



## Division of Ecology & Evolution

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### DEE Officers & Representatives

Michael Sears  
*Chair 2015-2017*

Robert Cox  
*Chair-Elect 2015-2017*

Michael Angilletta  
*Past Chair 2015-2017*

Michael Dillon  
*Secretary 2015-2017*

Donald Miles  
*Program Officer 2014-2016*

Christopher Tracy  
*Program Officer-Elect 2015-2016*

Eric Riddell  
*Student/Postdoc Representative  
2014-2017*

### Message from the Chair

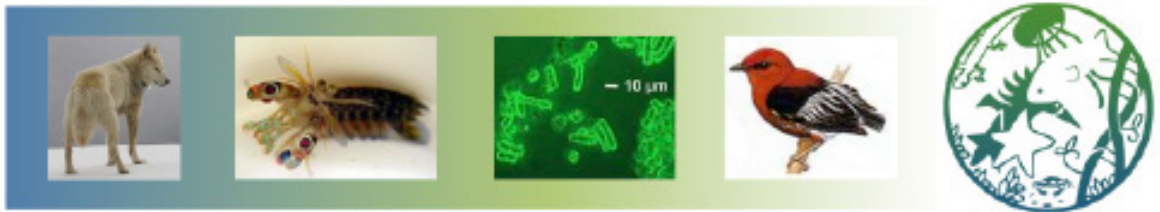
Michael W. Sears, [Chair.DEE@sicb.org](mailto:Chair.DEE@sicb.org)

This year's meeting in Portland promises to be another great one, with DEE in the forefront with many great events. First, our Division is supporting six symposia (see Don Miles's post below), which was unheard of in years past. Talks in these symposia highlight some of the exciting work carried out by our members. Note, it's not too early to begin thinking about symposia ideas for our 2018 meeting in San Francisco. The last time our meeting was held there, we had an exceptionally large number of proposals. So be sure to pitch any ideas that you might have with one of the officers to get the backing of DEE. These symposia are a great way for early career researchers to get broader exposure and establish connections with the top people in their fields. Second, the Huey Awards for Best Student Talks and Posters are still going strong. This year, we had a large number of high quality submissions, making the decision for the seven finalists for talks and 6 finalists for posters a difficult one. That said, if the presentations are anything like those in years past, this session will continue to be one of the favorites of the meeting. Third, Beer and Brains will continue, and what better place than one of the great beer cities in America! We will be announcing the location soon, and a sign up will be emailed to students to claim their spot for the event. That said, we need brains! If you are interested in sharing your experiences with our students, please send me an email. Again, many of those who have attended this event in the past have remarked that it is one of the high points of the meeting. Fourth, the business meeting will be on Monday, January 4th. Please attend to be updated on activities within the Division as well as updates from the Executive Committee Meeting. This meeting is a great venue if you wish to become more involved in the Division, especially if you might want to serve in one of the officer positions in the coming years. We always welcome nominations for future elections, such as Chair-elect and Program Officer-elect (hint, hint).

### Message from the Program Officer

Donald B. Miles, [DPO.DEE@sicb.org](mailto:DPO.DEE@sicb.org)

It is October and that means the next annual meeting of SICB is approaching. This year's meeting is located in Portland, Oregon, the "Rose City." The Program Officers from the different divisions met in late September to organize a record number of 1669 abstracts into the various symposia, oral sessions, and poster sessions. As in past years, the large number of abstracts for papers and posters includes participation by a substantial number of DEE undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and investigators who normally do not attend the annual meeting of SICB. The meeting site is the Oregon Convention Center, which is located a few minutes from many hotels and a short walk to restaurants and music venues. Plan



on enjoying a stimulating meeting held in a vibrant city, full of great restaurants, coffee shops, parks, and an amazing array of microbreweries and wine bars.

Here are a few highlights. The meeting opens on the evening of 3 January with a plenary talk by Terrie Williams "The Biology of Big: Discovering the extraordinary costs of survival at the top of the food chain." In addition to a fantastic schedule of presentations this year, there are 12 symposia that include an eclectic mix of speakers. Six symposia should be of interest to DEE members and are co-sponsored by our division. On 4 January there will be two symposia: "[Neuroecology: Neural Mechanisms of Sensory and Motor Processes that Mediate Ecologically Relevant Behaviors](#)" (Riffel and Rowe) and "[Parasites and Pests in Motion: Biology, Biodiversity and Climate Change](#)" (Boyko and Williams). We have "[Evolutionary Endocrinology: Hormones as mediators of evolutionary phenomena](#)" (Cox, McGlothlin and Bonier) scheduled for 5 January. Two other DEE sponsored symposia are scheduled for 6 January: "[Beyond the Mean: Biological Impacts of Changing Patterns of Temperature Variation](#)" (Dillon, Woods and Sears) and "[Integrative and Comparative Biology of Venom](#)" (Daly and Gibbs). We close the meeting with a DEE cosponsored symposium "[New Frontiers in the Integrative Study of Animal Behavior: Nothing in Neuroscience Makes Sense Except in the Light of Behavior](#)" (Renn, Hofmann and Rubenstein). All of these symposia have an amazing array of speakers who will summarize research projects of interest to DEE members. Last, but not least, please remember to attend the full afternoon session on 5 January devoted to the Huey Best Student Presentation Competition. We have seven students presenting their research. We also have a poster competition scheduled later in the afternoon.

We will also have several opportunities for meeting with fellow DEE members. First, make a point to attend the DEE Business Meeting. Second, be sure to show up at the DEE social, which is scheduled for Wednesday evening. We are also continuing the tradition of providing graduate students the opportunity to meet with a selection of established DEE members during our 3rd annual Brains and Beer social.

## Message from the Secretary

Michael E. Dillon, [Secretary.DEE@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.DEE@sicb.org)

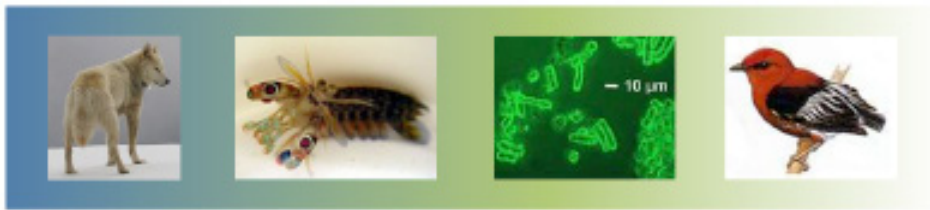
DEE continues to grow both in its membership and in its SICB footprint. To keep the division growing, we need members to step up into leadership roles. Our past chair, Michael Angilletta, continues to be active, helping with administrative tasks. Our current chair, Michael Sears, will continue in that position through the 2017 meeting, at which point our chair-elect, Bob Cox, will take over. A huge thanks to Don Miles for all his hard work as Divisional Program Officer for the past two years. Chris Tracy will take over as DEE Program Officer at the end of the 2016 meeting.

During spring elections, I was elected again as secretary-elect. Thanks to Justin Boyles for running. I am proud to report that DEE had the highest vote tally of any division! However, given that fewer than 16% of eligible voters actually vote (at the society-wide level), we clearly need to do better. Please vote - an active voting community strengthens the division and the society.

**Next spring, we will be running elections for two positions: chair-elect and program officer-elect. These elections are critical for the functioning of the division and we need members to take advantage of these opportunities to help guide the division into the future. Remember, for both of these positions, you would serve in an "-elect" capacity for 1-2 years prior to taking over. During that time, you'll have an opportunity to learn the ropes with little to no work required. Contact any of the current or past officers if you are interested and come to the DEE business meeting to find out more.**

As Don details in his report, DEE is sponsoring six symposia in Portland, highlighting the broad reach of the division. As in past years, the Huey Best student presentation competition promises to be a must-attend event, with seven outstanding students presenting their research in the January 5th oral competition, followed by six students vying for the poster prize in the afternoon poster session. Please attend and support our exceptional DEE graduate students.

Further reinforcing the division's emphasis on student mentoring, we will continue the wildly successful *Beer and Brains* program in Portland, widely known for its numerous microbrews. A SICB meeting is a great place for graduate students and postdocs to meet the



prominent players in their fields. Of course, these people are often difficult to interact with one-on-one because they've got a litany of friends and collaborators to see during the meeting. That's where DEE's *Beer and Brains* comes in. The division rounds up a collection of household names in your field, whisks them away to a nearby bar, and invites divisional students and postdocs to join them in an evening of unhurried conversation. Just another way DEE is striving to provide its students and postdocs with career-changing opportunities! Students and postdocs, keep your eyes peeled for an email advertising this unique event. Slots are generally filled within 24 hours, so be ready to claim your spot.

Finally, we continue to update the DEE Researcher Database which we maintain to promote our division and the work of our members. If you've not checked out the database, go [here](#) to get a feel for the strength and breadth of our members and their work. To add your research profile to the DEE page, or to update an existing file, send text files (.doc, .docx or .txt), images (.tif, .jpg, .png, or .gif), or movies (.avi or .mpeg) to [Secretary.dee@sicb.org](mailto:Secretary.dee@sicb.org).

With your help – and only with your help – can the DEE continue to support existing programs and develop new ones, so please contribute to and support these initiatives...and suggest new ones!

## 2016 Meeting Information

The 2016 SICB Annual Meeting and Exhibition will be held 3-7 January 2016 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, OR. As was the case with recent meetings, 7 January will be a full day – with presentations lasting until 4 PM, followed by a wine and cheese reception from 4-6 PM. Meeting attendees should make their travel plans accordingly.

The full meeting website can be found [here](#). Click [here](#) for the full meeting brochure including paper registration form)

## SEE YOU IN PORTLAND!



snail-trematode  
system



bacterial pathogens

From the DEE Researchers Database:

### **Impacts of disease on natural populations of amphibians, Lisa Belden**

*Asites, pathogens and disease likely play a large role in many important ecological processes. Research in the Belden laboratory at Virginia Tech is focused on understanding the impacts of disease in natural populations of amphibians. We are currently working with two distinct disease systems (snail-trematode-amphibian system and bacterial pathogens of amphibians) with a goal of understanding: (1) the consequences of infection in amphibians and (2) the role of environmental stressors in altering amphibian susceptibility to disease.*