

Minutes of the 2008 SSB Annual Council Meeting

Friday, June 20, 2008, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Campus Club, Conference Room C, Coffman Memorial Union
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Attending: **David Penny** (President), **John Huelsenbeck** (President-Elect), **Chris Simon** (Past President), **David Hibbett** (Executive Vice President), **George Weiblen** (Program Chair), **Kelly Zamudio** (Awards Chair, incoming Program Chair), **Jack Sullivan** (Editor, 2008 Council), **Debbie Ciszek** (Managing Editor), **Joel Cracraft** (Trustee), **Marshall Hedin**, **Lacey Knowles** (2008 Council), **Molly Nepokroeff**, **Dick Olmstead**, **Michael Sorenson** (2009 Council), **Andy Anderson**, **John Gatesy**, **Rebecca Kimball**, **Laura Kubatko** (2010 Council), **Emily Moriarty Lemmon** (2011 Council), **Cathy Kennedy**, **Elizabeth Gardner**, **Cassandra Roberts** (Oxford University Press).

David Penny called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

1. Election Results (David Hibbett)

- Keith Crandall has been elected as President-Elect
- Kelly Zamudio has been elected as Program Director
- Sydney A. Cameron has been elected as Awards Director
- Adalgisa (Gisella) Caccone, Emily Moriarty Lemmon, Karl Kjer, Sean Brady, and Susana Magallon have been elected as Councilors
- All three proposed Constitutional Changes were approved

2. Joint Council Meeting Report (David Penny; see attached Joint Council Meeting Agenda for topics, and items 7, 9, 22, and 24 below)

- Jim Collins, Assistant Director for Biological Sciences, NSF, gave a presentation on future directions in biology.

3. Awards Report (Kelly Zamudio and Sydney Cameron; see attached report)

4. Report on AIBS/AAAS 2008 Education Summit meeting (Kelly Zamudio; see attached report)

- SSB does not have an education committee or chair. George Weiblen has been acting as SSB's representative to the SSE Education Committee, which has been planning education/outreach activities associated with the annual meetings.
- It was resolved that SSB should continue to work with the SSE education committee, and explore the creation of an Education Committee, which will require a change in our constitution.
- Rebecca Kimball volunteered to serve as the chair of an ad hoc SSB Education Committee, and to coordinate with the SSE Education Committee. It is anticipated that in Spring 2009 there will be a proposal to create a permanent Education Committee, which will require a vote by the membership.

5. Logo contest (John Huelsenbeck)

- We received several logos. Huelsenbeck proposed that SSB accept the "nautilus" logo, unless there is vigorous opposition from the SSB Council.

6. Program Report (George Weiblen; see attached Joint Council program report and SSB Council program report)

- The 2008 meeting appears to be a financial success. Preliminary estimate of the "final position" is +\$4795, which will be distributed proportional to the registrations for each society. SSB, with ca. 19% of the registrations stands to receive about 10411.

7. Meeting Facilitator Proposal (George Weiblen; see attached proposal for a professional meeting facilitator)

- SSB endorses the proposal to hire a professional meeting facilitator.
- SSB also endorses the idea to form a committee composed of representatives of SSB, SSE, and ASN to develop the proposal and define the responsibilities of the meeting facilitator, which was discussed at the Joint Council Meeting. SSB's representative to this committee will be the Program Chair, currently Kelly Zamudio.

8. Proposals for symposia for 2009 Meeting (George Weiblen, see attached SSB Council program report).

- Two symposium proposals were received, from Dan Rabosky, Mike Alfaro, and Luke Harmon ("Evolutionary bangs and whimpers") and Susanne Renner and Alexi Stamatakis ("Advances in tree reconstruction from complex data matrices"). Both proposals were approved and will be supported at 4000 each.

9. Proposal for 2011 Evolution meeting in Norman, Oklahoma (see attached meeting proposal)

- This appears to be a well-thought-out proposal. Resources (accommodations and organizational infrastructure) seem to be adequate.
- The proposal was approved; the local organizers are encouraged to proceed in developing a formal bid and contract.

10. Long Range Planning Committee (Chris Simon for Pam Soltis, Michael Donoghue, John Wiens, Scott Steppan, Anne Yoder, and Rod Page)

- 23000 has been distributed from the endowment for the purpose of supporting strategic initiatives (see 2008 mid-year meeting minutes). The LRPC was asked to prepare proposals for use of these funds, to be discussed and voted on at this meeting, but no proposals have been received. Communication with the committee has been imperfect; Pam Soltis was only informed of the availability of these funds in early June 2008.
- David Penny will contact the ILRPC and indicate that the funds are still available, and encourage them to submit ideas for strategic initiatives. The ILRPC will be urged to consult with the Membership Committee and the Education Committee.

11. Membership Committee (Molly Nepokroeff for Vicki Funk and David Hillis; see attached report)

- It was suggested that this committee could use another member. This will require a modification to the constitution and a vote in spring 2009.
- Ideas for increasing/maintaining membership that were discussed include multi-year subscriptions and automated notification and/or billing procedures.

12. Editor's Report (Jack Sullivan; see attached Editor's report)

- Jack Sullivan's successor needs to be identified. Chris Simon reminded the Council that the SSB constitution states that "A Search Committee consisting of the **President-Elect**, serving as Chairperson, the **President**, and the most immediate **Past-President** shall find candidates or a single candidate for the position of Editor. Candidates may be recommended by the Editor or any Council member. The nomination process shall be initiated no later than the Annual Meeting of the first year of the current Editor's tenure and shall be completed four months prior to the Annual Meeting at which the new Editor is elected. The report of the Search Committee for Editor shall be mailed to Councilors three months prior to the Annual Meeting. Election of the Editor shall be at a Council meeting at an Annual Meeting with Councilors voting for only one of the candidates."

13. Managing Editor's Report (Debbie Ciszek; see attached report)

- The Teaching Aids section of the SSB website was discussed, but there were no decisions taken. This may be an item for the new Education Committee to tackle.

14. Publications Committee and Oxford University Press (Debbie Ciszek, Chris Simon, Jack Sullivan, and David Mindell [Publications, Committee], and Cathy Kennedy, Elizabeth Gardner, and Cassandra Roberts [OUP]; see OUP and T&F publisher's reports)

- Options for mailing the journal without plastic wrappers are still being explored. Surprisingly, it is particularly difficult to do this in Europe. The Publications Committee will work with OUP to develop a plan for moving to wrapper-less mailings (to the extent possible).

15. Web Report (Debbie Ciszek and David Hibbett, for Rod Page, Webmaster, see attached report)

- At the mid-year meeting, it was decided that Debbie and David would begin revising the governance section of the SSB website. Nothing has happened yet, but David and Debbie will meet during this meeting to begin planning.

16. Treasurer's Report (David Hibbett and Joel Cracraft for David Mindell; see attached report).

17. Endowment Committee/Trustees Report (Joel Cracraft, for Vicki Funk and David Hillis; see attached summary of Morgan-Stanley report).

18. Timing and composition of 2009 dues and election notifications (Chris Simon)

- Chris Simon will coordinate the renewal notifications process with Cathy Kennedy. OUP has a standard timetable that includes three notifications.
- Molly Nepokroeff, Chris Simon and David Penny will prepare a proposal for multi-year memberships and will distribute to the Council.

19. SSB sponsorship of e-Biosphere 09: The International Conference on Biodiversity Informatics (flyer available at <http://tinyurl.com/25e369>)

- This conference may be of interest to some SSB members, but it is not clear why SSB should be a sponsor. SSB chooses to take no action.

17. Global Taxonomy Partnership Fund (Joel Cracraft)

- Joel informed us of this new initiative, which seeks to raise and distribute funds for taxonomic research in developing countries. This is something that SSB may want to support in the future.

19. Gift for Jim Rodman (George Weiblen)

- The print has been obtained and will be presented to Jim at the banquet

20. Update on proposal for childcare at evolution meetings (see attached draft letter from Leah Larkin and Heidi Meudt)

- Heidi Meudt and Leah Larkin have volunteered to submit a proposal to the Elsevier Foundation for childcare at Evolution meetings (with support from Olle Pellyr). The Joint Council endorsed this idea. The SSB Council also endorses this proposal.

21. NESCENT/Dryad lunch. From Todd Vision and Kathleen Smith 6/12/08:

"NESCENT would like to invite those of you who will be attending the Evolution Meetings in Minneapolis to join us for a lunchtime discussion about the Dryad digital data repository. NESCENT is initiating Dryad in collaboration with a consortium of societies and independent journals. The intent for this event is to give a progress report and hold a general Q&A involving the officers from all three societies. Note that this event does not appear on the program. WHEN: Monday, June 23rd, 12-1pm. WHERE: Private dining room, Lower level, Hubert Humphrey

Center. Society officers are invited to pick up a lunch ticket from the NESCent booth that is good for up to \$12 at Bistro West, the take-away service across the hall from the meeting room.”

- Several SSB council members indicated that they would try to attend this meeting, including Jack Sullivan.

22. Joint membership ideas for SSB, SSE, ASN

- At the Joint Council meeting, John Thompson suggested that reduced fees for joint memberships in SSB, SSE and ASN could be a way to boost membership in all three societies. Additive registration price breaks at the annual meeting could also be effective.
- The SSB Council endorses exploration of these ideas.

23. AIBS Policy Fellow (see attached AIBS proposal)

- At the Joint Council meeting, Charlie Fenster suggested that SSB, SSE, and ASN consider joint support of an AIBS policy fellow, to work on lobbying efforts related to evolution and K-12 education.
- The SSB Council acknowledges the importance of such efforts, but is concerned about the availability of funds. The ILRPC may wish to consider this idea.

24. SSB President’s Award (Chris Simon)

- The SSB President’s Award is being given to Zhiheng Yang. He is not able to come to this year’s meeting, so will receive the award at the 2009 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Attached documents:

p. 5	Joint SSE/SSB/ASN Council Meeting Agenda, including Exit Meeting Agenda
p. 7	Awards Report
p. 9	Report on AIBS/AAAS 2008 Education Summit Meeting
p. 11	Joint Council Program Report
p. 21	SSB Council Program Report
p. 29	Meeting Facilitator Proposal
p. 32	Proposal for 2011 Evolution Meeting, Norman, Oklahoma
p. 40	Membership Committee Report
p. 42	Editor’s Report
p. 45	Managing Editor’s Report
p. 49	Oxford University Press Report
p. 59	Taylor & Francis Report
p. 81	Webmaster’s Report
p. 82	Treasurer’s Report
p. 83	Endowment Committee/Trustee’s Report
p. 86	Letter in support of proposal to Elsevier for childcare at 2009 Evolution meeting
p. 87	AIBS Policy Fellow Proposal
p. 88	Joint SSE/SSB/ASN 2010 Meeting Update
p. 89	Evolution 2012 Meeting Update

SSB, SSE, ASN Annual Joint Council Meeting
Friday, June 20, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – noon
Campus Club, 4th floor, Coffman Memorial Union, Conference Room A, B, C
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Agenda

- 9:00 David Penny, President SSB: Call to Order & Welcome.
- 9:15 Introduction of Society Officers Present.
- 9:30 George Weiblen, Program Organizer, Evolution 2008: Program update. Division of proceeds from Evolution 2008 meeting. Proposal for part-time professional conference planner*.
- 10:00 Jim Collins, Assistant Director for Biological Sciences, National Science Foundation: Presentation and discussion on future of biological research.
Also attending: Sam Scheiner and Judie Bronstein, NSF Population and Evolutionary Processes Cluster; Maureen Kearney, NSF Systematic Biology and Biodiversity Inventories Cluster.
- 10:45 Olle Pellmyr, Program Organizer, Evolution 2009, University of Idaho: meeting update. Draft budgets attached (based on expectation of 850 or 1200 registrations) **p. 2-7**.
- 11:00 Susan Masta and Sarah Eppley (for Mitch Cruzan, Program Organizer, Evolution 2010, Portland State University): meeting update.
- 11:10 Charlie Fenster, SSE Exec. VP: update on 2011 meeting proposal, Norman, Oklahoma.
- 11:20 Carol Horvitz, ASN Treasurer: Prospects for joint Evolution/OTS/ATBC meeting in 2013.
- 11:30 John Thompson, President ASN: Ideas for joint memberships in SSE, ASN, SSB.
- 11:40 David Penny: SSB, SSE, ASN endorsement of proposal to Elsevier Foundation for childcare at Evolution 2009 (and future meetings?). See attached draft letter from Leah Larkin and Heidi Meudt, **p. 8**.
- 11:50 Charlie Fenster: Ideas for AIBS “Clarence Darrow Evolution Policy Fellow”.
- 11:55 Agenda for Joint Council Exit Meeting.
Other New Business?

*The SSB executive council recommends that the three societies hire a part-time, professional conference planner to act as a liaison with the evolution meeting hosts through 2012 to ensure that meeting contracts, logistics and online registration are managed efficiently.

SSB, SSE, ASN Annual Joint Council Exit Meeting

Tuesday, June 24, 2008, noon – 1:00 p.m.

Campus Club, 4th floor, Coffman Memorial Union, Dale Shephard Room

Agenda

- 12:00 George Weiblen, Program Organizer, Evolution 2008: Continued discussion of proposal for part-time professional conference planner, and proposal to create joint SSB/SSE/ASN committee to define the position.*
- 12:15 Howard Rundle, Program Organizer, Evolution 2012, University of Ottawa: meeting update.
- 12:30 Sally Otto, ASN VP: Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution involvement in 2012 meeting
- 12:45 2011 Norman Oklahoma meeting proposal.*
- 12:50 Ideas for joint memberships in SSE, ASN, SSB.*
- 12:55 Ideas for AIBS “Clarence Darrow Evolution Policy Fellow”.*

*Reports back from individual council meetings.

From: Kelly Zamudio, Chair, SSB Award Committee
Re: Final report 2008, SSB Council Meeting

Dear SSB Execs,

Please find attached the final report for the 2008 SSB awards.

1) Award Chair.

This was the last year of my appointment as awards chair. Sydney Cameron has been elected the new Awards Chair and will be taking over those duties for the next award cycle (beginning 2009). I have given Sydney a large number of documents, sample forms and letters, and a list of duties (and a timeline) that need to happen over the course of the year, so the transition should be pretty straightforward.

2) State of Applications this Year.

We enlisted 14 judges this year to rank proposals cross all award categories. The Grad Awards, Mini-Peets, and International Travel Awards are completed. The Ernst Mayr Awards will be judged at this meeting, and will be completed by the end. This year we funded the following students and scholars:

Grad Awards (63 applicants, 13 funded)

Chris Muir, Indiana University
Andres Cuervo, Louisiana State University
Mauricio Diazgranados, Saint Louis University
Findlay Ransler, Cornell University
Zacharias Gompert, University of Wyoming
Maribeth Latvis, University of Florida, Gainesville
Arley Camargo, Brigham Young University
Jessica Davis, Iowa State University
Tim Whitfield, University of Minnesota
Tom Giarla, University of Minnesota
Amanda Grusz, Duke University
Kevin Weitemier, Portland State University
Benjamin Reinhart, Purdue University

International Awards (29 applicants, 10 funded)

Juliana de Paula-Souza, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brazil.
Luisa Fernanda Montalvo, Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia
Ben Price, Rhodes University, South Africa
Yolanda Camacho-Garcia, Universidad de Costa Rica
Jessica Perez, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico
Maria Tereza Thome, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Brazil.
Giri Varad,
Sebastian Barrionuevo, Miguel Lillo Foundation, Argentina
Katayo Sagata, Wildlife Conservation Society, Papua New Guinea.
Juliana Zina, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Brazil.

miniPEETs (18 applicants, 6 funded)

Erin Tripp, Duke University
Elizabeth Borda, Auburn University
Michael Nowak, Duke University
Joshua Reece, Washington University St. Louis
Norah Saarman, Cal Academy of Sciences
Karen Armstrong, Lincoln University

Ernst Mayr (14 applicants)

The Ernst Mayr session is scheduled for Sunday, June 22. We had 14 applicants this year that met all eligibility requirements and will be competing for the award. The judges this year are Andy Anderson, Sydney Cameron, Mike Sorenson, and Kelly Zamudio. As usual, we will announce the winner at the business meeting and also at the banquet.

3) Award Pages and other Procedures.

The award pages on the SSB website are up to date, including the new contact information, deadlines, etc. for next year as well as a list of the most recent winners. Web control has also been transferred to Sydney Cameron.

4) Award Budget.

The total award budget available this year was \$ 50,000. This funding amount has been adequate given the number of applicants we have. The process is competitive, but there is enough funding such that funding rates are reasonable (the lowest funding rate in any category was 21%), and choices are not being made among highly ranked and comparable applicants. I suggest a similar funding rate for next year, if possible.

5) Additional “one-time” competitions this year.

This year, I was also involved in facilitating two one-time “competitions” that were brought up at the mid-year meeting.

Logo competition: We advertised on the SSB website and on evoldir for our logo competition. We received approximately 20 logos for consideration. I gathered the logos and passed them on to John Huelsenbeck for decisions. John will report on further on the progress of that contest.

Women Evolving the Biological Sciences: I gathered suggestions from council and other colleagues in the field to identify early career women to nominate for SSB sponsored attendance at the WEBS conference this year. I received 6 nominations, and three of these women could potentially fit this activity into their Fall schedules. All three applied to the program, and I wrote letters of support from SSB for each of them. Organizers are promising a final list of attendees in July; I will let the council know as soon as I hear any news. If one of our three nominees is selected, we agreed to pay \$ 2000 as a contribution (sponsorship) of their program.

From: Kelly Zamudio, Chair, SSB Award Committee
Re: NSF Conversation in Undergraduate Education and AIBS/AAAS 2008 Education Summit

On May 15 and 16, Keith Crandall and I represented SSB at a two-day summit on undergraduate education that was co-sponsored by NSF and AIBS. The meeting was very interesting and productive, and included representatives of more than 30 societies. The meeting divided naturally into two halves:

1) The first day of the meeting day was run by NSF as a “data gathering” exercise. NSF has hosted a number of these meetings for various groups (instructors, administrators, and now society representatives). The focus of this group was how scientific societies could support undergraduate education in biology, and what the collective vision was among us for teaching in the next few decades.

We broke into small groups and discussed various “themes” in undergraduate education, with a focus on the “emerging frontiers” in education for the 21st century. Each subgroup then reported back to the assembled group, and we summarized the major points.

After much discussion, the final summary of emerging themes included the following list:

- a) Biological education needs to be thought of as ‘concept literacy’, we should educate so that our students can read/write/use the science they learn.
- b) Biology has expanded in coverage in the last few years, and we need to realize that we cannot teach it all.
- c) Scientific societies can and should play a role of the ‘stewards’ of their respective disciplines, and free instructors of that role.
- d) Our focus in teaching must continue to be the nature AND process of evidence-based science.
- e) We need to teach evolution as the core of biology, but not as a discipline of its own, rather, as concepts that permeate all our teaching.
- f) We need better ways of accurately tracking how students react to changes in how we teach.
- g) Teaching of the future should be active and experiential
- h) Teaching of the future needs to be relevant, and include real world examples in discussion of content.
- i) We need to teach the same way we DO science: critically, and with passion.
- j) The need for faculty development programs continues, and they should focus on innovative methods in teaching.
- k) Good, sustained teaching in biology will require self-awareness and openness to review on the part of the instructors. We need to instill a culture of “adaptive teaching” with continual feedback and improvement.
- l) The background and diversity of our students will continue to change and increase, and our teaching will need to change accordingly.

We also identified changes that are needed to improve current traditional teaching in the direction identified in the points above:

- a) Societies can facilitate changes by using the resources they already have, and increasing visibility of their investments in teaching for their discipline.
- b) We need to better integrate discipline and education societies
- c) Societies and universities need to better assess their programs and institutionalize

successful programs.

- d) The feedback loops for improvement in teaching need to be more frequent or larger in magnitude
- e) We need to better create/consolidate/disseminate our goals and objectives for the best teaching
- f) The reward system needs to change enough so that good teaching is rewarded. The current reward system is backwards, in that teaching efforts are undervalued, and poor teachers get 'punished' with a lower teaching load.

2) The second day of the meeting was run by AIBS/AAAS and included a series of presentations and workshops about initiatives and methods in biological education. These varied in their relevance depending on discipline and personal teaching interests of participants. Some were relevant to the involvement of societies in education. A website with presentations and an outline of the second day of the meeting is here: http://www.aibs.org/special-symposia/aibs_biology_education_summit.html

Some examples:

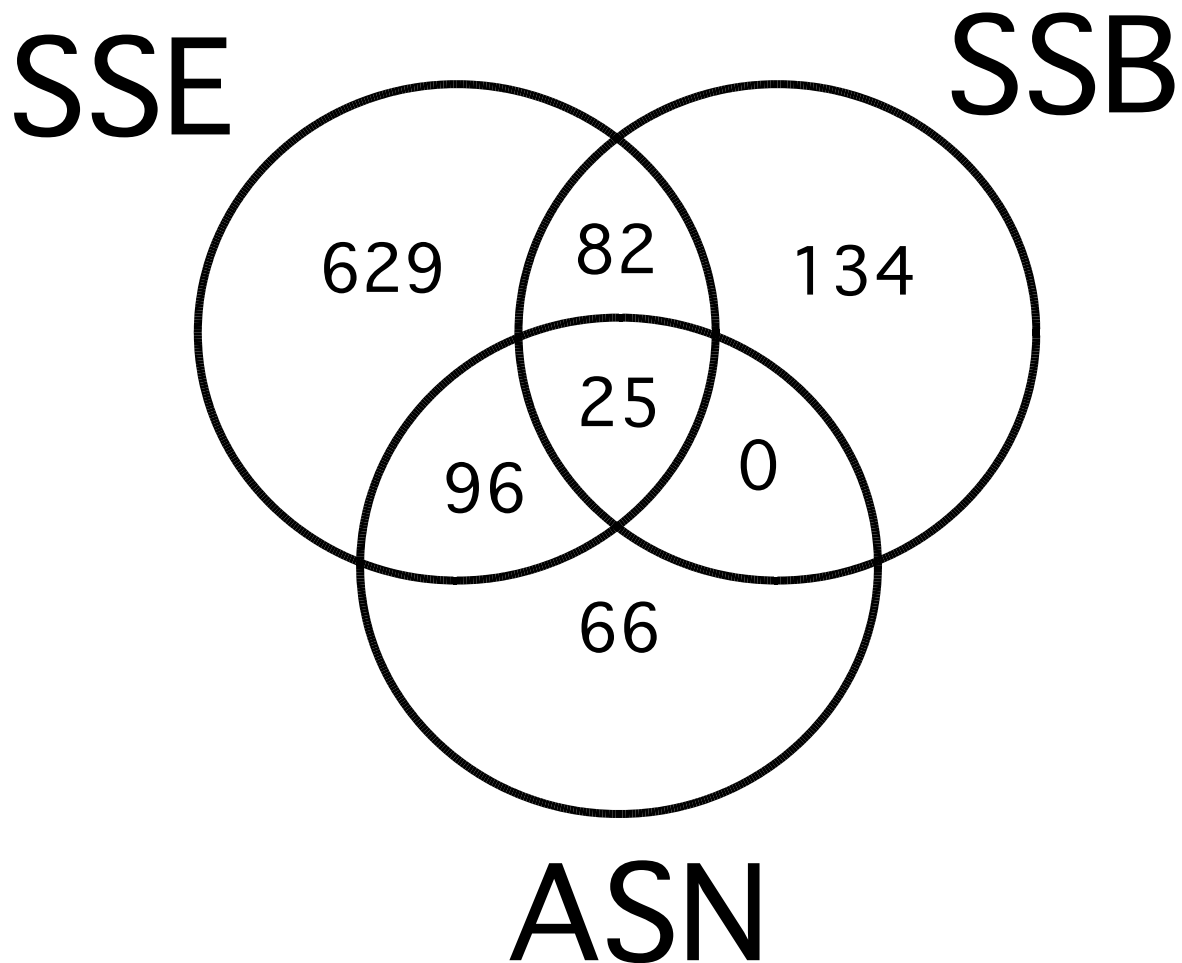
- a) We heard about a number of national initiatives, from those that are highly organized to more grassroots efforts, to work in the area of public education and outreach.
- b) We heard the publisher's perspective (from a McGraw Hill representative) about the challenges for their field/business of teaching in the 'digital' future.
- c) We heard a lecture by Jay Labov (NAS) on the teaching Evolution/ID issue, and the products NAS has developed for the public.
- d) We heard about techniques for including (infusing) evolution in all aspects of biology.
- e) We heard about national standards of accreditation, and what that means for teaching at public universities.
- f) We heard about best practices for increasing the use of innovative technologies in teaching.

Conclusions:

We identified a few ways in which SSB could increase their profile and presence in the area of teaching

- more prominent links to educational resources on our website
- increasing our visibility in the realm of education and the science/ID debate
- we propose that SSB establish an education committee with an elected chair to interface with other societies about teaching/education and maintain SSB involvement in these issues.

Evolution 2008 attendance



non-members = 243

K-12 teachers = ~70

volunteers = ~40

VIPs & others = ~15

total participants = >1,400

Evolution 2008 distribution of net

	memberships	distribution
SSE	832	0.66
SSB	241	0.19
ASN	187	0.15
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	1260	

22 countries at Evolution 2008

United States	1,065
Canada	89
United Kingdom	30
New Zealand	13
Switzerland	13
Germany	11
Australia	7
France	6
Brasil	5
Japan	5
South Africa	5
Finland	4
Mexico	4
Sweden	4
Austria	3
Chile	3
Portugal	3
The Netherlands	3
Israel	2
Netherlands	2
Argentina	1
Denmark	1

Evolution 2008			
Dates: June 20-24, 2008			
	Initial		Updated
	Estimate		Estimate
	(using 2006		
	registration numbers)		
DIRECT CONFERENCE REVENUE & EXPENSES			
Number of Registrations			
Conference			
Member reg by May 1 - \$315	340		426
Member reg after May 1 - \$355	35		29
Non-member reg by May 1 - \$415	64		42
Non-member reg after May 1 - \$455	7		8
Post-doctoral member by May 1 - \$260	145		152
Post-doctoral member after May 1 - \$310	3		5
Post-doctoral non-member by May 1 - \$360	64		41
Post-doctoral non-member after May 1 - \$410	2		2
Graduate student member by May 1 - \$230	280		428
Graduate student member after May 1 - \$280	7		6
Graduate student non-member by May 1 - \$330	170		61
Graduate student non-member after May 1 - \$380	9		5
Graduate student waiver			
Undergraduate student by May 1 - \$195	72		61
Undergraduate student after May 1 - \$245	2		3
Complimentary registration			
Guest registration - \$100			6
Total Conference Registrations	1200		1275
Tuesday banquet - \$50	500		343
Residence Hall Rooms	700		
Yudolf - doubles - \$96/night			210
Middlebrook - singles - \$43/night			677
Middlebrook - doubles - \$66/night			728

	Initial		Updated
Number of Registrations	Estimate		Estimate
Optional meal packages	186		
Meal option 1 - \$82 (Comstock: 6 B & MB 5 L)			159
Meal option 2 - \$38 (MB: 5 L)			124
Meal option 3 - \$35 (MB 4 L)			205
Tours			
Cedar Creek - \$35			11
Mille Lacs Fishing - \$140 -- cancelled			
Sunday Birding - \$10			20
Monday Birding - \$10			15
Mississippi River Geology - \$50			6
North Woods Trip - \$235			9
St. Croix Valley Wineries - \$45			6
K-12 Educators session - \$20	50		50
Evolutionary Biology & Ontologies Workshop			98
Sponsors - \$1,500	10		18
Sponsor - New England Bio - \$2,000			1
Sponsor - Taylor & Francis - \$3,500			1
Donation from MnCSE - \$2,000			1

	Initial		Updated
	Estimate		Estimate
Revenue			
Conference			
Member reg by May 1 - \$315	107100		134190
Member reg after May 1 - \$355	12775		10295
Non-member reg by May 1 - \$415	26560		17430
Non-member reg after May 1 - \$455	3255		3640
Post-doctoral member by May 1 - \$260	37700		39520
Post-doctoral member after May 1 - \$310	930		1550
Post-doctoral non-member by May 1 - \$360	23040		14760
Post-doctoral non-member after May 1 - \$410	820		820
Graduate student member by May 1 - \$230	64400		98440
Graduate student member after May 1 - \$280	1960		1680
Graduate student non-member by May 1 - \$330	56100		20130
Graduate student non-member after May 1 - \$380	3420		1900
Graduate student waiver			
Undergraduate student by May 1 - \$195	14040		11895
Undergraduate student after May 1 - \$245	490		735
Complimentary registration			
Guest registration - \$100			600
Total Registration Fees	352590		357585
Tuesday banquet - \$50	25000		17150
Residence Hall Rooms	162600		
Yudolf - doubles - \$96/night			20160
Middlebrook - singles - \$43/night			29111
Middlebrook - doubles - \$66/night			48048
Total residence hall revenue			97319
Optional meal packages	37197.12		
Meal option 1 - \$82			13038
Meal option 2 - \$38			4712
Meal option 3 - \$35			7175
Total meal package revenue			24925

	Initial		Updated
Revenue	Estimate		Estimate
Tours			
Cedar Creek - \$35			385
Mille Lacs Fishing - \$140			0
Sunday Birding - \$10			200
Monday Birding - \$10			150
Mississippi River Geology - \$50			300
North Woods Trip - \$235			2115
St. Croix Valley Wineries - \$45			270
Total tours revenue			3420
Total fees through COL	577387.12		500399
K-12 Educators session	1000		1000
Evolutionary Biology & Ontologies Workshop	500		500
Sponsors - \$1,500	15000		27000
Sponsor - New England Bio - \$2,000			2000
Sponsor - Taylor & Francis - \$3,500			3500
Donation from MnCSE - \$2,000			2000
Total Conference revenue	593887.12		536399

Expenses	Initial Estimate		Updated Estimate
Marketing/Promotion			
Website development - URL purchase	100		215.81
Postcard announcement printing	2000		300
Postage - postcard mailing	1000		159.38
Post-It notes for NZ	447.32		453.36
Bookmarks for NZ	447.32		447.32
Banner	270.47		270.47
Send materials back from NZ			88.88
Marketing/Promotion Total	4265.11		1935.22
Exhibits and Posters			
Pipe, drape, table, & chair rent	784		1225
Poster board rent	1900		1800
Exhibits and Posters Total	2684		3025
Food & Entertainment			
Campus Club - Fri-Tues	1128.5		4200
McNamara Cntr -Tuesday Banquet - D'amico - 500 ppl	25000		16037.47
Band, stage, & PA - Saturday picnic	1500		3404
UDS			114139.47
Friday reception - 900 ppl - Bell Museum/Nolte Plaza	21234.02		
Saturday picnic - 1,200 ppl - CMU Riverbend Plaza	22257.68		
Sunday lunch - 50 ppl - HHHBistro or Carlson PDR	992.75		
Sunday reception - poster session - 500 ppl - Willey	8273.14		
Monday reception - poster session - 500 ppl - Willey	7497.29		
Equipment rental for picnic and banquet	27500		
Saturday AM break - Blegen - 450 ppl	527.55		
Saturday AM break - Ted Mann - 450 ppl	527.56		
Saturday PM break - Blegen - 450 ppl	527.55		
Saturday PM break - Ted Mann - 450 ppl	527.56		
Sunday AM break - Blegen - 450 ppl	527.55		
Sunday AM break - Ted Mann - 450 ppl	527.55		
Sunday PM break - Blegen - 450 ppl	527.55		
Sunday PM break - Ted Mann - 450 ppl	527.56		

Expenses	Initial Estimate		Updated Estimate
Monday AM break - Blegen - 450 ppl	527.56		
Monday AM break - Ted Mann - 450 ppl	527.55		
Monday PM break - Blegen - 450 ppl	527.56		
Monday PM break - Ted Mann - 450 ppl	527.56		
Tuesday AM break - Blegen - 300 ppl	392.1		
Tuesday AM break - Ted Mann - 300 ppl	392.1		
Tuesday PM break - Blegen - 450 ppl	527.56		
Food Total	123025.8		137780.94
Program support			
Wireless access for 1,200	14400		13700
Wireless access points			10000
Pointers & memory sticks			880
Cyber Café - Blegen	2500		3750
Conference room PC's - 11	1650		1375
Security	3302.5		5000
Duplicating	1000		1000
Name badge lanyards, badge holders, pens, tickets	1800		3381
Post event evaluation	50		50
Program book - printing	18000		14361
Program book - design & layout	1000		
Participant bags @\$30	36000		47000
Public lecture speaker	6000		
Program Support Total	85702.5		100497
Facility Rent			
Campus Club	225		
Ted Mann	19393		18288.75
CMU Great Hall	600		600
CMU & Nolte Plazas	300		840
McNamara	2550		2550
Willey Atrium	525		525
OCM (Anderson, Blegen, Willey on Sat. & Sun)	350		350
Bell Museum	250		250
Facility Rent Total	24193		23403.75
Residence Hall Rooms	162600		86708.25

Expenses	Initial Estimate		Updated Estimate
Optional meal packages	37197.12		22833.2
Rooms & Food Total			109541.45
Tours			
Cedar Creek			244
Sunday Birding			235
Monday Birding			235
Mississippi Geology			146
North Woods			4442.25
Wineries			500
Tours Total			5802.25
Planning/Administrative			
CPE Administrative Fee	43848		37848
Travel, food, lodging - site visit to Evolution 2007	3531		3531
Staff Mileage/Parking	100		100
COL registration fee	10800		11475
Assembly food			200
COL credit card fee	28869.356		25019.95
Planning/Administrative Total	87148.356		78173.95
Conference Expenses	526815.886		460159.56
University Overhead on expenses (-UDS costs X 8.5%)	16354.18		16354.18
Total Expenses	543170.066		476513.74
Net Position	50717.054		59885.26
University Overhead on external transfer (8.5%)	4310.94959		5090.2471
Net Transfer to Societies	46406.10441		54795.0129

Expenses	Initial Estimate		Updated Estimate
OTHER CONFERENCE FINANCIAL ASPECTS - Individual paid			
Lodging			
Radisson University	66240		
Holiday Inn Metrodome	42883		
Days Inn University	14295		
Total External Lodging	123418		
Direct Pay by Society			
Hosted beverages			
Beer - 5,760 X \$1.50	8640		
Wine - 3,840 X \$2	7680		
Hosted Beverages Total	16320		
Liability insurance for Multi Facility Users contract	450		

SSB Program Annual Meeting Report 2008
George Weiblen, Outbound Program Chair

June 19, 2008

This is the last of my three-year term as program chair, after acting as interim program chair with help from Kevin Johnson in 2005. My term ends in December 2008 and I look forward to handing the reigns over to Kelly Zamudio. My mid-year meeting report is here updated with regard to (1) general comments based on the 2007 New Zealand meeting, (2) an overview of the Evolution 2008 program, (2) 2009 symposium proposals submitted for consideration by the council, (3) meetings for 2009 and beyond.

(1) General comments on Evolution meetings

The 2007 meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand was an all-around success and helped to internationalize the society. The Allan Wilson Centre hired a professional conference planner to organize the meeting at the Christchurch Convention Centre. From the perspective of program organization, this proved a more efficient arrangement than the 2006 Stony Brook or 2005 Fairbanks meetings.

It was decided at the 2007 joint council meetings that SSB, SSE and ASN divide the net financial position according to the relative number of members participating in each future meeting.

The SSB executive council recommends that the three societies hire a part-time, professional conference planner to act as a liaison with the evolution meeting hosts through 2012 to ensure that meeting contracts, logistics and online registration are managed efficiently.

(A draft proposal is attached separately).

(2) Evolution 2008 Program

\$8,000 was approved at the SSB council meeting in Christchurch for SSB symposia at Evolution 2008, to be divided evenly between the following two symposia:

"Merging Phylogenetic Biology and Spatial Ecology"

Organizer: Kenneth H. Kozak, University of Minnesota

Presenters: Kenneth Kozak, University of Minnesota,

Jason Bond, East Carolina University

Jeannine Cavender-Bares, University of Minnesota

Bryan Carstens, Louisiana State University

Rich Glor, University of Rochester

Jason Knouft, St. Louis University

Lucia Lohmann, University of Sao Paolo

Town Peterson, Kansas University

David Kidd, National Center for Evolutionary Synthesis

"Species Trees and Gene Tree Heterogeneity: Concepts, Estimation and Empirical Applications"

Organizers: L. Lacey Knowles, University of Michigan, and Scott Edwards, Harvard University

Presenters: L. Lacey Knowles, University of Michigan
Scott Edwards, Harvard University

Liang Liu, Harvard University

Laura Kubatko, Ohio State University

Noah Rosenberg, University of Michigan

Luay Nakhleh, Rice University

Karen Cranston, University of Arizona

Celcile Ane, University of Wisconsin

The Evolution 2008 program includes the following SSB events:

Friday, June 20

9:00 a.m. – Noon

ASN/SSE/SSB Joint Council Meeting
Campus Club, 4th floor Coffman Memorial Union
Conference Room A, B, C

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Society Council Members Luncheon
Campus Club Cafeteria

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

SSB Council Meeting
Campus Club, Conference Room C

5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Opening Reception (Sponsored by Taylor & Francis)
Bell Museum of Natural History & Nolte Plaza
10 Church Street

Saturday, June 21

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Systematic Biology Associate Editors Luncheon
Campus Club, 4th floor Coffman Memorial Union
Dale Shephard Room

1:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

SSB Symposium
Merging Phylogenetic Biology and Spatial Ecology
175 Willey Hall, West Bank Campus

Sunday, June 22

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Ernst Mayr Award Competition
175 Willey Hall, West Bank Campus

Monday, June 23

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Undergraduate Diversity Social West Bank Plaza
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	SSB Presidential Address <i>Systematics, Evolution and Natural History: Lessons From Past Presidents and Cicadas</i> Dr. Chris Simon, University of Connecticut Ted Mann Concert Hall
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	SSB Business Meeting Ted Mann Concert Hall
Tuesday, June 24 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	SSB Symposium <i>Species Trees and Gene Tree Heterogeneity: Concepts, Estimation and Empirical Applications</i> 175 Willey Hall, West Bank Campus
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	ASN/SSB/SSE Joint Council Exit Meeting Campus Club, 4th floor Coffman Memorial Union Dale Shephard Room
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Undergraduate Diversity Pep Talk 125 Blegen Hall
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Banquet McNamara Alumni Center Washington Avenue and Oak Street

(2) 2009 SSB symposia

The following call for symposia was issued on the SSB website, to the SSB membership, and printed in *Systematic Biology*.

Call for 2009 SSB Symposia

The Society for Systematic Biologists invites proposals for symposia at the 2009 SSB meeting to be held at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho 13-17 June 2009. The meeting will be held jointly with the American Society of Naturalists and the Society for the Study of Evolution. Proposals should include (1) a descriptive title, (2) one or two paragraphs explaining the purpose of the symposium and its relevance to systematics, (3) a list of presentations including proposed speakers, their institutions or affiliations, and their presentation titles, (4) an indication of whether the speakers have been invited and whether they have agreed to participate, and (5) the proposed length of each talk. Symposia are restricted to half-day sessions. The society is particularly interested in symposia whose topics do not overlap with those from previous meetings, that introduce

new ideas or synthesize important concepts, or those that are particularly good examples of the analysis of empirical data. Proposals that unite systematics with other fields are also desirable. We encourage participation from young investigators and others typically under-represented in symposia. Limited funding is available. The target date for receipt of proposals is June 1, 2008. Proposals will be discussed and two will be selected at the SSB Council meeting during the 2008 annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. 2009 Symposia will be announced at the SSB business meeting in Minneapolis. Proposals should be sent by email to the Program Chairperson, George D. Weiblen, gweiblen@umn.edu (Department of Plant Biology, University of Minnesota, 1445 Gortner Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108 USA).

Two proposals were received and sent to the SSB council for consideration on June 3.

2009 SSB symposium proposal #1

Evolutionary bangs and whimpers : methodological advances and conceptual frameworks for studying exceptional diversification

Co-organizers: Rabosky, Alfaro, Harmon

Description: The tendency for species diversification rates to vary both over time and among clades is one of the most pervasive features of the evolutionary process. Lineages with higher diversification rates will become more species-rich through time than lineages with lower rates, and understanding the causes of such rate variation is thus essential to the development of a general theory of biological diversity. In recent years, a series of methodological and conceptual advances has greatly advanced our ability to extract both the extrinsic (ecological) and intrinsic (lineage-specific) factors that influence rates of diversification.

Despite the availability of an increasingly sophisticated toolkit for studying speciation and extinction in a phylogenetic framework, there is a lack of conceptual unity among researchers using both different approaches (e.g., lineages-through-time analyses versus analyses of clade shape) as well as different data (e.g., molecular phylogenies versus fossils). The purpose of this symposium is to bring together researchers using these diverse approaches and data to share their perspectives on a synthetic framework for studying variation in species diversification rates. We have emphasized early-career researchers who are working on methodological advances and who – despite active contributions to this dynamic field – are typically underrepresented in such symposia.

List of confirmed speakers* and titles:

Dan Rabosky, Cornell University: “Variation in species diversification rates: the view from molecular phylogenetics”

Mike Alfaro, University of California – Los Angeles: “Explaining patterns of diversification at broad phylogenetic scales: challenges and some solutions”

Luke Harmon, University of Idaho: “Linking phenotypic and lineage diversification rates”

Ally Phillimore, Imperial College – Silwood: "How can we explain pervasive slowdowns in avian speciation rates?"

Li Hsiang Liaow, Univ. of Oslo: “Diversification rates and species traits: a paleontological perspective”

Arne O. Mooers, Simon Fraser University: TBA

Brian R. Moore, University of California – Berkeley: "Bayesian Inference of Diversification Rates"

Unconfirmed:

Rich FitzPatrick**, University of British Columbia: "A new framework for estimating the effects of traits on speciation and extinction rates using molecular phylogenies"

*Rabosky and FitzPatrick are current graduate students. Moore, Liaow, and Phillimore are postdoctoral researchers.

** R. FitzPatrick is unable to confirm as of June 2, 2008. If he cannot attend, Sally Otto (Univ. British Columbia) has agreed to give a talk on "Inferring the past for traits that alter speciation and extinction rates".

Talks should not exceed 25 minutes, including several minutes for questions.

Dan Rabosky
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology &
Fuller Evolutionary Biology Program
Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-2701
DLR32@cornell.edu
ph 607 592 4636
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2009 SSB symposium proposal #2

Advances in Tree Reconstruction from Complex Data Matrices

Organizers: Susanne Renner and Alexandros Stamatakis, University of Munich, Germany

We propose to organize a symposium on “Advances in Tree Reconstruction from Complex Data Matrices.” The topic differs from all recent symposia. (Topics of the 2007 symposia were "Toward a phylogenetic diversity synthesis: problems and prospects" and "Cultural phylogenetics: dispatches from the frontier;" those of 2008 symposia were "Merging phylogenetic biology and spatial ecology" and "Species trees and gene tree heterogeneity: Concepts, estimation and empirical applications".) An outline of the symposium and a list of the speakers and their topic are provided below. This symposium would bring together workers from different continents, and the proposed speakers include several early-career scientists.

The explosive accumulation of molecular sequence data due to novel sequencing techniques, such as pyrosequencing, and the increasing popularity of analyses based on large data matrices pose new challenges with respect to the assembly, models, and computational methods used to infer phylogenies from complex datasets. Complexity derives partly from size, but especially from partial incompleteness. This symposium will address individual problems and components of the complete analysis pipeline, ranging from multi-gene data assembly over more realistic statistical models of evolution, computational approaches to large-scale inference, and problems inherent to current computer architectures to tools for the meta-analysis of trees. Speakers have been asked to present findings and methods in a way that is understandable and accessible to a broad audience of evolutionary biologists.

SPEAKERS

9:00-9:10 Introduction to the symposium (S. Renner)

9:15-9:45 Michael Sanderson, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology,
University of Arizona: Dealing with data matrices constructed from BAC-end
sequence libraries across *Oryza* species

9:45-10:15 Ziheng Yang, Department of Biology, University College London: Title open.

10:15-10:30 Coffee break

10:30-11:00 Olivier Gascuel, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, University of
Montpellier: Advances in modeling protein evolution

11:00-11:20 Derrick Zwickl, Postdoctoral researchers at NESCent, Durham, North
Carolina: Large-scale phylogenetic inference using codon-based models

11:20-11:40 Alexandros Stamatakis, Department of Computer Science, University of Munich: Efficient computation of the ML function on multi-gene alignments and multi-core architectures [or Algorithms for rapid phylogenetic classification of 454 reads]

11:40-12:10 Andrew Rambaut, Institute of Evolutionary Biology, University of Edinburgh: Title open.

(3) Update on future Evolution meetings

Evolution 2009: University of Idaho, Moscow Idaho, 13-17 June 2009. Contact: Olle Pellmyr, (pellmyr@uidaho.edu).

Evolution 2010: Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, Contact: Mitch Cruzan, (Cruzan@pdx.edu)

Evolution 2011: University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, Contact: Larry Weider

Evolution 2012: University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, 6-10 July 2012. Joint meeting with SSE/ASN/ESEB (European Society of Evolutionary Biologists). Contact: Howard Rundle (hrundle@uottawa.ca)

Proposal for a Professional Meeting Facilitator for SSB, SSE, and ASN

George Weiblen, Evolution 2008 and SSB Program Chair

Planning and execution of the annual Evolution meeting is a complex and onerous task that has been undertaken in recent years by executives or members of the various societies in conjunction with local hosts. It is risky and unreasonable at a meeting of this size for rotating society executives or members to be responsible for the scientific content of the program, outreach efforts, finances, and meeting logistics. It is also expensive and inefficient for local hosts to contract a new set of meeting planners and website each year. Therefore, we propose that the SSB, SSE, and ASN jointly hire a professional meeting planner to assist with meeting planning.

Discussion by the joint councils in recent years has generally supported a consensus that Evolution meetings avoid the path followed by larger society meetings (e.g. the Ecological Society of America) in moving entirely to professional conference venues. Many of our members feel that the experience of a University campus sets the Evolution meetings apart. Universities, each with their own idiosyncratic way of doing business are not the first choice of most professional planner but in theory it would be possible to contract a planner capable of acting on behalf of the societies in coordination with local university hosts. Hiring a planner only makes sense if an individual or company is contracted for a number of years to make the process more efficient with greater continuity from year to year.

General Responsibilities

- Solicit proposals for future meetings.
- Answer questions and provide information as requested by society executives and members concerning the annual meeting
- Keep the societies apprised of direct expenses and meeting developments.
- Prepare clear and detailed timelines and assignments.
- Prepare and manage vendor contracts for services selected.
- Work closely with local Universities and conference venues in the following areas:

Budget and Finance

- Develop a meeting budget with the societies.
- Coordinate the management of expenses with the local universities and other venues.
- Process payments for goods and services incurred by the local host in relation to the meeting as authorized by the societies and in accordance with local policies and procedures.
- Report revenue and expenses.
- Report financial status to societies.
- Prepare final budget report.
- Distribute the net meeting financial balance to the societies as directed.

Participant Registration Data Management

- Design and develop a registration database and web interface.
- Register domain names for meeting websites.

- Receive registrations online including talk and poster coauthors, titles, and keywords.
- Enable registrants to modify their abstract information online after submission.
- Accept fees in US dollars by credit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express).
- Deposit fees in accounts established for the meeting.
- Answer registration questions from potential and registered participants.
- Answer international participant questions about U.S. entry and visa requirements.
- Mail each registrant a confirmation receipt.
- Prepare list of registered participants for inclusion in meeting program.
- Provide program committees with participant registration information.
- Provide name badges on meeting stock that meets CCE parameters and distribute in badge holders on-site to participants.
- Oversee on-site registration, distribute materials, and walk-in participants, including fee collection.
- After the meeting, update the participant list with walk-in registrants.

Participant Bags

- Determine type and style with local hosts.
- Solicit bids and select supplier with client approval.
- Manage bag production.

Presenters

- Respond to questions and requests for information.

Exhibits and Poster Sessions

- Select and contract with exhibitor service provider.
- Lay out exhibit and poster display areas.
- Draft exhibitor solicitation materials.
- Contact potential exhibitors identified by societies.
- Register exhibitors.
- Answer exhibition related questions.
- Assist exhibitors and poster presenters on set-up day.
- Contract for security personnel.

Program Book

- Coordinate with program committees and society executives to ensure that program needs are met.
- Design, layout, and print program book including general meeting information, maps, list of exhibitors, meeting schedule, symposium schedule, special meetings and events, concurrent sessions table, talk and poster schedule, participant list, and author index.

On Site

- Conduct on-site registration, distribute registration materials and register walk-in participants.
- Check site/facility set-up and review expectations with staff.

- Set up registration area, including on-site registration system.
- Welcome participants.
- Hand out registration materials for pre-registered participants, including copies of registration receipts and program books.
- Answer questions and troubleshoot for presenters and participants.
- Identify and direct concurrent session chairs (moderators).

Hotels & Dormitories

- Manage hotel and dormitory contract process.
- Provide sleeping room information for meeting web site.
- Answer housing questions from potential participants.
- Hotel sleeping room reservations will be made directly by participants with the hotel.

Meeting Facilities and Facilitation

- Coordinate dormitory arrangements including development of meal and housing options.
- Coordinate reserved parking arrangements.
- Manage computer lab set-ups and access.
- Identify and coordinate computers, projectors, pointers, wireless microphones, etc.
- Plan food menu with societies and place order with caterers.
- Make final guarantees to caterers for food functions.
- Prepare meeting room and registration area signs.
- Arrange AV staff assistance for each meeting room.
- Provide reliable wireless internet access on campus for participants.

Food & Social Events

- Arrange and manage meeting food and social functions including a banquet, picnic, two poster session receptions, and refreshment breaks.
- Order food and beverages as requested.
- Make quantity guarantees in consultation with the societies.
- Secure alcohol permits.

The cost of these services should be included in the annual meeting budget as shared by SSB, SSE, and ASN.

An obstacle to hiring a meeting facilitator is that venues and hosts are already booked through 2012, and most of these have already hired their own professional planners. It is proposed that the societies hire a part-time planner who could act as a liaison between the societies and local planners as soon as possible. It is also worth considering whether decisions on future meeting proposals should be held until after a meeting facilitator has been contracted.

**PROPOSAL TO HOST THE 2011 MEETING
SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EVOLUTION (SSE),
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS (ASN) &
SOCIETY OF SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGISTS (SSB)**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA**



9 June 2008

Dr. Charles Fenster; Executive Vice-President
Society for the Study of Evolution
Department of Biology
BIOLOGY/Psychology Bldg.
Room 3210
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742

Dear Charles:

With this letter and accompanying material, it is our great pleasure to formally present a proposal to host the 2011 joint annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE), the American Society of Naturalists (ASN), and the Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB) in Norman, Oklahoma. The University of Oklahoma (OU) would be proud to serve as host of these three great scientific societies. Tentative dates for the meeting are Thursday the 16th June until Wednesday the 22nd June 2011. June 16th is available for early arrival of attendees for business meetings and pre-conference outings; June 22nd would be overall departure of attendees.

The University of Oklahoma (OU) was founded in 1890, 17 years before statehood. Currently, OU has a total enrollment of 30,000 students with 26,000 located on the main Norman campus. As the state's flagship university, OU is a leader among public universities and boasts the highest number of National Merit Scholars per capita at any public university in the nation.

Oklahoma's central location in the U.S. makes it convenient, and relatively inexpensive, to travel here. OU is located in the charming college town/city of Norman (population 105,000) located along the banks of the South Canadian River. Norman is situated geographically in the center of Oklahoma where the eastern deciduous forest meets the southern Great Plains consisting of mixed short-grass/tall-grass prairie. Rolling hills and mixed savannah (i.e. cross-timbers) dominate the landscape in central Oklahoma. In addition, Norman and OU are home to a number of exceptional museums and collections including: (i) the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (SNOMNH), which is one of the largest natural history museums in the world associated with a university; (ii) the History of Science Collection with over 91,000 volumes including every edition (with but a single exception) of every published work by Charles Darwin, along with original manuscripts and first editions of key works by Galileo (some with his own handwriting), Copernicus, Newton, among other. It is one of the few collections of its size in the United States; (iii) the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Arts which houses one of the largest collections of French Impressionist art on a university campus. Oklahoma City, which is known for the Bricktown entertainment area with its renovated downtown district of restaurants/shops/attractions (including Bricktown Ballpark, home of the triple-

A Redhawks) is only a 25-minute drive from Norman, and offers numerous opportunities for tours/attractions (see Optional Activities below).

The weather in June is sunny and warm with daily average maximum temperature of 30°C/87°F, but with generally lower humidity. Most events will be held in air-conditioned facilities (see below).

Local Organizing Committee

The local organizing committee is tri-chaired by Lawrence J. Weider (Professor of Zoology, Director of the OU Biological Station), Richard E. Broughton (Associate Professor of Zoology, Researcher at the Oklahoma Biological Survey), and Ingo Schlupp (Associate Professor of Zoology). Other members of the committee include Wayne J. Elisens (Botany/Microbiology and Oklahoma Biological Survey), Ola M. Fincke (Zoology), Daniel J. Hough (Oklahoma Biological Survey), Cecil M. Lewis (Anthropology), Gary D. Schnell (Zoology/SNOMNH), Bradley S. Stevenson (Botany/Microbiology), James N. Thompson (Zoology), and Stephen P. Weldon (History of Science). Many of our faculty members are actively engaged in research in a variety of sub-disciplines of evolutionary biology and ecology. Furthermore, in 2009 a subset of faculty members is preparing a year-long series of events across the university celebrating both the bicentennial of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of the Origin of Species. It will feature noted historians, scientists, and philosophers from around the world.

For the purposes of organizing the 2011 SSE/ASN/SSB conference, we will be receiving logistical support from the OU Forum and Conference Services. In addition, support will be provided by the Norman Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the conference-facilities coordinator at the John Q. Hammons Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center (see below).

Facilities

The joint meeting of SSE/ASN/SSB has now reached a size where complete on-campus hosting of the meeting is very difficult to achieve. Fortunately, a new conference and convention center – the John Q. Hammons Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center, slated to open in December 2008 – will have more than sufficient facilities to host the 2011 Evolution meeting in Norman. This facility will have 48,000 sq. ft. of premier meeting space and full-service business center available, including seating for over 3,000 people. This convention center will be the centerpiece of the University North Park economic/commercial development zone located 4 miles from the main OU Campus. We will contract with a local bus company to provide shuttle service between the convention center and the main OU campus with its facilities, including dormitories (see Accommodations section below). This 300-acre area, when completed in 2008-2009, will consist of a series of mainstream shopping outlets, restaurants, bars/grills, and other attractions including a man-made lake and surrounding parkland with walking/bike paths.

The flexible design of the convention center will easily allow 9 concurrent sessions, along with reception area, and poster session, with rooms being quite flexible in seating arrangements, so that people are not cramped. Also, all meeting rooms would be contiguous, so it would take only a minute or two to move from one session to another. Facilities can easily handle a plenary session of 1500 people or more. Costs are reasonable for these facilities (see below).

Accommodations

The meeting will be held at the John Q. Hammons Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center. The hotel has 283 two-room suites and will block the following number of suites for use by the conference attendees. (Note: the hotel will provide one complementary suite for every 50 suites booked.)

Thurs, 16 Jun	Fri, 17 Jun	Sat, 18 Jun	Sun, 19 Jun	Mon, 20 Jun	Tues, 21 Jun
30	225	225	225	225	100

The confirmed guaranteed rate for 2011 is \$175 per night per suite with occupancy ranging from 1-6 persons per suite depending on whether king bed and pull-out couch or two queen beds and pull-out are booked. The two-room suites offer microwave oven, wet bar, refrigerator, coffee, coffeemakers, irons and ironing boards, well-lit work area, two dual-line telephones equipped with data ports and voice mail, two remote-controlled televisions, and hairdryers. Complimentary parking with valet service is available. A fitness center, indoor pool with sundeck, sauna, and whirlpool, along with internet connectivity throughout the hotel are available for guests. **Full cooked-to-order breakfast (6-9 am weekdays; 7-10:30 am weekends) is included in this price. In addition, a reception each evening from 5:30-7:30 pm is offered to each guest, which features complimentary cocktails, non-alcoholic beverages, and light snacks.**

Additional accommodations are available in the OU dormitories (double-occupancy per night: \$18.50; single occupancy per night: \$35.00) – breakfast not included. In addition, Norman has a total of 1800 hotel rooms. Arrangements with other local hotels (e.g. Hilton Garden Hotel; Holiday Inn; Residence Inn by Marriott; Country Inn & Suites; <http://www.visitnorman.com/default.aspx?page=62>) for conference discount pricing, all of which are within a short (driving) distance from the convention center, will be arranged if our bid to host the meeting is successful.

Travel

Norman is only ~20 miles from the Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City (OKC), which is serviced by major U.S. airlines including American, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Northwest, Southwest, United, and U.S. Airways. Service includes hourly non-stop flights between Oklahoma City and Dallas-Ft. Worth on American Airlines. Additional non-stop direct flights into/out of Oklahoma City include destinations such as

Albuquerque, Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Memphis, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Newark, New Orleans, Phoenix, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, and Washington, D.C. International connecting flights through many of these hub airports make travel to the meeting reasonably easy. The airport is conveniently serviced by airport shuttles (Airport Express) and taxis to Norman (<http://www.flyokc.com/index.aspx?page=transport&id=41&sid=402>). Major car rental outlets (Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, National) are also situated at the terminal (<http://www.flyokc.com/index.aspx?page=rental>).

In addition, the central location of Oklahoma makes it feasible for many people to drive to the meeting. For example, all of the following major cities are within a 750-mile radius: Albuquerque, Austin, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Memphis, New Orleans, St. Louis, and San Antonio. We have made initial contact with American Airlines to make arrangements for conference discount pricing on seats. Other airlines will also be contacted.

Dining

Norman has a wide variety of dining venues, a number of which will either be located in the hotel/convention center (e.g. Sports Bar), or within a short walk or drive from the convention center as part of the University North Park development area (<http://www.visitnorman.com/atrestaurants.asp>). In addition, the university district known as Campus Corner hosts a variety of ethnic restaurants, sports bars, and pubs immediately adjacent to the northern edge of campus. This is easy walking distance from the dormitories and will be served by shuttle buses (to/from the Convention Center) in the evenings.

Registration

We will be contracting with the OU Forum and Conference Services (<http://www.conferencepros.org/>) to provide professional, high-quality, online conference-registration services and support during the conference. (See below for a breakdown of the estimated total registration costs for the meeting.)

Optional Activities

Given Norman's central location in Oklahoma (<http://www.visitnorman.com/index.asp>) and proximity to Oklahoma City, a variety of attractions, sites, and museums are available. In addition to those museums/attractions in Norman/OU that were mentioned above, in Oklahoma City, there are a number of sites/attractions that are within an easy (25-35 minute) drive from Norman. These include: Bricktown cultural district (<http://www.bricktownokc.com/>), Myriad Botanical Gardens (<http://www.myriadgardens.com/index.html>), Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum (<http://www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org/>), National Cowboy and

Western Heritage Museum (<http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/>), Oklahoma National Stockyards (<http://www.onsy.com/>), and the nationally-recognized Oklahoma City Zoo (<http://www.okczoo.com/>).

For those more interested in exploring the natural beauty of Oklahoma, the following sites/attractions might be of interest: *Please note that the state of Oklahoma has the second highest number – 12 – of EPA level-III eco-regions in the U.S. – only California with 13 has more.*

- 1) Trip to the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge (approx. 1.5 hr drive southwest of Norman) – this was the first National Wildlife Refuge established in 1905 by President Theodore Roosevelt (<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/oklahoma/wichitamountains/>). The unique geology of the region (i.e. “sky islands”) and the variety of native and introduced flora and fauna, make for an exceptional outing. This is a spectacular area for viewing bison and elk.
- 2) The Arbuckle Mountains (the oldest mountain range in North America) including Turner Falls (<http://www.turnerfallspark.com/>), Lake of the Arbuckles and the Chickasaw National Recreational Area (approx. 1-hr drive south of Norman; <http://www.davisok.org/Chickasaw-National-Recreation-Area.asp>).
- 3) Talimena Scenic Drive (approximately 3 hrs east/southeast of Norman; <http://www.talimenascenicdrive.com/>) located at the top of the Winding Stair Mountains in eastern Oklahoma, part of the Central Highlands.
- 4) Lake Thunderbird State Park (15 miles east of Norman; <http://www.oklahomaparks.com/detail.asp?id=1+5U+6460>).
- 5) Great Salt Plains Lake and State Park (2.5 hrs north/northwest of Norman; <http://www.oklahomaparks.com/detail.asp?id=1+5U+3596>); “the only spot in the world where crystal enthusiasts can dig for “hourglass selenite” crystals, a rare and fragile form of selenite, which is a form of gypsum.” It is also noted for its populations of shorebirds as an important stop-over point within the Central U.S. flyway.

Schedule

We propose that the meeting be held from Thursday the 16th June until Wednesday the 22nd June 2011. We propose a typical four day schedule of meetings/sessions, as follows:

- **Thursday:** Early arrival of council members and those participating in the optional activities & check-in (convention hotel, dormitories, other hotels).
- **Friday:** Optional activities; all day registration (John Q. Hammons Convention Center); hotel and dormitory check-in; Council/Business meetings (Convention Center); evening Opening Reception (Convention Center). (Note: shuttle buses will be available to transport attendees between the Convention Center, and OU campus dormitories.)

- **Saturday:** Contributed papers/symposia; SSB Presidential address; Oklahoma-style barbeque picnic on the OU South Oval with an opportunity to visit the History of Science Collection, Bizzell Memorial Library on the OU campus (note: shuttle buses will be available to transport attendees between the Convention Center and OU campus).
- **Sunday:** Contributed papers/symposia; ASN Presidential address; “free time” for dinner at various local restaurants within walking distance of conference center; evening Poster Session I (convention center) with plenty of room to mingle (snacks with cash bar service).
- **Monday:** Contributed papers/symposia; Dobzhansky Prize talk; SSE Presidential address; dinner at various local restaurants within walking distance of conference center; evening Poster Session II (convention center) with snacks and cash bar.
- **Tuesday:** Contributed papers/symposia; formal banquet at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (SNOMNH) – shuttle buses will be available to transport attendees between the convention center, SNOMNH, and dormitories.
- **Wednesday:** Check out and departure.

In closing, we are excited about the possibility of hosting the SSE/ASN/SSB joint meeting in June 2011. We hope to showcase the fine people, the excellent university, the attractive city of Norman, and the great state of Oklahoma. We will be working very closely with the staff at the OU Forum and Conference Services, the Norman Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the staff of the John Q. Hammons Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center to make the 2011 Evolution Meeting a memorable one. If you have any questions, please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Weider
Professor of Zoology
Director, The University of Oklahoma Biological Station

Richard C. Broughton
Associate Professor of Zoology

Ingo Schlupp
Associate Professor of Zoology

Tri-Chairs, Evolution 2011 Organizational Committee

Estimated registration fee/costs for hosting the 2011 SSE/ASN/SSB Meeting
 (Note: We are basing estimates on a conservative number of 1000 conference attendees – these are per person costs)

Item	Per person cost (\$)	Comments
Rental fee for Convention Center	\$ 9	
OU Conference Services Fee (including on-line registration, etc...)	\$ 63	
Miscellaneous (LCD projector rental, power cords, bus rental, meeting tote bags, etc...)	\$ 20	
Opening reception (including 2 drink tickets, light snack trays)	\$ 33	
Four morning and four afternoon breaks (coffee, tea, snack trays)	\$ 84	
Two evening poster sessions (1 drink per session plus snacks)	\$ 50	
Conference Picnic at OU (including 2 drink tickets, and band rental)	\$ 35	
Subtotal	\$294	
Contingency (15%)	\$ 44	
Total Registration Fee	\$338	We will propose a higher registration fee for non-member participants (i.e. \$450), \$350 for regular members (faculty) and a lower fee for students (\$250).
Optional Costs		
Banquet (at Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History – SNOMNH, limited to ~400)	\$ 65	

Report from Membership Committee, Society for Systematic Biologists
June 17, 2008

Molly Nepokroeff, Vicki Funk, David Hillis

1) On-line renewal and subscriptions services: We implemented on-line renewal and subscription services last year and the service has been in place for about a year (April 16, 2007). It is time to evaluate how the switch has affected membership. The service has been provided by Burk and Associates for the first year at a cost of \$3900 this past year and \$2300 this current year, but note that this service will be covered in its entirety in the costs of our new contract with OUP.

2) Membership renewal and reminder procedure (note that we will discuss this as item #15 on agenda, together with voting): For 2007, 423 members paid online. Total number of members for 2007 was 1522 (at end of year. Dec. 31, 2007). This year, we began the 2008 renewal notices *by email only* in October, and then sent out an email reminder in January. We then did send out a paper mailing/invoice accompanied by a letter from David Penny in March 2008 to 888 members who had still not renewed for 2008. So far for 2008, we have had 1057 renewals online (out of 1335 total renewals). Our membership renewals appeared to be slowing down compared to the previous years at the same time when I prepared the report for the meeting in March, and this was a major motivating factor in sending out hard copy reminders. After the hard copy reminders were sent in March, 584 renewals were made, and of these, 439 were online renewals. Our numbers are thankfully back up (total membership was 647 in March, and is now 1335), so perhaps the hard copy notifications as well as extra time have helped. We will be following up with an email reminder again for still-delinquent members soon (June 2008). We need to decide on a standard policy for this procedure to communicate to OUP for next year.

3) Membership numbers: As of June 17, 2008, we have a total of 1335 members who have paid their subscriptions this year. There are another 468 who were members last year but have not paid this year (arrears), and if those were added in, the total would be 1803 members.

Selected Membership Data Trends: (numbers are from *end of year*, except 2008)

Regular members:

2000	1500
2003	1228
2004	1054
2005	907
2006	948
2007	1019
2008	856

Student members:

2000	200
2003	376
2004	336
2005	362
2006	371
2007	391
2008	379

Institutional subscriptions:

1998	908
1999	883
2000	869
2001	860
2002	842/847*
2003	671/805*
2004	686/770*
2005	753
2006	684
2007	801

Membership as of 6/14/2007 (last year at this time)

	Paid	*Arrears	Total
Emeritus	49	5	54
Emeritus no Journal	5	1	6
Family	20	1	21
Life	12	0	12
Regular	904	182	1086
Student	342	139	481
Sustaining	11	1	12

Total	1343	329	1672
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*Arrears are Members from 2006 that have yet not yet paid for 2007

Membership as of 6/17/2008

	Paid	*Arrears	Total
Emeritus	42	9	51
Emeritus no Journal	3	4	7
Family	25	7	32
Life	12	0	12
Regular	856	268	1124
Student	379	175	554
Sustaining	11	5	16

Total	1335	468	1803
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*Arrears are Members from 2007 that have yet not yet paid for 2008

2008 SSB Council Meeting
University of Minnesota, June 20th
Editor's Report

I. Submissions and Decisions: 2007

Number of Submissions 2007: 236 (record by ~21%).

Of these, 54 were rejected without review (~23%); 10 of them were sent to AEs who declined to send them out.

We have therefore reviewed 182 manuscripts. One of those was mine, and I was obviously not involved in that review process.

Of these, I've followed the AE recommendation 164 times (> 90% of decisions). Of the 8 times I made a decisions at odds from that of the AE, 3 times I favored the author by allowing resubmission when the recommendation was outright rejection and 5 times I rejected with resubmission encouraged when the recommendation was to accept pending major/minor revision.

Decisions: (236)

Accept pending minor revisions: 28 (12%)

Accept pending major revisions: 47 (20%)

Reject, encourage/permit resubmission: 68 (29%)

Reject: 39 (16%)

Not Appropriate: 54 (23%)

Overall acceptance rate: 32%

Overall rejection rate: 68%

II. Submissions and Decisions: 2008 (as of 6/16/08).

We have received 106 submissions, which is on track to match 2007.

Of these, 15 have been rejected without review (~14% of submissions). None has been returned by AEs without review (yet; there's one that may be).

I've made 57 decisions on manuscripts submitted this year (including those 15 that I didn't send out). Of the 42 for which I have received AE recommendations, I've made a decision at odds with that 4 times; again, I'm following AE recommendations on > 90% of decisions.

These 4 deviations this year include two where the AE recommendation was Accept with major revisions and the decision was to Reject with resubmission

encouraged. The other two received AE recommendations of Accept with minor revisions and the decision was Accept with major revisions.

The breakdown of decision categories for 2008 submissions is as follows (of 57 decision):

Accept pending minor revisions: 8 (14%)
Accept pending major revisions: 14 (24.5%)
Reject, encourage/permit resubmission: 11 (19%)
Reject: 9 (16%)
Not Appropriate: 15 (26.5%).

Overall Acceptance Rate: 39.5%

Overall Rejection Rate: 60.5%

III. Associate Editors:

I added a couple AEs to handle the increased submission load. The current number, 27, seems about right, although the distribution of expertise could be improved (at any give point). They continue to do an outstanding job and I'm constantly impressed by the quality of the reviews we receive.

IV. Formatting Issues

We've had a couple AEs complain about submissions that deviate substantially from the format specified in the Instructions for Authors. Therefore, we've become quite a bit stricter with respect to unsubmitting manuscripts until the authors actually get them into appropriate format.

This is particularly an issue with authors who have math or computer science backgrounds. The publication standards are very different in those disciplines, and they tend to use LaTeX rather than Word. In order to help this, we have a LaTeX style sheet that we will post on the web site. This still needs some tweaking.

V. Databasing

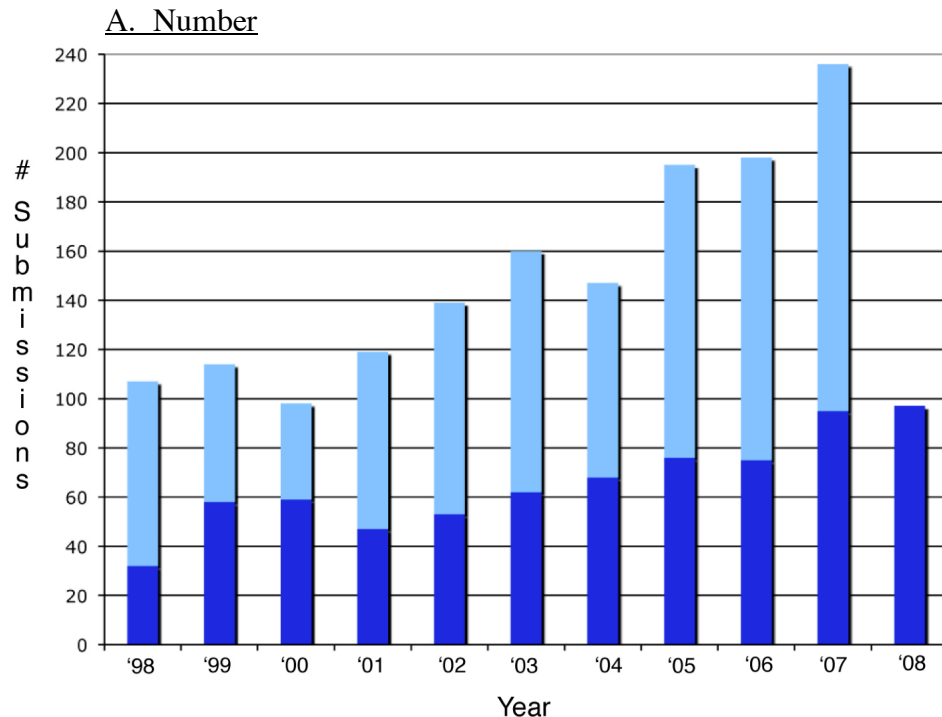
I've received a request from one of the principles of Morphobank that we require deposition of morphological matrices. This could range from simple matrices in nexus format to digital images for each cell in the character x taxon matrix. However, since a competing database exists (Morphobank – unfortunate near synonymy), I'm refraining from picking one and strongly encouraging authors to use either of these databases. I'm open to requiring that authors pick one, but

then we'll have a Genbank requirement, a TreeBASE requirement and a Morph(o)bank requirement.

VI. My Successor

I've been urged to identify possible successors. There are several of the AEs whom I think would be great. Identifying a willing successor is a goal for the current meetings.

I Submissions



We received 236 submissions in 2007. In the graph above, the lower (darker) portions of the bars show the number of submissions through May of each year. Each combined bar shows the total number of submissions in the year. Through May of 2008 we received 97 submissions, just slightly higher than last year.

B. National Origin

The following are the countries from which we received the most 2007 submissions, with number of submissions in parentheses: USA(91), UK(18), China(16), Sweden(12), France(12), New Zealand(9), Germany(9), Canada(8). Obviously there were many countries from which we received a small number of submissions. We are experiencing a slight decline in the percentage of international submissions (2007: 61%, 2006: 65%, 2005: 69%).

Note: our diversity is actually much higher than these numbers indicate. This list gives the country of residence for the submitting author only, so it does not reflect the various locations of coauthors.

The acceptance ratios for manuscripts from the countries listed above are: USA(.34), UK(.37), China(0), Sweden(.25), France(.14), New Zealand(.29), Germany(.16), Canada(.46). We received submissions from 29 countries and have published papers from 17 countries.

C. Other Notes

- We published the Species Delimitation symposium in December 07. We plan to publish the Species Tree/Gene Tree Heterogeneity symposium.
- In 2007 we published 60 regular articles, with an average length of 14 pages (SD = 4) and 16 Points of View (average length 8 pages, SD = 2). Book Reviews do not come through MC and are not included in the count of 236 submissions. We published 11 book reviews, thanks to David Morrison.
- We have little or no backlog of papers for print.
- Jack and I have re-vamped the instructions to authors.

II Processing Time

A. Initial Decisions Table

Table: Time from submission to EiC decision according to decision type. (First submissions only, not revisions.)

Decision Type	Average # Days from Submission to Decision
accept/minor	79
accept/major	75
reject with resubmission encouraged	85
reject	65
not appropriate for journal	4

B. Time to Publication

The average time from original submission to print publication is 9.7 months (SD 3 mo.), a decrease of several months compared to recent years. (The 9.7 mo. includes a variable amount of time for authors to prepare and submit a revision.) I used only the Feb08 and Apr08 issues as a sample, in order to present the most up-to-date timing as possible, but the small sample size means 9.7 months is not a highly reliable time frame.

We are working on ways to increase efficiency on our side, and OUP may proceed faster than T&F. In their online publishing system an issue need not be paginated before papers can be posted. Papers can go online out of order, which will be fair for Points of View, Book Reviews, and papers sharing an issue with a symposium. Currently the time to online publication is up to a month earlier than print for some papers, but generally less.

FYI Jack works admirably quickly. That's not kowtowing; I'd prefer to stay a step ahead, as I did when the number of submissions was lower. In any case, I will improve my processing time.

III Possible Source of Additional Income and Publicity

Our journal covers or logo can be printed on t-shirts and a large variety of other products (caps, mugs, buttons, magnets, stickers, etc.). There are no startup costs or other fees. CafePress.com charges a base price for each item, for example, their cheapest t-shirt is \$8.99. That includes printing the image on the shirt. There are many styles for various prices, e.g., organic cotton made-in-USA t-shirt = \$16.99. We set the selling price at whatever we want above the base price, for our profit. There would be a specific Systematic Biology URL for our products. We could inform people via our

announcements, an ad page in the journal, on our website (with a link) - whatever. This was originally Rod's idea, but I think he didn't have time to pursue it. We retain copyright of the images.

IV Manuscript Central

Not getting any better (worse in some ways). We would consider changing (not that there's a better option, just that we would consider looking for one), but it is the system used by OUP. I will be meeting with OUP's MC person to try to make some improvements. I estimate papers will start going to OUP in early October. There will be an expense for SSB to transition Manuscript Central to OUP (mainly because Jack and I need to make configuration changes which we can't make now, because T&F is no longer paying extra MC fees on behalf of SB) but we don't know yet how much it will cost. We will pay for future MC services in a roundabout way through our profit-share arrangement with OUP.

V Copyrights and Open Access

We had planned to use entirely electronic assignment-of-copyright forms beginning with the 2008 volume. However, this is an expensive option on Manuscript Central. Furthermore, OUP is setting up their own system of electronic copyright forms but this will not be operational when we start with them. Therefore we will continue to use hardcopy copyright forms for now.

In each issue we've run an announcement stating the availability of an open access option, and each author is notified of the option as part of an automated email sent by T&F. So far, we have had only one author elect to use the open access option. T&F's very low fee for open access, \$500, will expire with our contract. OUP's fee is variable according to several factors.

Papers will be freely available on the OUP publication website 12 months after print publication. Unlike open access, the copyright terms will apply (SB holds the copyright, and readers will have to obtain our permission for use of figures or long text quotations). This would be in addition to our agreement with JSTOR. We've also asked T&F to give back-issues of the journal to OUP for destructive scanning in order to provide papers online.

Cathy offered to host our data and online appendices on the OUP website. Rod and others agreed this would be better than hosting on our own site, on the condition that data be freely available.

VI Teaching Aids Portion of Website

There are multiple reasons this is currently in poor condition. I am familiar with the situation. In my opinion, the primary source of help needed for this is input from the Associate Editors. (Also, I do not have the web permissions to create new list items on the left side of the website. Rod plans to figure out why that isn't working.)

1) This is what we say to all authors, when their paper is accepted: "As a service to biology instructors and a way to increase the utility of the journal (and, probably, citations of your paper), we would like to post on our website key figures or tables from Systematic Biology papers that illustrate basic points of general interest useful in teaching Systematic Biology. Instructors could download these illustrations and

incorporate them into their lectures, or with our permission authors could incorporate them into textbooks, provided they give the full reference for the paper. To participate you would include a caption that explains the main general points illustrated, which may require modification from the printed version of the caption. The figure or table may also require modification to make it more generalized. If you feel your paper includes figures or tables that would be useful for this purpose and you are willing to modify them as described, please let us know specifically which tables or figures would be appropriate. This is voluntary, and we appreciate your contribution to this effort."

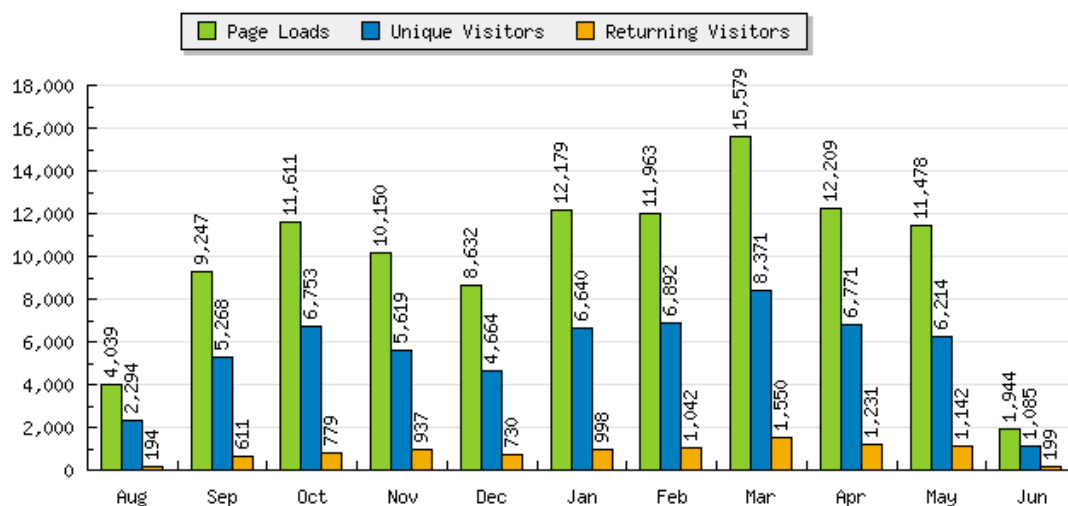
2) This is what authors who respond say to me: "Sure, you can use my figures if you want."

3) I need input on morphing 2 into 1. For example, the AE of the paper (or the EiC) could tell me that a particular figure or table makes an important generalizable point, and what would be needed in order to modify it for teaching. I could go back to the author to work out the details and collaborate to obtain the finished result. When I have the web access needed, I could then add the item to the teaching portion of the site.

Report on Society of Systematic Biology web site

By Rod Page

The Society of Systematic Biology web site (<http://systbiol.org>) remains essentially unchanged from last year in terms of design and administration. The site receives an average of 5,506 visitors per month, of which 4,650 are first time visitors, the remaining 856 are returning visitors. The chart below shows monthly usage from August 2007 until June 2008 (note that the June statistics represent only the first week of that month).



No major changes are anticipated in how the site is run, although a redesign might be appropriate once a new logo has been designed, and the journal moves to OUP. The new publisher has indicated that they will host the supplementary material on their web site, which will remove perhaps the most tedious task for the webmaster – adding the supplementary files to the Society web site.

Society of Systematic Biologists, 20 June 2008 Annual Council Mtg (St. Paul, MN)

Treasurer's Report, submitted by David Mindell

General operation

Rob Clayton is continuing as SSB's contracted CPA; we pay him \$7,200/year.

Proceeds of 2007 Evolution Meetings in New Zealand

SSB received a check for \$11,133.33 in January 2008 as its share of the proceeds from the 2007 annual meetings. The total proceeds were divided equally among SSB, SSE, and ASN.

Graduate Student Award funding

SSB distributed \$46,649 total for Graduate Student Research Awards and the Ernst Mayr Award during 2007; and is in the process of distributing about \$50,000 for awards in 2008.

Use of Endowment funds for programs and initiatives

In order to make SSB's current practices regarding use of Endowment funds for SSB programs and initiatives more explicit, the following statement was approved by the SSB Council at the 2007 annual meetings.

The Council affirms the following general policy regarding management of the Society's Endowment funds. The Council may request a disbursement from the Endowment each year of up to 5% of a five-year moving average of the principle as of 31 December. As soon after 31 December as possible, the Trustees will inform the Council, through the Treasurer, the amount that is available for disbursement. The Treasurer will inform the Trustees of the desired disbursements, and the Trustees will arrange for transfer to the Society's operating account. If the Council so chooses, it may request less than the allotted amount, in which case the remainder returns to principle.

In March 2008, SSB Council unanimously approved and sent a request to the SSB Trustees for a disbursement from the Endowment of approximately 4% of a five-year moving average of the principle as of 31 December 2007 (\$23,000), for SSB programmatic initiatives (in concert with the SSB Long-range Planning Committee). These funds are in the process of being transferred to the SSB operating (Wachovia) account.

State of the Budget (see emailed file)

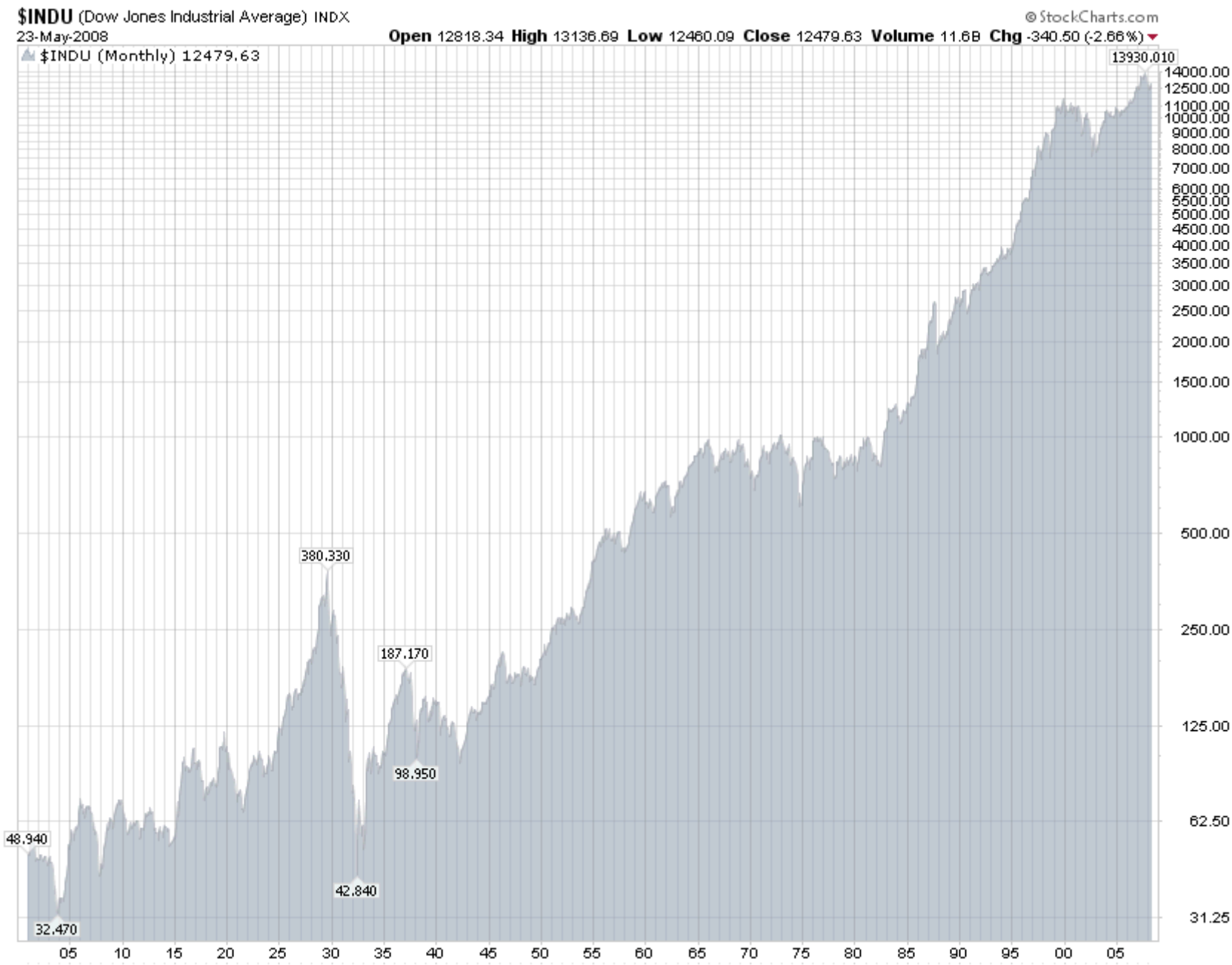
SSB is financially solvent. The approximate amount from the SSB money market and checking accounts (Operating and Wachovia accounts) as of 31 May 2008 was \$34,706. The approximate value of SSB investments (Endowment) also as of 31 May 2008 was \$652,141. These are healthy but still modest amounts given the operating costs and commitments of the society. As in the past, the first priority is ensuring that expenditures remain less than income.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT
RESERVE FUND TRUSTEES
TERRY L. YATES, JOEL CRACRAFT, VICKI FUNK

The SSB Reserve Fund performed reasonably well in 2007 given the uncertain investment climate. The account gained in value \$54,300, less \$150 in fees, for a return of 8.87%. This can be compared to a 5.49% return for the S&P 500 and 10.65% return for the NASDAQ. As of end-2007 the fund was allocated to 95% equities, 3% fixed income, and 2% cash and equivalents. We ended with a total market value of \$666,254.93. Since beginning our account with Morgan Stanley in September 2004, the account has grown \$265,126 (including \$65,126 in contributions).

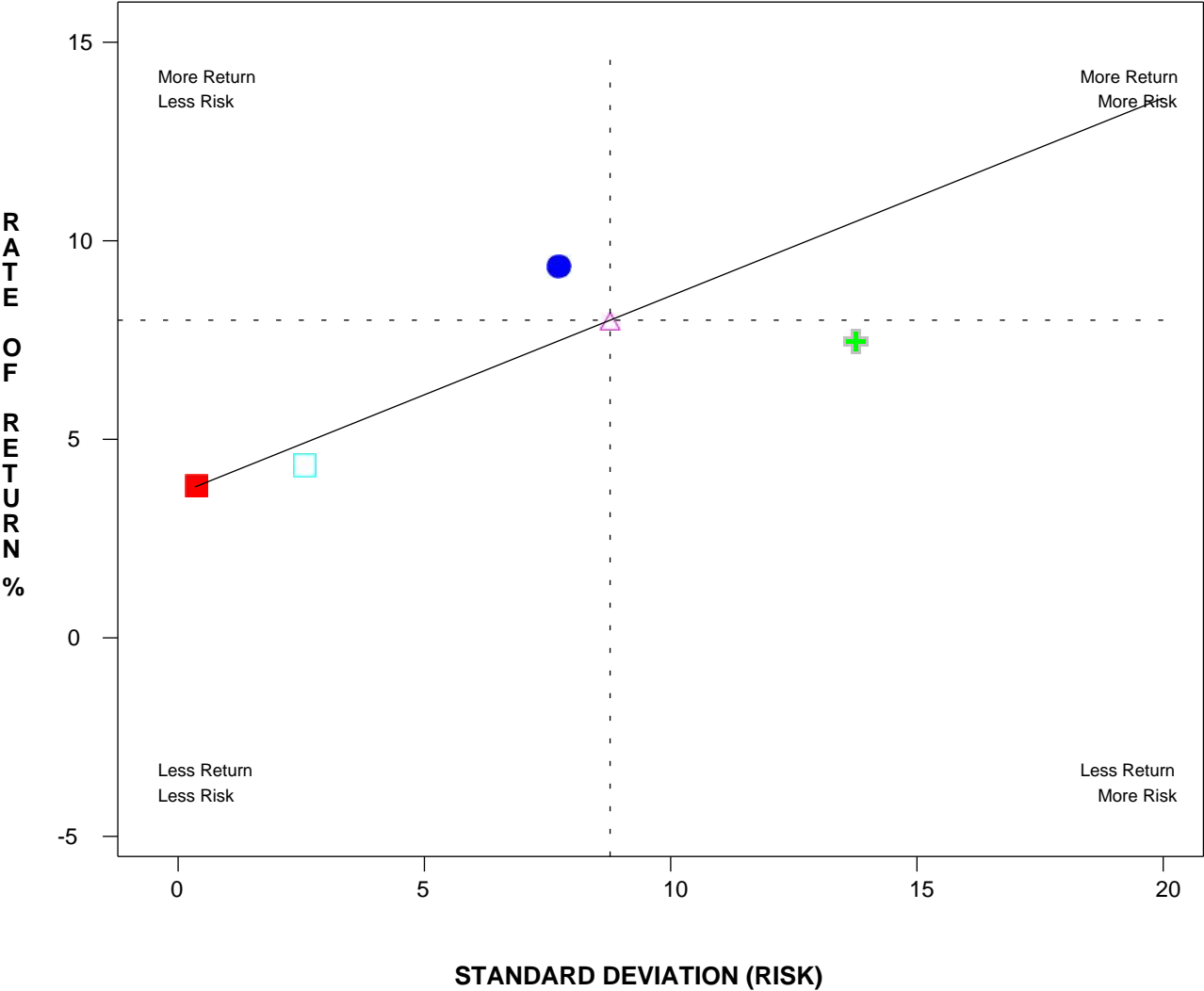
Since the beginning of the 2008 fiscal year, the market has behaved poorly. As of 30 April 2008, the account was valued at \$639,412 for a -4.03% decline. Put in perspective, however, the S&P500 declined -5.03% and the NASDAQ -8.83%, so the Trustees are very pleased with the performance of Darla Cannon of Morgan Stanley. We call attention to two attached graphs: (a) the history of the stock market over time, which suggests that the investment philosophy we have adopted is the right one for the long-term, and (b) our risk/return position which indicates that although we are heavily invested in securities, our balanced portfolio is positioned to have more return but less risk than the S&P500.

STATUS OF ASSETS	<u>31 DECEMBER, 2006</u>		<u>31 DECEMBER, 2007</u>	
	Market Value	%	Market Value	% of fund
Cash and Money Market	\$ 49,899	8.2	\$ 14,016	2.1
Stocks	18,821	3.1	15,546	2.3
Corporate Fixed Income	20,704	3.4	20,600	3.1
Mutual Funds	522,681	85.3	616,093	92.5
Value of Reserve Fund	\$612,105		\$666,255	
% Change	+9.21			+ 8.87
Annual Allocation to Operations	0		0	
Net Reserve Principal	\$612,105		\$666,255	
Change in value for year	51,597		54,150	
Change in value since inception (\$401,129; 9/17/04)			+ \$265,126 (includes \$65,776 in contributions)	



Comparative Risk/Return (Net of Fees)

September 17, 2004 through April 30, 2008



	Rate of Return (%)	Standard Deviation %
● Your Portfolio (Net)	9.3	7.70
■ TBILL	3.8	0.34
△ SP500	8.0	8.77
+ NASDAQ	7.4	13.71
□ LBGC-INT	4.3	2.54

Please Note: The measurement period for all Standard Deviations starts from the beginning of the month following the account's inception. Also, if your account was enrolled in performance reporting prior to May 1, 2003, your gross portfolio returns and the returns for all comparative indices have a start date of the month following the account's inception date.

All returns are annualized.

For Fund Solution accounts, since inception gross performance and index returns are always measured from the beginning of the month following the account's inception. Additionally, the following indices are available only on a monthly basis and are, therefore, measured from the beginning of the month following the account's inception: CPI, IFC Investable Emerging Markets, National Association REIT, Wilshire REIT, all Merrill Lynch Municipal Indices, the Merrill Lynch Investment Grade Convertible and the Merrill Lynch High Yield Master.

The Society of Systematic Biologists
The American Society of Naturalists
The Society for the Study of Evolution

(addresses here)

June 2008

Dr. Leah Larkin
167 Castetter Hall
MSC03 2020
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Dear Dr. Larkin,

On behalf of the Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB), American Society of Naturalists (ASN), and the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE), we strongly support your bid to Elsevier to offer professional grade, childcare at low cost to participants attending the Evolution 2009 meetings at the University of Idaho in Moscow, ID from June 13-17, 2009. We estimate that at least 34 members from three societies (largely early career biologists, about 75% female, with a total of over 50 children) will benefit from subsidized childcare at this meeting, including some members whose attendance is absolutely dependent upon this service being provided. Numerous members have commented that offering subsidized meeting childcare is “an important issue”, “a wonderful idea”, and “a huge service” that would “enable parents to come to the Evolution meetings”.

Because of the significance of this issue to our members, all three societies (SSB, ASN, and SSE) are committed to making childcare an integral part of our future Evolution meetings. Thus, with the financial help of Elsevier to kick start subsidized childcare at the Evolution 2009 meeting, we will strive to continue to offer financial and practical support to make this program a self-sustaining one at subsequent meetings.

On behalf of the Society of Systematic Biologists, the American Society of Naturalists, and the Society for the Study of Evolution, thank you for taking on this important issue, and best of luck with your funding application.

Sincerely,

(signatures)

The Society of Systematic Biologists
The American Society of Naturalists
The Society for the Study of Evolution



Public Policy Office

*Robert Gropp, Ph.D., Director
202-628-1500 x 250, rgropp@aibs.org*

Proposals for the Society for the Study of Evolution

Option 1: Electronic Advocacy (\$15,000/year, new money)

Funding would permit AIBS to subscribe to an electronic advocacy tool, such as CapWhiz or Capital Advantage. These are the services utilized by most environmental and medical/health advocacy groups. These services provide a mechanism for individuals to rapidly communicate a coordinated message to their elected representatives. Policy staffers develop form letters that individuals can send unaltered or can personalize. Additionally, these services allow government relations staff to track and analyze the number of messages that have been sent to specific offices. Thus, advocacy campaigns may be adjusted and refocused as necessary to ensure that appropriate offices are receiving a policy message.

Option 2: Evolution Science Policy Fellow (at least \$50,000/year, new money)

A recent doctoral graduate could be hired to work full-time in the AIBS Public Policy Office. This person would gain first-hand policy advocacy and media relations experience. Additionally, this funding would permit a position to be allocated full-time to addressing various evolution-related policy issues (e.g., opportunities for increased federal investment in evolution research, application of evolution research to policy issues/societal needs, promotion of evolution in the education curricula). At present, the AIBS Public Policy Office is able to allocate a fraction of staff time (approximately .25 FTE) to address evolution related issues, primarily threats to the integrity of science education.

Activities that could be advanced by a full-time staff member:

- ➔ Work with SSE members and others to develop timely White Papers illustrating the importance and value of evolution research;
- ➔ Develop tools and programs to help scientists effectively defend/promote evolution education to state and local education authorities;
- ➔ Develop advocacy tools to sustain/increase federal investments in research;
- ➔ Work with representatives of other disciplines to advance science and science education policy; and,
- ➔ Plan Congressional briefings, policy roundtables, or press conferences that highlight research findings that can inform policy deliberations.



Joint SSE/SSB/ASN 2010 Meetings in Portland, Oregon
Department of Biology,
Portland State University

Update on Preparations for the 2010 Meeting

1. We have secured a reservation for the Oregon Convention Center the dates of June 25 – 29, 2010 at a rate of \$23,600.
2. The Portland-Oregon Visitors Association (POVA) will provide grants in the form of a guest room rebate (\$9,600) and a grant from the Visitors Development Fund (\$12,600), **so the total cost to the society will be \$2,000* for rental of the convention facilities** (does not include catering and AV rental). *The guest room rebate is based on 65% occupancy of hotel blocks. At \$6 per room (included in room prices), that would be equivalent to 1600 room-nights total, or 320 rooms per night for the five days of the convention. Lower occupancy would be charged on a sliding scale.
3. Hotel room rates are \$99 for PSU's University Place Hotel (15 minute lightrail ride to the convention center) and \$119 - \$134 per night for hotels within 4 blocks of the convention center. We will be signing contracts to block rooms for the meeting with three or four hotels including University Place.
4. Dorm rooms: 380 doubles are available on campus @ \$45 and \$55 (newer) per night (15 minute lightrail ride to the convention center).
5. All lightrail and bus trips in the convention and downtown areas are free.
6. Good progress is being made on the new lightrail line to PSU campus (originates within 2 blocks of the hotel and dorm rooms). It is scheduled for completion in 2009.
7. Logo: we have chosen candidates for the webpage and t-shirt logos for the meeting.
8. Bar-B-Que venues: We have several candidates we are exploring and plan to identify an appropriate venue by the end of the calendar year.
9. We will probably be contracting with Conferences Online for webpage and registration services. Contract terms need to be determined.
10. We are establishing a PSU Foundation account to take care of up-front expenses. We have already discussed obtaining some funds from SSE, but we have not determined what amount we might need.

Next academic year we plan organizational meetings with the following goals:

1. Determine overall meeting schedule.
2. Assess total costs of the convention and determine pricing.
3. Work with the convention center staff to identify suitable sets of rooms for talks and convention display space.
4. Work with convention center staff to identify suitable 'tourist' trips for the convention.
5. Develop plans for regional natural history field trips. Identify local individuals who are qualified to lead these trips.

Questions and concerns that we have:

1. With whom will we be working to determine the general meeting schedule?
2. Will room needs be the same as for the 2008 meeting? Any special events or changes in number of concurrent sessions/symposia?
3. If hotels have "attrition clauses" (they charge a fine for unbooked rooms we blocked) who is liable? We will be conservative, but we also need to make sure our attendees will have adequate accommodations (it's rumored to be a busy spring for Portland conventions and events).

Please let us know if there is any other information you need from us.



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Thursday, June 12, 2008

Progress Report – Evolution 2012 in Ottawa, Canada

Dear Joint Council,

Following official approval of Ottawa as hosts of Evolution 2012 by the SSE, ASN and SSB, and the subsequent acceptance by ESEB of the proposal for a joint meeting with them, we have begun planning this landmark event. As you may recall, a key aspect of our proposal was the physical proximity of the meeting site (the Ottawa Congress Centre) and the student residences of the University of Ottawa, thereby combining the benefits of a large, professionally managed conference space with extensive options for affordable accommodations (many hotel options are also available within walking distance). In addition, the collaboration of two major local institutions on this venture—the University of Ottawa and Carleton University—ensures that a large pool of evolutionary biologists and resources are available to contribute to a successful meeting.

Below is a summary of the significant developments that have taken place:

1. We have formed a local organizing committee headed by myself - Howard Rundle (uOttawa) – and joined by Rees Kassen (uOttawa) and Andrew Simons (Carleton U.). This committee will likely be expanded closer to the event as the workload increases.
2. We have signed a contract with *Confersense* Planners Inc. for full service conference management. Because the meeting is being held off-campus and has the potential to be larger than any previous meeting given the additional participation of ESEB, we felt such professional organization was essential. We chose an intermediate sized firm with experience dealing with non-profit societies. The flat fee was \$117,177.50. However, to reduce risk to us of cost overruns, they agreed to a \$50,000 discount to this flat fee after the addition of a \$10/room night commission paid directly to them.
3. The dates of the meeting have been set. Registration is in the afternoon/evening of Friday, July 6, 2012, with four days of concurrent sessions on July 7-10. The decision to move the meeting slightly later than has been traditional for the SSE/ASN/SSB of late was based upon financial considerations (hotel rates drop ~25% after July 1 in Ottawa), a larger grant (see #4 below), and a request from ESEB (apparently the end of June is a really bad for them), which normally holds their bi-annual meeting in late August.

Despite the potential for a non-trivial increase in attendance over past Evolution meetings given the additional participation of ESEB, we chose not to extend the length of the conference beyond four full days because: i) the Ottawa Congress Centre (see #5 below) can accommodate a large number of concurrent sessions and has essentially unlimited space for posters; 2) 'meeting fatigue' can rapidly set in with long meetings; and 3) it is essentially impossible to predict the attendance of ESEB members; the potential exists that this could be quite minor.

4. We have applied for and received a \$50,000 'incentive' from Ottawa Tourism that can be used to offset rental space charges. Ottawa Tourism recouperates some of this money by adding a 3% surcharge to all hotel room rental rates, but even our conservative estimates suggest that they are unlikely to recover more than \$25-\$30K of this, leaving the rest as a grant to us. They also agreed not to add this surcharge to residence accommodations, allowing us to keep those rates as low as possible. This money is paid directly to the vendors and some of it has already been used to pay the deposit on the Congress Centre (saving the societies from cost outlays well in advance of the meeting). This 'incentive' would drop to \$25,000 if we held the meeting before July 1, 2012.
5. The Congress Centre has been booked and a deposit paid (from the funds in #4). At the same time, the Congress Centre has announced a long-anticipated complete redevelopment in which they will be closing later this year, tearing down the old building, and replacing it with a larger, more modern, and much nicer conference centre. For details, see: http://www.ottawacongresscentre.com/index_e.htm
Opening date for the new centre is Apr. 2011 (with a built-in 6 month cushion); this is well over a year in advance of Evolution 2012. The new Congress Centre will include multiple rooms of sufficient size for Presidential addresses seating more than 2,000 people.
6. Hotel contracts for blocks of rooms are currently under negotiation by our conference planner. We are seeking a wide range of accommodation options in addition to the university residences, and striving for maximum flexibility in terms of increasing or decreasing these blocks given the difficulty in predicting European attendance.

Planning of specific functions, as well as the organization of the meeting itself, will occur closer to the event. We are happy to address any questions or concerns the joint council may have and look forward to working with all of the societies to plan a highly successful event.

Sincerely,



Howard Rundle
Head, Local Organizing Committee
Evolution 2012