient to the airport and connected to the primary conference hotel (Embassy Suites-North Charleston/Airport), which is not only quite comfortable but also has a very nice complementary breakfast and nightly happy hour (!). The hotel is across the street from a wide range of food and shopping options, and



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the city of Charleston has offered free shuttle bus service to Charleston's historic downtown for dinner and fun in the evenings. If you want to see all that Charleston has to offer you might consider staying a extra day to see the houses of Rainbow Row on the Battery in the light, or to take the ferry out to Fort Sumter. Don't delay, make your reservation today!

Back to our symposia, DVM helped to support five this year including: The Impacts of Developmental Plasticity on Evolutionary Innovation and Diversification, organized by Matthew Wund; Novel Methods for the Analysis of Animal Movement: Spatial and Temporal Structure Across Scale, organized by Doug Altshuler; New Frontiers from Marine Snakes to Marine Ecosystems; organized by Harvey Lillywhite and Francois Brischox; Combining Experiments with Modeling and Computational Methods to Study Animal Locomotion, organized by Laura Miller & Silas Alben; and EvoDevo Rides the Genomics Express, organized by Billie Swalla. We also received a record number of symposium proposals for San Francisco (31!) – thanks for such a fantastic response. With so many members coming to Charleston, it would be a great time to get together and outline symposium ideas for Austin in 2014!

Continuing another great fall tradition, regional joint DVM-DCB meetings were held in both the Southeast at Wake Forest (organized by Miriam Ashley-Ross and Nick Hristov) and in the Northeast at the University of Rhode Island (organized by Cheryl Wilga). These meetings are really great opportunities for student presentations, and to get feedback on crazy ideas you might not be ready to share broadly. One of these meetings helped launch me on a ten-year, NSF-funded research program – a pretty good return for a one-day meeting! Even better than just attending, consider organizing a regional meeting at

your own institution next year – and there's no reason why the northeast and southeast should be the only regions to have all the fun! If you're interested, contact any recent organizer (myself included) for advice on how to get started.

Message from the Secretary

Lara Ferry

Hello All!

Fall is here and the semester is just flying by. The annual meeting will be here before we know it. This marks my last address to you all as Secretary. Thanks for a fun two-years, and please be sure to give Susan Williams a very warm welcome as your incoming Secretary. Help her to take accurate minutes at the Business Meeting and be sure to help her get any Bylaws changes in order.

Also, please make Susan's life easy! Get in those entries to our Researcher Database. All you need to do is to send me (Lara.Ferry@asu.edu) or Susan one or two pictures and a brief blurb about your research and before you know it you'll be highlighted on the SICB homepage and viewers everywhere will be enjoying your research. We are steadily increasing in our numbers on the database, but we can still do better! Right now we seem to get the entries by forcing you to run for office. Don't make us force you to run, go ahead and send your entry in now!

See you in Charleston!