

**SOCIETY FOR INTEGRATIVE & COMPARATIVE BIOLOGY**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**6 January 2010**  
**Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Room 607**  
**Seattle, Washington**

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by President Richard Satterlie.

The minutes of the 2009 Business Meeting were approved as distributed.

Announcements: President Satterlie announced the venues for the next four annual meetings.

1. Salt Lake City, UT
2. Charleston ,SC
3. San Francisco, CA
4. Austin, TX

## **I. Officer Reports**

### **• Program Officer Report, Eduardo Rosa-Molinar**

- 2010 Annual Meeting registration and attendance figures
  - attendance (as of 3:30 p.m. on 6 Jan 2010) = 1,722
  - abstracts submitted (both oral and poster) = 1,329
  - abstracts withdrawn = 45 (32 oral; 13 poster)
  - companions registered = 32
  - total number of exhibitors = 36 companies
  - total number of full members registered and presenting = 434
  - total number of graduate students registered and presenting = 565
  - total number of postdoctoral members registered and presenting = 188
  - total number of undergraduate members registered and presenting = 172
  - total number of high school students registered and presenting = 3
  - number of walk-in registrations = 114
- student support supplements at the meeting = 287 for housing and 67 for registration
- The Program Officer thanked the organizers of the 11 symposia and the Program Committee for preparing an excellent program for this meeting.

### **• Secretary Report, Lou Burnett**

- The Secretary noted that we went to a different format for the society newsletter during the past year and he thanked the webmaster Ruedi Birenheide for his efforts in making this happen. The membership, according to the member survey, have received this change positively.
- The Secretary noted that a monthly member update was inaugurated informing the members in a brief email of significant events in SICB including news of significant event of individual members.
- The Secretary noted that the Executive Officers continue to work very hard for the society. They normally meet weekly on one-hour conference calls and this past year logged 41 conference calls.

- A summary of the results of the SICB member survey was presented. The survey was completed on October 10, 2009; 850 SICB members responded to the survey and this represents 35% of the membership.
  - Full members responding = 442 (includes emeritus and life members)
  - Postdoctoral members = 102
  - Graduate student members = 273
  - Student-in-training members = 33
- Size of member institutions (includes undergraduate and graduate students); data are from full member responses only.
  - less than 2,500 = 13.3%
  - from 2,501 to 5,000 = 9.3%
  - from 5,001 to 10,000 = 12.0%
  - from 10,001 to 20,000 = 22.4%
  - greater than 20,000 = 37.3%
  - not applicable, i.e., member not at academic institution = 5.7%
- What best describes your institution?
  - primary expectation in research productivity = 31.7%
  - balanced research & teaching expectations = 46.2%
  - primary expectations in teaching = 18.8%
  - other = 0.7%
  - not applicable = 2.7%
- How long have you been a member of this society? Full members (ALL members).
  - just joined = 3.8% (15.9%)
  - 1-3 years = 5.9% (21.3%)
  - 3-5 years = 7.7% (12.5%)
  - 5-10 years = 19.0% (16.5%)
  - 10-20 years = 27.1% (14.9%)
  - 20-30 years = 20.1% (10.5%)
  - greater than 30 years = 16.3% (8.5%)
- What do you consider your primary divisional affiliation? Full members (ALL members).
  - Animal Behavior = 4.8% (8.5%)
  - Comparative Biomechanics = 6.8% (9.2%)
  - Comparative Endocrinology = 10.2% (8.4%)
  - Comparative Physiology & Biochemistry = 24.8% (18.2%)
  - Developmental & Cell Biology = 2.5% (3.2%)
  - Evolutionary Developmental Biology = 6.4% (6.3%)
  - Ecology & Evolution = 8.0% (14.8%)
  - Invertebrate Zoology = 11.6% (8.9%)
  - Neurobiology = 5.0% (3.8%)
  - Systematic & Evolutionary Biology = 3.9% (4.3%)
  - Vertebrate Morphology = 16.1% (14.6%)
- How often do you attend the annual meeting? Full member responses.
  - every year = 34.1%
  - every other year = 22.6%
  - every 3 to 5 years = 23.0%
  - rarely = 14.1%

- never = 6.2%
- Best describes your position on the present timing in early January of the annual meeting. Full members (ALL members).
  - while not always at a perfect time, I am satisfied with the present timing = 76.7% (77.3%)
  - I am not satisfied with the timing = 23.3% (22.7%)
- Meeting time preferences throughout the year were queried. The June/July combination was the most popular (after early January) among full members with 14.6% indicating a highly desirable timing and 34.7% indicating desirable timing.
- How important is the meeting location in deciding whether or not to attend? ALL members.
  - very important = 22.5%
  - somewhat important = 58.0%
  - not important = 19.5%
- various aspects of the program of the annual meeting were also surveyed; answers reflect responses of ALL members

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
opening plenary lecture/presidential address is important	25.2%	47.0%	21.7%	4.9%	1.1%
opening social is important	34.0%	45.6%	16.6%	2.7%	1.1%
end-of-meeting social is important	19.3%	35.0%	29.7%	13.4%	2.6%

- Questions about SICB communications; answers reflect responses of ALL members:
  - new SICB monthly member update
    - I read the member update – always = 33.4%, sometimes = 59.1%, never = 7.5%
    - I find the member update useful – always = 16.4%, sometimes = 73.5%, never = 10.1%
- The SICB Newsletter is published in the spring and the fall of each year. Responses from ALL members indicate how the newsletter is read.

	<b>Always</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Never</b>
Society-wide news	32.9%	58.2%	8.9%
Experiences in Integrative & Comparative Biology	23.7%	62.1%	14.2%
Divisional news	37.6%	53.0%	9.5%

- **Treasurer Report, Ron Dimock**

- ***Society portfolio on rocky road to recovery***

The Society's approximately \$800,000 portfolio that has been professionally managed by Matthew Tederick since 2002 reached an all-time high value of approximately \$1,200,000 in October 2007. By December 31, 2008, that value had decreased to \$836,475. With the recent run up of the market since March 2009, I'm happy to report that the portfolio is worth \$979,102 as I write this on January

4, 2010. Therefore although we have a long way to go to get back to the high point of October 2007, the portfolio has a net gain of about \$180,000 or 22% since inception. Approximately 15% or \$145,000 of that total is being held in cash or cash equivalents which will enable the financial advisor to take advantage of excellent buying opportunities when he is comfortable doing so.

- ***SICB remains fiscally solvent***

The audit for fiscal 2009 (June 30) showed to net assets of the Society to be \$1,304,782. While this figure is approximately \$200,000 less than 2008, it does not reflect the increase in investments that has occurred since June 30, as noted above.

- ***Fiscal 2009 ends on very positive note thanks to Boston meeting***

The above mentioned status of SICB's net assets notwithstanding, Fiscal 2009 ended surprisingly well. The budget had projected net annual income to be \$34,564 in the red (not including capital gain/loss), but actually finished the year \$67,754 in the black! This was due almost entirely to the revenue generated by the annual meeting in Boston, \$101,717. This figure is attributable to the joint impact of various savings engineered by Sue Burk, the great increase in attendance, the timely increase in registration fees, and the cap of \$100 on reimbursement to symposium speakers. Unfortunately this wonderful outcome of the Boston meeting only served to offset the dismal performance of the market earlier in the year.

- ***Division of Comparative Biomechanics successfully funds the Carl Gans award***

Under the guidance of Robert Dudley and Bob Full, together with the great generosity of Carl's brother Leo and Sandra Gaunt, the Carl Gans endowment met and greatly exceeded the \$25,000 minimum required to fund a new award. As noted below in the summary of endowments, the Gans endowment now stands at approximately \$34,400. This remarkable feat of going from inception to full funding of this award in less than a year sadly comes just as the untimely death of Professor Gans occurred in November. However, this award insures a lasting legacy on his behalf.

- ***Executive Committee authorizes establishment of 11<sup>th</sup> restricted endowment***

At its meeting on Jan 3, the Executive Committee established a new endowment fund to support the Howard Bern Lecture series. Contributions to this fund would be welcomed.

- ***New revenue sought from journal advertizing***

The Development Committee, working initially with Program Officer Ed Rosa-Molinar, is pursuing options for selling space in the hard copy of *ICB* as well as various aspects of online advertizing, to scientific vendors. This is a new initiative for generating revenue and could be very successful.

- ***Other budget highlights***

- 1. ***Journal income not only stabilized but increasing***

The partnership with Oxford University Press continues to be excellent for SICB.

The net income from *ICB* for fiscal 2009 was \$199,470, up from \$179,798 the

previous year and about \$35,000 more than had been conservatively projected in the

2009 budget. The proposed 2011 budget again conservatively includes a net profit of \$183,000.

**2. *Annual meetings increasingly cost-effective***

As noted above, the optimistic projection in the 2009 budget of a profit for the Boston meeting of about \$24,000 was greatly exceeded. The pre-meeting registration for this meeting in Seattle (about 1600 as this is written) also suggests that the meeting will finish solidly in the black. While there is no concerted intention to turn the annual meeting into a profit generating aspect of SICB activities, it is very comforting finally to conclude that the days of having the meeting be a financial drain on the Society are over!

**3. *Student support continues to be a hallmark of SICB***

In addition to providing \$24,000 for GIAR, \$6000 for FGST and \$300 per Division for Best Student Paper/Poster awards, (the latter now generously supported by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.), the Society continues waiving registration or providing heavily subsidized housing to student workers. For Seattle at this writing there are 67 students getting waiver of registration and 287 receiving housing for their nominal co-pay of \$75 for 4 nights. The 729 students registered for this meeting enjoy a greatly reduced registration fee relative to that of full members.

## **II. Other Business**

Grand Challenge update – Brian Tsukimura, SICB Program Officer-Elect

A brief report was presented on the Grand Challenge Workshop that took place at this meeting (Wednesday, January 5 from noon to 3 p.m.). Three sessions involving both authors of papers describing the Grand Challenges in Organismal Biology and executive board members from outside professional societies convened to discuss grand challenges and the new directions in which the science should develop. Two major implementation arenas were developed: 1) Research areas involving interdisciplinary cooperatives that might move beyond standard model organisms and methodologies, plus the abilities to collect and properly analyze these new data; and 2) Education at all levels (high school, undergraduate, graduate, post-doctoral and tenure-track faculty), including informing the public, legislators and granting agencies of the importance of Organismal biology.

Brian Tsukimura then introduced Bill Zamer of the National Science Foundation who commented on the Grand Challenge process. Bill Zamer recognized the Grand Challenges publications in the SICB journal *Integrative and Comparative Biology* and the workshop mentioned above as a part of a fast-moving process to engage the community in a discussion of the direction of organismal science. He thanked the SICB, and in particular Brian Tsukimura, for taking a leadership role, recognizing the need for a national conversation on these issues that is broader than the SICB. Zamer suggested that this is a long process that has two parts: 1) the articulation of research agendas associated with where the field of organismal biology goes over the next 10 years, and 2) the identification of the infrastructure required to support the research agendas. The NSF is interested in hearing from the community about the direction of organismal biology as an important component of biological sciences supported by NSF. Facilitating discussions about the future of organismal biology is part of NSF's mandate to insure the vitality of all of the scientific areas it supports. In addition, the community of organismal biologists

benefits from the intellectual engagement about the future of the science. Bottom-up input from the community can inform NSF about the community's insights about where the field of integrative organismal biology is moving, intellectually, in the next decade.

**Congratulations to newly-elected SICB officers.** President Satterlie congratulated the newly-elected officers of the Society who will take office at the end of the second Executive Committee meeting.

Brian Tsukimura – Program Officer  
Sally Leys – Member-At-Large  
Marilyn Ramenofsky – DAB Chair

### III. Recognition of Lecturers and Awards

**Recognition was given to the following individuals.**

- Howard Bern Lecture – Carl B. Schreck, Oregon State University, “Haruspication: Why is the endocrine system so similar and why is it so dissimilar amongst fishes?”

#### **Awards**

- George A. Bartholomew Award – Roberto Nespolo, Associate Professor of Science, Universidad Austral de Chile "From comparative physiology to evolutionary biology through animal bioenergetics: practicing the Krogh principle in South America"
- 2009 Libbie H. Hyman Scholarship – Frederick Larabee, Dept. of Entomology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Dorothy M. Skinner Award – Maren Vitousek, University of Colorado.
- A number of SICB Officers whose terms are ending were recognized.
  - Recognition of Retiring Divisional **Secretaries**
    - Allen Gibbs, D. Comp. Physiol. & Biochem.
    - Renae Brodie, D. Invert. Zool.
    - Marta deMaintenon, D. Systematics & Evol. Biol.
    - Gary Gillis, D. Vert. Morph.
  - Recognition of Retiring Divisional **Program Officers**
    - Frank Fish, D. Comp. Biomechanics
    - Stephan Schoech, D. Comp. Endocrinology
    - Wendy Olson, D. Evolutionary Developmental Biol.
    - Jeff Walker, D. Vert. Morph.
  - Members rotating off *ICB* Editorial Board
    - Thomas Klinger
    - Pat Willmer
  - Recognition of retiring Committee Chairs
    - Sally Woodin, Membership Committee, Chair
    - Tom Daniel, Development Committee, Chair
    - Larry Riley, SPDAC Chair

- Patricia Hernandez, Committee on Broadening Participation, Chair
    - Sherry Tamone, Student Support Committee, Chair
  - Recognition of Jim Hicks, PBZ Editor & Andrea Canfield, PBZ Managing Editor for their valuable service to the journal and the SICB
  - Recognition of retiring Member-At-Large, Rachel Merz
  - Recognition of retiring divisional **Chairs**
    - Tom Hahn, DAB Chair
    - Stacia Sower, DCE Chair
    - Joe Williams, DCPB Chair
    - Linda Holland, DEDB Chair
    - Anne Maglia, DSEB Chair
  - Recognition of retiring SICB Program Officer, Eduardo Rosa-Molinar
  - Special recognition of retiring SICB Treasurer, Ron Dimock, for his nine years of services as treasurer.
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- GIAR and FGST Awards. To present these awards, Sheila Patek, chair of the Student Support Committee was introduced. Patek acknowledged the 10 committee members representing all SICB divisions who worked hard to select the award recipients. Over 150 applications were received and the following awards were made.

Fellowship of Graduate Student Travel (FGST)	
Virginia Jayne Emery	
Karla Feitl	
Rebecka Brasso	
Grants in Aid of Student Research (GIAR)	
Sarah Ann Knutie	David Garfield
Adrienne Michele Zillmann	Brandon S. Cooper
Christina M Booher	Sean Beckmann
Flavia Barbosa	Erik J. Scully
Thomas Meek	Beck Ari Wehrle
Ana Gabriela Jimenez	Marek Allen
Michelle Rensel	Christine Bedore
Alison H. Doherty	Craig Gritzen
James U. Van Dyke	Michael Martin
Richard Ian Horn	Arielle Shanahan
Daniel Fernandes	Michael Brent Hawkins
Kevin Kohl	Vikram Shende

#### IV. New Business

A question was raised about the impacts of the SICB boycott of the New Orleans as a meeting site in 2012. 1) Is there any way to do follow-up to measure impact? 2)Has the society come up with strategy to have a positive impact on New Orleans. President Satterlie responded that the first question is difficult to answer, but that the responses he received from colleagues and others

was overwhelmingly positive. Sally Woodin made the point that Oklahoma legislature failed to pass a law on the teaching of evolution as a result of SICB not going to Louisiana. On the second question Satterlie responded that the SICB Public Affairs Committee is doing something positive with some workshops in Louisiana.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10.