

SOCIETY FOR INTEGRATIVE & COMPARATIVE BIOLOGY
Annual Business Meeting
5 January 2008
Convention Center 202A
San Antonio, TX

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by President John Pearse.

The minutes of the 2007 Business Meeting were approved as distributed.

I. Officer Reports

- **Secretary Report, Lou Burnett**
 - The new SICB web page appeared in the summer of 2007. The new design and layout represented efforts and input from divisional secretaries and members of the SICB Executive Committee.
 - The web site features, among other things, a calendar (under the Resources tab) that lists major administrative events and target dates.
 - A number of SICB Constitutional and Bylaws revisions are being considered by the Executive Committee. A proposal for changes will be acted upon at the Executive Committee meeting on Sunday, 6 Jan 2008. This proposal will be published on the SICB web site with an opportunity for members to discuss the changes and raise questions in an on-line format.
- **Program Officer Report, Linda Walters**
 - 2008 SICB Meeting: Total Abstracts = 1005
 - Poster Presentations: 375
 - Oral Presentations: 630

 - 8 concurrent contributed paper sessions with 20 minute talks
 - ~3 symposia per day on full meeting days, all symposia organizers received first choice of date
 - Posters up for 24 hours with approximately 125 posters/day

 - Abstracts: Backdoor open for 1 week after abstract deadline (approximately 70 late submissions). Abstract revisions allowed for approximately 3 weeks after abstract deadline.

 - **Student support: 337 students at this meeting**
 - Housing support: 299 students
 - Registration support: 38 students

 - **Regular symposia: 8**
 - Number of speakers per symposia: 11
 - 8 of 8 have applied for external funding, thus registration fees of all speakers reimbursed (8 x 11 = 88 speakers)

- 7 of 8 have external support in hand, 1 of 8 is still pending
- 5 of 8 have NSF funding (range: \$4457 - \$40,000)
- Other sources of external funding include: NIH, Air Force Science, Soc. for Systematic Biology
- 2 of 8 have multiple sources of external funding
- 8 of 8 have internal funding from divisions
- 7 of 8 have multiple sources of internal funding from divisions
- 8 of 8 will receive \$1000 from the Program Officer
- 8 of 8 will have planned extra events (round table discussions, socials, dinners)

- **Late-Breaking Symposia: 4**
- Queries from 8 people, 4 submitted and all accepted
- 2 of 4 have received external funding – one from NSF (\$6675) and one with multiple sources including Journal of Experimental Biology totaling \$5515
- 2 of the 4 symposia - all speakers will have their speakers' registration fees reimbursed = 8 + 5 = 13 speakers
- 2 of the 4 symposia have internal funding from divisions

- **Special events:**
- 1) Randy Olsen and Flock of Dodos Movie – 5 showings over Days 1 and 2 of meeting with Randy present to discuss making of the movie/reactions at 4 of the showings.

- 2) IMAX tickets at reduced price (\$10) on evening of Day 3 for 2 showings with producer Richard Lutz present at both to introduce and answer questions about his IMAX movie, “Volcanoes of the Deep Sea”.

- ***Treasurer Report, Ron Dimock***

For the first time since the date was changed to early January, the Society enters an Annual Meeting with a pre-approved budget. This has greatly facilitated the planning of this meeting as well as implementing cost-cutting and cost-control measures that help insure the financial health of the Society while continuing to serve its membership well.

The fiscal condition of SICB continues to be strong. Audited **total assets** as of June 30, 2007 were **\$1,963,749**. With the change to a July 1 - June 30 fiscal year, the most recent comparable 12 month budget was that ending December 31, 2005, at which time the **total assets** were **\$1,883,934**. The 2007 figure includes a net loss in the general operating budget of \$79,946. The budget for fiscal 2008 projects a net loss of \$51,385, which underscores the need for close management of Society expenses. The budget tightening measures implemented for fiscal 2008 have led to improved fiscal responsibility and better overall management of the budget.

The following identify a number of bright spots in the Society's fiscal positions.

Journal Income: The steady erosion of income from **ICB** that was cause for alarm 5 or 6 years ago has by and large ceased with the new partnership with Oxford University Press. **ICB** now is very

professionally produced and between the successful operation of the Editorial Office and Oxford University Press, all symposia from the 2007 meeting in Phoenix were published in 2007. The effects of the liaison between SICB and Oxford are reflected below in the figures for net income for the journal:

Net Income from ICB

Fiscal	2001	\$ 262,295
Fiscal	2002	205,528
Fiscal	2003	216,031
Fiscal	2004	200,162
Fiscal	2005	156,075
Fiscal	2006*	96,443 *abbreviated fiscal year; first full year with Oxford U Press.
Fiscal	2007	135,085
Fiscal	2008	159,179 (projected)

Support for Society Symposia: The new **Symposium Enhancement Fund** initiated last year with \$100,000 from the Executive Committee increased to \$107,450 with generous donations from 9 Society members. Interest from this fund is now available to the Program Officer to help support symposia. If the Society can grow the fund, it will relieve some of the diminishing extramural support.

Status of Society Investments: In 2002 the Society contracted with Matthew Tederick with LPL Financial Services to manage a portfolio of Society funds. After a brief hiatus that necessitated a temporary change in manager, Mr. Tederick who now is with C.H. Schwab, has been re-engaged by SICB. The **\$779,498** that was invested beginning in 2002 had a **net value of \$1,152,483** on 21 December 2007, a total return of 47.7%. This figure includes a capital gain of \$205,040 on \$200,000 in an REIT that matured early in 2007. With the current vagaries of market conditions, the portfolio is apportioned as \$680,666 in a suite of mutual funds and \$470,767 in cash and cash equivalents. Thus the Society is poised to take advantage of investment opportunities that may arise in the near term. The Finance Committee is especially pleased to be working once again with Mr. Tederick

Summary of Annual Meetings: Since Burk & Associates, Inc, was hired in 2001, the Society has enjoyed a nearly complete reversal of the past history of chronic deficits associated with the annual meeting. The following summary illustrates the net income (or loss) of recent meetings:

Annual Meetings	(loss in parentheses)	
Fiscal 2001	(\$13,579)	Chicago
Fiscal 2002	\$4,097	Anaheim (first mtg fully managed by BAI)
Fiscal 2003	\$8,607	Toronto
Fiscal 2004	\$1,935	New Orleans
Fiscal 2005	\$3,597	San Diego
Fiscal 2006	(\$31,218)	Orlando
Fiscal 2007	(\$28,330)	Phoenix
Fiscal 2008	\$1,750	San Antonio (projected)

Student Support: SICB continues to be known as a very student-friendly organization. This is reflected in many aspects of the Society’s undertakings including such things as Best Paper and Best Poster awards by every Division, the end of meeting social in honor of students and postdocs, etc. However, the major categories of financial support are the Grants In Aid of Research (**GIAR**), the Fellowships for Graduate Student Travel (**FGST**) and subsidized housing and/or waiver of registration for students who volunteer for various tasks during the meeting. The following summarizes the magnitude of this support in recent years:

Student Support

	GIAR	FGST	Comped Room/Registration for N students	
Fiscal 2002	\$24,000	\$6,000	\$37,758	N=173
Fiscal 2003	24,000	6,000	32,612	N=153
Fiscal 2004	24,000	6,000	49,396	N=275
Fiscal 2005	24,000	6,000	39,360	N=319
Fiscal 2006	24,000	6,000	31,134*	N=310
Fiscal 2007	24,000	6,000	36,612*	N=343
Fiscal 2008	24,000	6,000	45,225*	N=337 *incl Student Co-Pay

The Society also heavily subsidizes students with reduced registration fees for the Annual Meeting. For the approximately 350 students registered for 2008, this subsidy amounts to about \$54,250. The exceptional participation by students and recent postdoctoral members in the Society illustrates how effective this investment is likely to be in assuring the future strength of this unique organization.

A new policy on establishing named funds was adopted by the Executive Committee on 2 Jan 2008 and will be posted on the SICB web site. A number of named funds exist currently and these funds have specific purposes. This policy establishes procedures that must be used by individuals, groups of individuals, divisions, or other organizations for the purpose of establishing new programs requiring a funding base.

II. Recognition of Lecturers and Awards

President John Pearse recognized a number of individual SICB members for distinction in contributions to the meeting program and awards received.

- Howard Bern Lecture - Peter Thomas, Professor in the Department of Marine Science and Section of Integrative Biology at the University of Texas, Austin. Lecture title: “Nonclassical Steroid Actions Mediated by Novel Membrane Receptors: Lessons from Studies in Fish.”

Awards

- George A. Bartholomew Award - Sheila Patek, University of California Berkeley. Lecture title: “From Shrimp Hammers to Lobster Harmonics: Evolutionary Mechanics of Movement and Communication in the Sea.”

- 2008 Dororthy M. Skinner Scholarship - Deborah I. Lutterschmidt. Dr. Lutterschmidt earned her Ph.D. in 2006 from Oregon State University and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience, Georgia State University.
- 2007 Libbie H. Hyman Scholarship - Johanna Cannon, a Ph.D. student to study the phylogeny and evolution of development in pterobranchs at Auburn University.
- Recognition of SICB Society-wide Officers whose terms end.
 - Linda Walters, Program Officer
 - Sonke Johnsen, Member-At-Large
- Recognition of Divisional Chairs whose terms end.
 - Robert Denver, DCE
 - Pat Walsh, DCPB
 - Billie Swalla, DEDB
 - Don Swiderski, DSEB
- Recognition of Committee Chair whose terms ended.
 - Miriam Ashley-Ross, Public Affairs Committee
- Outstanding Service - Webmaster Ruedi Birenheide for outstanding service, especially service this past year in constructing the new SICB web site.
- Grants in Aid of Research (GIAR). The following students were awarded grants. This was announced by Sherry Tamone, chair of the Student Support Committee.

Student	Institution	Division
Brianne Addison	University of Missouri - St Louis	DEE
Deepa Agashe	University of Texas, Austin	DEE
Hugo Alamillo	Washington State University	DSEB
Leslie S. Babonis	University of Florida	DCPB
Susan Balenger	Auburn University	DEE
Rebecca M. Calisi	University of California at Berkeley	DNB
Amanda Cass	Cornell University	DEDB
Zachary Cheviron	Louisiana State University	DSEB
Eunice Chin	Trent University	DCBP
Daniel L. Curtis	University of Nevada Las Vegas	DCPB
Shahan Derkarabetian	San Diego State University	DSEB
Adam Kabir Dewan	University of Hawaii	DNB
W. Wesley Dowd	University of California-Davis	DCPB
Sherri Emer	Florida Institute of Technology	DAB
Daniel M. Evans	University of Washington	DEE
Gabriel E. A. Gartner	University of California, Riverside	DCPB
Kecia Alene Kerr	McGill University	DEE
Sindhu. M. Krishnankutty	University of Illinois, Urbana	DSEB
Keith W. Larson	University of Guelph	DEE
Bret Pasch	University of Florida	DAB
Jeffrey A. Scales	University of Hawaii, Manoa	DVM
Victor Schmidt	University of North Carolina Wilmington	DEE
Marc Travers	Simon Fraser University	DCPB
William J. Van Trump	UC Irvine	DCB

- Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel (FGST). The following students were awarded grants. This was announced by Sherry Tamone, chair of the Student Support Committee.

Student	Institution	Division
Brittney Calsbeek	University of Vermont	DEE
Esprit Heestand	The Ohio State University	DSEB
Liam McGuire	University of Western Ontario	DCPB
Molly Sabrina Pankey	University of California, Santa Barbara	DSEB

III. New Business

The following resolution was brought forward by the SICB Advisory Committee of Past SICB Presidents.

A Resolution for the Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology on Evolution and Climate Change

Recognizing that science is under attack in the U.S. as evidenced by the wide-spread disregard for the scientific process and the suppression and distortion of scientific data across a broad spectrum of areas in which we, as biologists, have special expertise, be it resolved that the SICB take a public stand in support of scientific truth, especially:

(1) in support of the teaching of evolution as a scientific fact, and under the name of “evolution;”

(2) in support of efforts to publicize broadly the impacts of the suppression of scientific evidence on societal concerns such as global climate change, environmental conservation and stem-cell research; and

(3) to authorize the SICB Executive Committee to issue press releases and editorials, initiate and publish statements, and sign collective statements consistent with (1) and (2) above.

Since this was a motion offered by a committee, it required no second. There was some discussion of the motion. Two friendly amendments were proposed without specific wording to soften the statement of teaching evolution as fact. These amendments were not accepted.

The motion passed by acclamation.

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.