



Division of Ecology and Evolution

In this newsletter

- [Message from the Program Officer](#)
- [Message from the Chair-Elect](#)
- [Message from the Program Officer-Elect](#)
- [DEE Researchers in Focus](#)

DEE Officers & Representatives

Art Woods

Chair 2011-2013

Michael Angilletta

Chair-Elect 2012-2013

Michele Nishiguchi

Past Chair 2011-2013

Aaron Krochmal

Secretary 2011-2013

Michael W. Sears

Program Officer 2009-2012

Elizabeth Dahlhoff

Program Officer-Elect 2012-2013

Sarah Kosting Berke

Student/Postdoc Representative
2008-2011

Dianna K. Padilla

ICB Editorial Board Representative
2007-2012

Message from the Program Officer

Mike Sears

Hi all!

I just returned from the Program Officer's meeting in Charleston. All indications are that this year's meeting should be a good one. In fact, we received the largest number of abstracts for any meeting to date. Also, we received a record number of proposals for symposia for the upcoming San Francisco meeting.

This year in Charleston, DEE will be sponsoring seven symposia (a promising trend!), including:

Society-wide Symposia

The Impacts of Developmental Plasticity on Evolutionary Innovation and Diversification - Organizer: M. Wund

Novel methods for the analysis of animal movement: spatial and temporal structure across scale - Organizer: D. Altshuler

Dispersal of marine organisms - Organizers: V. Martin and S. Lindsay

Regular Symposia

Poecilogony as a window on larval evolution: Polymorphism of developmental mode within marine invertebrate species - Organizer: E. Knott

Combining experiments with modeling and computational methods to study animal locomotion - Organizers: L. Miller and S. Alben

EvoDevo Rides the Genomics Express - Organizer: B. Swalla
Barnacle Biology: Essential Aspects and Contemporary Approaches: - Organizer J. Zardus

Details for these symposia can be found at: <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2012/symposia/index.php>

As a preview for next year in San Francisco, DEE is happy to announce its support for the following symposia:

Coping with uncertainty: Integrating physiology, behavior and evolutionary ecology in a changing world - Organizers: Zoltan Nemeth and Frances Bonier

Physiological responses to simultaneous shifts in multiple environmental stressors: relevance in a changing world - Organizers: Anne Todgham and Jonathon Stillman

Keeping time during animal evolution: conservation and innovation of the circadian clock- Organizers: Adam Reitzel and Ann Tarrant

Ecological epigenetics - Organizers: Cris Ledón-Rettig, Andrea Liebl, Christina Richards, Aaron Schrey, Armin Moczek



SICB Newsletter

Fall 2011 Issue

Phenotypic plasticity and the evolution of gender roles – Organizer: Janet L Leonard

Vertebrate land invasions: past, present, and future – Organizers: Alice Gibb, Miriam Ashley-Ross, Richard Blob, Tonia Hsieh

When predators attack: sensing and motion in predator-prey interactions- Organizers: Matt McHenry and Stacey Combes

The San Francisco meeting is shaping up to be a good one. Remember, it's not too late to be thinking about symposia for Austin in 2014!

Finally, I would like to thank the membership of DEE for allowing me to represent the division as program officer over the past three years. It has been quite a rewarding experience. The division has seen noticeable increases in participation with regard to talks, posters, and symposia. Hopefully, more and more members will view this as their primary divisional affiliation in years to come. In the future, I look forward to serving the division and society in whatever capacity that I can. Furthermore, I wish Elizabeth Dahlhoff the best over the next two years as she takes over as the new Program Officer!

See you in Charleston!

2012 Meeting Information

The 2012 SICB Annual Meeting and Exhibition will be held 3-7 January 2012 at the Charleston Convention Center in Charleston, SC. As was the case at the 2011 meeting, 7 January will be a full day- with presentations lasting until 4pm – and meeting attendees should make their travel plans accordingly.

For a detailed summary of the meeting go [here](#), or go to the meeting website <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2012/>

Registration

Registration for The 2012 SICB Annual Meeting and Exhibition is now open!

There are three ways to register for the meeting:

1. Register online by clicking [here](#).
2. Register by fax: Fax your completed form (found [here](#)) with credit card information (Visa, Master Card or American Express) to (703) 790-2672.
3. Mail your completed form (found [here](#)) with payment to:

SICB Business Office
1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 402
McLean, VA 22101

To qualify for discounted early registration, forms and payment must be received at the SICB Business Office by Friday, December 3, 2011.

Lodging

The SICB Annual Meeting hotel is the Embassy Suites North Charleston, 5055 International Boulevard, North Charleston, SC 29418. Call 843-747-1882. Rates for this meeting are Single/Double \$135.00, Triple \$145.00, Quad \$155.00, and are available December 31, 2011 - January 9, 2012, subject to availability. All reservations must be made by December 12, 2011, in order to receive this rate.

To make a reservation at the Embassy Suites North Charleston, go [here](#).

Babysitting

DEE members traveling with children should fill out the babysitting survey portion of the registration form if they are interested in having such services available during the meeting. In early November, the SICB Executive Officers will determine if there sufficient interest in having and offering such services, so be sure to fill out this survey and let your voice be heard.



SICB Newsletter

Fall 2011 Issue

Extracurricular Activities

Looking for more to do in Charleston? Check out the "Notes From the Underground" section of the SICB website for information of regarding restaurants, attractions and activities in and around Charleston. When making your plans, remember that there will be a complimentary shuttle service to take registrants back and forth to downtown Charleston for dinner and sight-seeing the evenings of January 4, 5 and 6. The shuttles will run from 6:30-11 pm and will leave from the Convention Center.

Interested in a more formal tour of the area? The Charleston Convention and Group Services offers a number of special tours for SICB delegates. They can be booked online by clicking [here](#). **Note: You must enter password "sicb" in all lower case, and provide your contact details in order to book online at special SICB rates.**

Message from the Chair-Elect

Michael Angilletta



Michael Angilletta

As I ponder my goals as the future Chair of the DEE, the goal that stands out as most important is to make more ecologists and evolutionary biologists aware of what SICB has to offer. I often meet biologists who have never been to a SICB meeting, and I always tell these people how much I enjoy the experience. For me, the best part of a SICB meeting is hearing stellar talks by

experts in areas of research that lie far afield from my own area. Without a doubt, such opportunities stem from the diverse lineup of symposia that bring some new faces to SICB each year. As the Chair of

DEE, I hope to broaden the ecological and evolutionary themes covered by symposia, as well as encourage participation by ecologists and evolutionary biologists who study plants and microbes. And I will ask each of you to join me in aiming for these goals. First, start thinking now about new and exciting themes for DEE-sponsored symposia. Second, try to convince at least one colleague who has never attended a SICB meeting to do so next year. I am pleased that some of my colleagues, who until recently had never attended a SICB meeting, are now regular attendees. I am sure that many others could be converted to regular attendees if we take the time to tell them why we belong to SICB.

Message from the Program Officer-Elect

Elizabeth Dahlhoff

A deep understanding of organismal biology and natural history is the foundation of this society, and becomes increasingly important as we face loss of biodiversity and impacts of climate change on natural systems. As a program officer, I look forward to developing symposia that highlight synthetic, integrated approaches to investigations of ecology and evolution of organisms, well informed by natural history. Next-generation sequencing and other cutting edge technologies mean that we are no longer limited to just studying "model" organisms. I look forward to highlighting these studies, and will work



Elizabeth Dahlhoff



SICB Newsletter

Fall 2011 Issue

with other divisions within the society to do so. Finally we are an inclusive group of intellectuals who value and support the contribution of scientists at all points in their careers. This year, I would like to encourage more participation by undergraduates, in part by initiating an award for best undergraduate paper and poster within the division. I would also continue to facilitate and support the excellent programs already in place for young scientists at the graduate and post-doctoral level.

Researchers in Focus



Douglas C. Woodhams

Douglas C. Woodhams is a senior research associate at the Institute of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies, University of Zurich, Switzerland. His group focuses on the ecology of

infectious disease. They use amphibians as model vertebrates because, as a group, amphibians show fascinating behavioral, immunological, and symbiotic defenses. He aims to understand how immune defenses are affected by environmental change at the individual, population, and community levels. A recent review of methods for fighting amphibian chytridiomycosis showed that eliminating the fungus probably will be impossible. More feasible strategies include decreasing the susceptibility of hosts and depressing the virulence of the pathogen. Development of novel biotherapies to sustainably regulate healthy microbial communities is one important application of his work linking amphibian ecology to human

health. Laboratory studies show that microbial communities on hosts can aid in resisting infections like chytrid fungus. A study of the glass frog *Hyalinobatrachium colymbi-phyllum* in Panama showed that important symbiotic bacteria can be transmitted from parents to offspring, generating a system of social immunity. Together, these studies highlight the utility of immunological ecology in conservation.

Matthew Van Sant is a Ph.D. student in the program of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology at the University of California, Riverside.

His research interests include physiological ecology, thermal biology, exercise physiology and the evolution of endothermy. Primarily, Matthew is interested in studying the physiological limitations of endotherms in challenging (cold, xeric, oxygen limiting) environments and how



Matthew Van Sant

these limitations affect performance and species' distributions. is Master's research (with George Bakken at Indiana State University) focused on the thermoregulatory capacity of swimming mallard ducklings. Currently, with Kimberly Hammond, his research has focused on mammals in physiologically challenging environments. Matthew is currently studying the oxygen capacity of blood in deer mice to determine how this affects aerobic performance during exercise. With a team of collaborators, he is analyzing the scaling of evaporative water loss in mammals, using modern phylogenetic methods. They are particularly inter-



SICB Newsletter

Fall 2011 Issue

ested in whether desert mammals have evolved reduced rates of water loss. In the future, Matthew would like to continue studying interactions between physiology and environmental stress. He would like to keep studying mammals in desert environments to determine how they depress rates of TEWL. Additionally, he is interested in studying the plasticity of thermoregulatory capacities and investigating how physiological adaptation may allow species' to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Researchers Database

The DEE webpage showcases the research of divisional members in our DEE Researcher Database (<http://www.sicb.org/divisions/DEE/researchers.php3>). Help us promote our division and the work of our members by contributing material to the site. To add your research profile to the DEE page, or, to update an existing file, send an image (tif, jpg, or png), a brief description of the research, and a title of the research to Aaron Krochmal (akrochmal2@washcoll.edu).