



Division of Comparative Biomechanics

In this newsletter

- [Message from the Chair](#)
- [Message from the Program Officer](#)
- [Message from the Secretary](#)
- [Business Meeting Minutes 2009](#)
- [Proposed Divisional Bylaws Changes](#)
- [Elections](#)

Message from the Chair

Robert Full

Membership

Two years ago we created a new division for the study of comparative biomechanics. During this time we adopted a set of bylaws and held our first elections. We are about to hold our second set of elections. We started with 151 members. We had 198 members join in the first year. We had 168 join the Division last year. So, now we have a total of 517 members!

Meeting

The Boston Meeting was the most successful meeting on record. DCB co-sponsored a well-attended symposium on Sensory Biomechanics, organized by Matt McHenry and Sanjay Sane. We thank Matt and Sanjay for the efforts. The symposium also had four outstanding complementary sessions!

Thanks to all who attended the tour of iRobot. It was exciting to see many of the biologically inspired robots including the underwater vehicles from newly purchased Nekton Research. In 1991, Chuck Pell and Steve Wainwright started the Bio-Design Studio that led to the company. They interested the Navy in the possibility of a fishtail propeller. Rick Vosburgh, Steve's doctoral student, joined Nekton as CEO and built it to be an innovative business in marine robotics. Its products are designs and prototypes of UUVs (Unmanned Undersea Vehicles) inspired by animals. I apologize to those we could not accommodate on the tour. Given the response, I will see if our Division members can arrange any tours for Seattle next year.

National Science Foundation

William Zamer reported to our Executive Committee that NSF is looking for our leadership to catalyze discussions on this question: What Does the Future of Organismal Biology Look Like? What are the long-standing questions that can now be answered because the time is right? What major questions in integrative organismal biology could be addressed that will also improve understanding of other areas of science, and biology generally? He asked us to identify areas where advances in knowledge about organisms can uniquely and directly inform larger is-



sues of the Obama Administration which include:

1. environmental sustainability
2. novel energy sources or technology
3. climate change models
4. environmental adaptation and resilience
5. principles of regulatory networks and systems approaches

Synthesis and computational approaches that make use of the wealth of existing data to increase knowledge and predictive capacity are important. He asked us to 1) reach a consensus about a research agenda to significantly advance the science from the unique perspective of integrative organismal biologists; 2) identify infrastructure and training needs to support the agenda; and 3) identify relevant communities, beyond SICB, to participate.

Given your suggestions, SICB established a Discussion Board (web page) for feedback related to the Grand Challenges in Organismal Biology (<http://www.sicb.org/bb2/>). Due to the urgency of a response and the lack of discussion on this site, the SICB Executive Committee asked a sub-committee to draft a document. It can be found at:

http://www.sicb.org/GrandChallenges/OrgBio_v3.4.pdf

Please feel free to comment on this document. If you are interested in writing a perspective related to these topics, let us know.

Establishment of The Carl Gans Award Fund

I enlist your support in fundraising for the new "Carl Gans Award" associated with our division. At our most recent meeting in Boston, the SICB Executive Committee approved the establishment of a fund in support of the award, the first for our division. The specific text of the award follows, and the overall intent is to recognize excellence in biomechanics and functional morphology. As many of you are aware, Carl has been an influential member of SICB (and its predecessor, the American Society of Zoologists) for many decades. I have also included a biographical work that details many of [Carl's scientific and editorial contributions](#). To establish this award financially, it is necessary to endow the award with \$25,000. Although we well realize that the fundraising climate now is suboptimal, any and all contributions will help this important award. Contributions can be made through the SICB web site; click on "Donate to SICB" on the lower left of any page on the SICB web site and follow the link. Or contributions can be made by check; these should be marked for the "Carl Gans Award" and be sent to the attention of the SICB Executive Director:

Brett J. Burk
SICB Executive Director
BBurk@BurkInc.com
Mobile 703.981.7708
1313 Dolley Madison Blvd.
Suite 402
McLean VA 22101

Brett will deposit them into an account and reserve them for the fund.



"The Carl Gans Award," Division of Comparative Biomechanics, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology

An annual prize may be given either to an outstanding young investigator for distinguished contributions to the field of comparative biomechanics and functional biology (eligible candidates are those who have completed their doctorate within the past seven years), or to any investigator for the single best contribution of the past year to the literature of comparative biomechanics and functional biology, including research papers, review articles, and published books. The formal title for this award is "The Carl Gans Award," in recognition of Carl Gans' scientific career and editorial contributions to animal morphology, biomechanics, and functional biology. The Chair of the Division shall appoint an Award Committee consisting of at least three divisional members with diverse interests to serve as judges. The Chair of the Division will designate one of the members as the chair of the Award Committee. Committee members will normally serve for no more than three years, with at least one member being replaced each year. Candidates may apply directly or be nominated, but both types of candidates will be evaluated equivalently. Applicants shall submit to the Chair of the Award Committee either a short description of their work together with selected reprints (outstanding young investigator), or a copy of either a research paper, review article, or book (best contribution to the literature). A curriculum vitae must also be submitted, along with three letters of support. Nominators must arrange for these same materials (except that only two additional letters of

recommendation are required) to be submitted to the Committee. The Committee may recommend for approval one candidate to the Chair of the Division, who may authorize reimbursement of appropriate expenses incurred by the winner in attending the annual SICB meeting. The awardee will be presented with a certificate signed by all current Divisional officers. The Chair may also authorize a research award to further the following themes: 1) general field and laboratory work in comparative biomechanics, 2) collaborative work with scientists in Israel, 3) travel to visit Ben-Gurion University (Sde-Boqer Campus) and the Gans Library, and to conduct fieldwork in Israel, and 4) support of collaborative international research. These research themes are in recognition of the efforts of Carl Gans to promote and foster international collaborations among scientists, as well as his ability to show that all animals are interesting.

Science & Entertainment Exchange

Communicating Science to the public has never been more important. Last November, I presented research in comparative biomechanics to the Entertainment Industry in a new program called: The Science & Entertainment Exchange (<http://www.scienceandentertainmentexchange.org/index.html>). It is a program of the National Academy of Sciences that provides entertainment industry professionals with access to top scientists and engineers to help bring the reality of cutting-edge science to creative and engaging storylines. The portrayal of science – its practitioners, its methods, its effects – has often posed a challenge to the



entertainment community. Though it has inspired some of the most intelligent and compelling storylines, science's many complexities have confounded even the most talented writer, director, or producer, time and again pitting creative license against scientific authenticity and clarity. Likewise, the scientific community has struggled to find an effective conduit through which it can communicate its story accurately and effectively. Though many of the world's biggest problems require scientific solutions, finding a way to translate and depict scientific findings so that they reach a wide audience has required a sounding board that has often been missing.

If you are interested, please let me know. Our Division's research is high profile, easy to understand and therefore just right for this effort.

Underrepresented Minorities

I am now serving on the Board of ABRCMS, The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. ABRCMS is the largest multidisciplinary student conference in the United States. Each year, the conference attracts approximately 2,600 individuals, including 1650 undergraduate students, 300 graduate students/ postdoctoral scientists and 750 faculty and administrators.

The undergraduates are juniors and seniors looking for graduate schools. They have decided to do biological research and not medical school. These are exceptionally qualified students. They are interested in our research in particular. I gave the keynote address at the meeting two years ago and the response was

incredible.

We need volunteers to do two things:

1. Offer to give a talk at the annual meeting. The experience completely changed my thinking about issues of access and diversity.
2. To act as a representative for the faculty members of the society and the students who wish to attend this meeting.

If you are interested, please let me know.

Relevant conferences

Society of Experimental Biology

Annual Main Meeting 2009 - SEB Glasgow 2009, Sunday 28 June - Wednesday 1 July 2009, Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow, UK. The SEB is pleased to announce that in 2009 its Annual Main Meeting will return to the state-of-the-art Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) in the culture-rich city of Glasgow.

In particular, two sessions are relevant to our division.

General Biomechanics

Dates: 28th - 30th June (am only on the 30th)

Organized by: Peter Aerts

Integration of active and passive control mechanisms in locomotion

Dates: 30th June - 1st July (pm only on the 30th)

Organized by: Alan Wilson, Monica Daley and Andrew Spence

Contact: Monica Daley (mdaley@rvc.ac.uk)



The American Society of Biomechanics - ASB

With over 800 attendees, the 2008 North American Congress on Biomechanics (NACOB) at the University of Michigan was an overwhelming success. This year Penn State and the American Society of Biomechanics invite all of us to the annual meeting to be held on Penn State's University Park campus from August 26 to 29, 2009. The meeting will feature stimulating scientific sessions, comfortable conference facilities, and various social opportunities in a relaxed, academic setting.

ASB (American Society of Biomechanics) would like to involve SICB biomechanics people in their annual meeting. The ASB executive board and the meeting organizers are willing to sponsor 5 FREE registrations for student members of SICB who present their comparative biomechanics research (poster or podium) at the 2009 ASB meeting. Let me know if you are interested.

Message from the Program Officer

Frank Fish

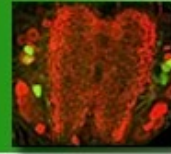
After attending the 2009 meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology held this past January in Boston, what comes to mind immediately is a quote from Act 4, Scene 3 of Shakespeare's *Henry V*:

"And gentlemen in England now a-bed
Shall think themselves accursed they were

not here."

If you were not in attendance, then you definitely missed something special. Despite the less than balmy tropical conditions in Boston in winter, the warmth of the venue with the presentations of such a high level of science certainly distracted us from the cold and snow outside. It was a fantastic meeting with a record number of paper and poster presentations. DCB made a major contribution with presentations on terrestrial, aerial and aquatic locomotion, feeding biomechanics, biomaterials, adhesion, and muscle dynamics. There were 35 sessions related to biomechanics and with 175 oral papers and 89 posters. Matt McHenry and Sanjay Sane put on a marvelous symposium on Sensory Biomechanics, which was sponsored by The Journal of Experimental Biology, The Company of Biologists, Fastec Imaging and the National Science Foundation. The symposium also attracted additional papers for four complimentary sessions on sensory biomechanics. Once again, the Division of Vertebrate Morphology (DVM) and DCB joined forces and financial assets to have a joint social. In all respects, the meeting was a success. So now it is time to start thinking and planning for future meetings.

The DCB is now requesting that you start to put together symposia for the 2011 meeting. Please contact me if you have an idea that can be developed. The SICB will reimburse a maximum of \$100 for each individual presenting in the symposia. Additional expenses to cover registration, lodging, and travel should come from other sources of revenue. These sources should include divisional funds and



SICB Newsletter

Spring 2009 Issue

outside agencies. It is highly suggested that symposium organizers make proposals to outside granting agencies (e.g., NSF, NIH, ONR). When putting together a symposium, also consider complimentary sessions, both oral and poster, which can increase the scope of the presentations and bring in more contributors. As you organize the symposium and complimentary sessions indicate to the Program Officer when in the program these sessions should occur. For complimentary oral presentations, the sessions should be organized in blocks of 5 or 6 talks.

So, we few, we happy few, we band of brothers, let us start planning now to come and present at future meetings. Seattle welcomes us for 2010.

Message from the Secretary

Miriam Ashley-Ross

The meeting in Boston was superb! It's no exaggeration to say that the DCB-sponsored symposium *Sensory Biomechanics*, organized by Matt McHenry and Sanjay Sane, was truly a highlight. Biomechanics-themed contributed paper sessions were abundant (perhaps too much, given the competing sessions!) and well attended, and the Best Student Paper/Poster competitions were as full as any other division – we had 33 total entries in both categories. The student winners were:

Best Student Oral Presentation

Chen Li, Georgia Institute of Technology.

Enhancement of legged robot speed on granular media using kinematics which promote solidification

Best Student Poster

William Stewart, University of California at Irvine. *The unsteady flow sensed by larval zebrafish*

Congratulations to Chen and William!

Though it's still early in the year, it's time to start planning for Seattle and beyond. Frank Fish, our intrepid Program Officer, is ready and willing to assist with organizing symposia. We want to continue making a strong showing as a Division, so please consider organizing a symposium for a future meeting. The Minutes of the Business Meeting contain additional information on funding opportunities and DCB initiatives.

Proposed Divisional Bylaws Changes.

All of the Divisions are in the process of bringing their bylaws into conformity with the SICB bylaws, and updating them to reflect the reality of our electronic age. Below you can see the changes to the various areas of the DCB bylaws that required updating. We will be voting on the changes later in the spring.

Elections

We do have some new business that we need to take care of as a division this spring. First, we need to get onto a regular cycle of divisional elections, and we're kicking that off in a big way by electing two new officers: a Chair-Elect who will serve in that capacity in 2010, and then as Chair in 2011 and 2012,



SICB Newsletter

Spring 2009 Issue

and a Program Officer who will serve in 2010 and 2011. We've got two stellar candidates for each post – please read their biographies below and vote for your favorite when the election goes live later this spring.

Researchers Database

Finally, we are still thin in the Researchers Database section for the Division. Please e-mail me a short description of your research, along with a nifty picture related to it, for inclusion in the online database. It's a great tool for attracting potential students, and only takes a couple of minutes – most of us already have websites, and it's simple to copy the most salient points from that, and send them along.

Have a great summer!

Minutes of the Division of Comparative Biomechanics business meeting, January 4, 2009

The Division Chair, Bob Full, called the meeting to order and introduced the elected officers.

The SICB Society officers entered the room and were introduced. Rich Satterlie is the new Society President (taking office at the end of the meeting), and the society is in very sound financial shape.

Bob Full read the current membership numbers for DCB. Two years ago, when DCB was formed, we had 151 members, and now we have 517. At the San Antonio meeting, DCB co-sponsored 3 symposia; at the Boston

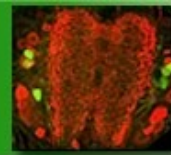
meeting, we sponsored 1 symposium (Sensory Biomechanics) that had 4 complimentary contributed paper sessions. The Boston meeting was the largest meeting ever for SICB. The iRobot tour filled up to capacity quickly, and left many unable to attend it due to space constraints at the facility.

Bob reported on a presentation that Bill Zamer of NSF gave to the SICB Executive Committee: he wants input from SICB on the future of organismal biology, as NSF undergoes yet another transition in organization, and reflecting the changing priorities brought on by the new Obama administration. NSF needs a strong statement from SICB regarding what we see as the "grand challenges in biology" that can only be answered through organismal approaches. One of the key points that Zamer emphasized was that we need to show how organismal biology can connect to other disciplines in these grand challenge ventures. (Note: you can read the Executive Committee's response linked off of the front page of the SICB website). A strong statement in support of organismal biology also will influence how NSF is organized (or reorganized).

Andy Biewener suggested constructing a wiki where SICB members could post ideas and comments.

Mark Westneat suggested connecting organismal biological approaches to climate and environmental change study programs as one potential way to broaden the applicability of organismal biology.

Adam Summers, currently serving as Program Officer in Integrative Organismal Sys-



SICB Newsletter

Spring 2009 Issue

tems (IOS) at NSF discussed two initiatives of interest to the SICB membership. First was the "Dear Colleague" letter that had recently been sent, describing the "Life in Transition" program – this is actually extra money that NSF has to award. To apply, grant proposals should go to their regular review panel, but the title of the grant should be prefaced by "LIT:". Adam noted three aspects of the LIT program that might fit into biomechanics research: (1) how the living world is adapting to a changing climate (how organismal performance varies with environmental change), (2) energy transformation through an ecological system, and (3) what are the principles and mechanisms of resiliency and sustainability used by living organisms in the face of environmental change. The "Dear Colleague" letter is available online.

The second NSF initiative that Adam mentioned was a "Sandbox" – potential PIs from different disciplines would be invited to meet, and put together into collaborative groups. This would be structured to enhance multidisciplinary research.

Adam also stressed that being a Program Officer at NSF was rewarding, and should be considered by all of us. Finally, he mentioned that IOS was particularly in need of Program Officers who can bridge biology with engineering, as it is (sometimes) possible to garner extra funds for biomechanics proposals from the engineering directorate within NSF.

Robert Dudley made a brief report on the progress on establishing the Gans

Award, named in order to recognize the seminal contributions to comparative biomechanics made by Carl Gans. The award-organizing committee has a target of a minimum of \$25,000, as that is the smallest amount that can be a self-sustaining endowment fund. They will be soliciting small contributions from individual DCB members; the Gans family will also make a substantial contribution. The award will recognize a unique published contribution in comparative biomechanics for the year.

Bob Full reported on some additional opportunities for biomechanists to make a difference. He discussed how he had recently made a presentation at a science-entertainment exchange symposium. The entertainment executives in attendance seemed outraged that ignorance was deemed a virtue in society, but eventually realized that they were part of the problem, and now want to get the science right when it's portrayed in the media. If you're interested in serving as a consultant to the media, let Bob know and he'll pass on your name. He also asked for volunteers to go as presenters and judges to minority-focused meetings.

The Program Officer, Frank Fish, spoke next. The number of biomechanics talks was up over the past year, leading to unavoidable scheduling problems. Frank asked for suggestions on how to make things at the meetings run more smoothly. At this year's meeting, the Division is sponsoring Sensory Biomechanics, organized by Matt McHenry and Sanjay Sane. Next year



SICB Newsletter

Spring 2009 Issue

in Seattle, the DCB sponsored symposium is going to be on Plant Biomechanics, and we also may be co-sponsoring (with DVM) a symposium on the evolution of fish body shape, organized by Jeff Walker.

Frank urged DCB members to organize symposia for the 2011 meeting. SICB will reimburse up to \$100 in registration fees for all symposium participants, and DCB has additional funds to further defray the costs. He further emphasized that the Program Officer needs to always be kept in the loop at all stages of symposium organization so that funds are allocated properly. Symposium organizers are required by SICB to apply for external funding (though it's not necessary to actually obtain it); NSF should always be approached for funding symposia (it helps to have funding from more than one SICB division for this). Finally, when organizing a symposium, also consider that "complimentary sessions" of contributed papers are a possibility – the magic numbers for those are 5 or 6 papers per session. Frank ended with the statement that the hardest part of symposium organization was the "herding cats" aspect of getting the authors to actually cough up the papers for publication.

Gabe Rivera, the Student/Postdoctoral representative, talked about the successful first annual Southeast Regional DCB/DVM meeting, held in October at Clemson University. 30 participants attended, and Mike LaBarbera gave the keynote address, which was on the biomechanics of movie monsters. Ty Hedrick of UNC Chapel Hill will

organize next year's meeting. Gabe encouraged students in particular to participate in the regional meetings, since it's a great opportunity to meet people in the field and a nice environment to get constructive feedback. He also encouraged students to co-organize symposia with their advisers for the regular SICB annual meetings, since it's another way to meet leading names in the field and also to be a co-PI on an NSF grant. Finally, Gabe reminded the DCB members that his term of office ends next January, and we will need a replacement. Any student or postdoc interested should contact Gabe, and Bob.

The business (and all attendees) being exhausted, the meeting was adjourned.

Proposed Divisional Bylaws Changes

Additions = **bold underline**; deletions = ~~strikethrough~~.

Article IV. Membership

Any member of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology may, without payment of additional dues, become a member of this Division **by registration with the SICB business office** ~~upon request to the Executive Secretary of the Society.~~

Article V. Officers

Officers of the Division shall be a Chair, a Chair-Elect, a Past Chair, a Program Offi-



cer and a Secretary. They shall be elected by a majority vote of the members conducted by a mail ballot prior to the annual meeting by a procedure consonant with the Bylaws of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. **A brief biography of each candidate shall be made available on the ballot. The term of office of all elected officers and appointed representative shall begin at the end of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to begin and will end at the adjournment of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to expire.**

In the case when a divisional office is unexpectedly vacated, **the following provisions are made: If the office of Secretary or Program Officer is vacated early, the Chair, in consultation with the Divisional Executive Committee, will appoint someone to serve until elections can be held to fill the position. If the office of Divisional Chair is vacant, the Divisional Executive Committee, in consultation with the SICB President, will appoint someone to be the interim Chair until an election is held**

~~the current Nominating committee will recommend to the Chair an interim officer who will be appointed to serve the remainder of the term. The Officers plus the graduate student representative shall constitute an Executive Committee responsible for divisional affairs. The business year of the Division shall run January 1 through December 31 .~~

Article VIII. Past Chair

Upon expiration of the term of office, the Chair shall automatically become the Past Chair. The Past Chair shall serve on the Divisional Executive Committee. The Past Chair shall serve for two years.

Article XV. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting of the Division by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Division voting, provided that notice has been given to all members 60 days in advance, **or by a vote at other times of year. In such a case, the** ~~or by a two-thirds majority of votes returned one month from the date of postmark of ballots mailed to the membership.~~ **proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be posted by the Society Secretary on the Web Page at least one month prior to voting. Ballots will be made available to the membership and one month will be allowed for voting. The ballot closing date shall be stated on the ballot.**



Elections Candidates for Chair-Elect

John H. Long, Jr.

Current Position: Professor of Biology and Cognitive Science, Director of the Interdisciplinary Robotics Research Laboratory



Education: B.A. College of the Atlantic; Ph.D. Duke University.

Professional Experience: Assistant Professor (1991-1998), Associate Professor (1998-2004), Professor (2004 to present), Vassar College; Senior Scientist, MiMedx, Inc. (2007 to present).

SICB Activities: former Member-at-large, Executive Committee; former Secretary, Division of Vertebrate Morphology; former judge, Best Student Paper, Dwight Davis Award; organizer and co-organizer of several symposia.

Other Memberships: IEEE Engineering in Biology and Medicine, IEEE Oceanic Engineering, IEEE Robotics and Automation, International Society of Vertebrate Morphology, Sigma Xi, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

Research Interests: Biomimetic evolution, evolution of biomechanical systems, biorobotics.

Statement of Goals: The Division of Comparative Biomechanics is off to an exciting start in terms of interest and mem-

bership. However, as we learned from Bob Full at our business meeting at SICB 2009, we need to work to create and sponsor more of our own symposia. In this area, I'm especially interested in working with our Program Officer, Frank Fish, and our P.O.-elect to encourage our dynamic post-docs and late-stage graduate students to become symposium organizers and participants. Highlighting our post-docs and graduate students -- in presentations at SICB and publications in Integrative and Organismal Biology -- will give them a competitive boost in a shrinking job market. Speaking of jobs and a contracting economy, I'm also interested in engaging NSF in discussions about helping extend salaries for graduate students and post-docs, keeping them employed in science while we all wait for the academic hiring freezes to thaw. I'm no groundhog, but the economic winter in the land of Academia is likely to last at least through 2011, based on the self-fulfilling nature of how most institutions forward-model their budgets.

To continue the seasonal metaphor, we also face the prospect that the academic spring, when next we see it, will offer new opportunities for intellectual and funding partnerships between researchers and engineers. As Bob showed us in Boston with a tour of iRobot, industrial engineers are excited to work with academics on uncovering functional principles and prototyping biologically-inspired devices. In the same vein, our P.O., Frank Fish, also provides a



great model, with his humpback whale flipper windmill, of how to work with engineers to transfer our biomechanical knowledge to industry. While exciting, these partnerships are not automatic, and I plan to set up a series of DCB workshops in which we can learn more from our in-house experts about the benefits, costs, and methods of working with industrial partners.

Sharon Swartz

Current Position: Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Associate Professor of Engineering, Brown University, 1996-present



Education: Ph.D. 1988, The University of Chicago, Committee on Evolutionary Biology. B.A. 1981, Oberlin College, Biology and Anthropology/Sociology

Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, EEB and Engineering, Brown University, 1990-1996. Assistant Professor of Cell Biology & Anatomy, School of Medicine, and Assistant Professor of Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences and Graduate School, Northwestern University, 1987-1990

SICB Activities: I have been a DCB member since the division's inception, and DVM member since 1982. I have chaired

numerous paper sessions and served several times on Student Awards Committees and Nominating Committees. I have participated in Northeast Regional DVM Meetings since their start in 1991, and have hosted Regional DVM Meetings at Brown three times.

Other Memberships: Society for Experimental Biology, International Society of Vertebrate Morphology; American Society for Biomechanics, American Physical Society, North American Society for Bat Research.

Research Interests: Biomechanics of animal flight; comparative biomechanics of vertebrate skin and bone; size and scale issues in biological structure; novel visualization approaches for complex data; integration of approaches from physical and mathematical sciences in biological research.

Statement of Goals: Comparative biomechanics is undergoing remarkable growth as a field, and DCB is poised to play a crucial role in shaping the future of our field. I celebrate as comparative biomechanics emerges as a distinct discipline; at the same time I believe DCB members ought to recognize that our division should play a critical role at this moment in our scientific growth. Our field may today better represent the interdisciplinary future of biology than any other division within SICB — engineers, mathematicians, and computer scientists are already becoming welcome members of our research community, bringing powerful tools and novel insights



to bear on biological questions both new and old. Our division can chart a course that enhances the links between biology and other fields, and between our division and others within SICB. As Division chair, I would be honored to help to motivate, and inspire our members to work together to define and focus our vision for the future of this discipline.

Candidates for Program Officer

Stephen M. Deban

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology, University of South Florida



Education: B.S. Biology, Northern Arizona University, 1991; Ph.D. Integrative Biology, U.C. Berkeley, 1997

Professional Experience: Research Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, University of Utah, 2004-2005. Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Biology, University of Utah, 1999-2004. Visiting Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Experimental Zoology, University of Wageningen, Netherlands, 2002. Visiting Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Biology, University of Miami, 2001. Postdoctoral Researcher, Brain Research Institute, University of Bremen, Germany, 1999. Fellow, Hanse Institute for Advanced Study, Germany, 1998.

SICB Activities: Student Support Committee, 2007-present; D. Dwight Davis Award (DVM) Judge, 2004-2005.

Other Memberships: American Physiological Society, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, International Society of Vertebrate Morphology.

Research Interests: Biomechanics and physiology of movement; vertebrate morphology and evolution.

Statement of Goals: As program officer I would facilitate the development of symposia that reflect the new and diverse directions of comparative biomechanics. In particular I would encourage proposals from young researchers who are extending the reach of our field. Our rapidly growing membership will no doubt produce a wealth of proposals which can be implemented as oral and poster symposia, sponsored by DCB and cosponsored with other divisions. I would also strive to increase the involvement of our student members in shaping our program.

Cheryl Wilga

Current Position: Associate Professor, University of Rhode Island, 2005.

Education: Ph.D. University of South Florida, 1997; B.Sc. University of South Florida, 1992; A.A. University of Alaska Kodiak, 1990.





SICB Newsletter

Spring 2009 Issue

Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, University of Rhode Island, 2000-2005; Associate Faculty, Shoals Marine Laboratory 2002-present; Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University, 1997-1999; NSF Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, Irvine, 1999-2000;

SICB Activities: Davis Paper and Poster judge, Broadening Participation Committee member.

Other Memberships: AAAS, ASIH, AES, ISVM, SEB, Sigma Xi.

Research Interests: Functional morphology and evolutionary biology, comparative anatomy and physiology, biomechanics of feeding, ventilation and locomotion, predator- prey interactions.

Statement of Goals: The current program seems to work well. Trying to decide which biomechanics talk to see when multiple concurrent sessions are occurring is a measure of our success! I would also like to see increased participation and recruiting of new members. I will try to keep these things in mind when working on scheduling for future meetings.