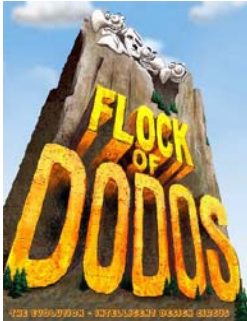




## Teaching of Physiology Section

### Newsletter, Spring 2008.

Editor: Jonathan Kibble.



#### In this issue....

Mark your diaries with our exceptional EB08 events program. Our *Claude Bernard Lecture of the Teaching of Physiology Section* will be given by Randy Olson, an evolutionary biologist turned filmmaker. Dr Olson's film and lecture are supported by a host of other activities, both formal and social. See you there!

### 1. Message from the Chair, Frank Belloni



This is the last Teaching Section newsletter during my term as Chair of the Section. Bill Galey takes possession of the official TS gavel at the close of the *Experimental Biology* meeting in April. (Not literally, of course, since we don't actually own a gavel, but you see the point.) It has been an honor serving as your Chair the past three years, and also my great pleasure. While I believe that I have contributed my little share to the Section during my term, but I also feel that I have gained a great deal of knowledge and insight about the Section and its members, and about teaching physiology, as a result of my involvement.

The Teaching Section is in a healthy state at this time. We have been putting on good programs at *EB* and have enjoyed an ongoing string of very interesting and inspiring *Claude Bernard Lecturers*. But we face some significant challenges as a Section. I would identify the most important of these as

- (1) the challenge of developing programming at *EB* that is vital, relevant, and stimulating not only to members of the Section but also to the broader APS and FASEB membership;
- (2) the challenge of attracting more members to the Section willing to work on Section activities and serve leadership roles within the Section; and
- (3) the challenge of inspiring physiologists in training and in junior ranks not only to adopt more effective teaching strategies but also to undertake pedagogical innovation and research and to engage in Section activities.

In many ways, the Teaching Section is unique among the twelve APS sections. Unlike the others, our *primary* focus is not research. Moreover, the scope of our physiologic interest, as a Section, is not a specific organ system or level of biological organization, but rather is much broader, encompassing *all* of physiology. Being different is problematic for us in some ways, but also affords us some unique opportunities. For example, although we are among the smallest Sections in terms of primary

affiliation membership, many APS members list us as their second or third Section affiliation because of their interest in teaching. We welcome, indeed we embrace, the involvement of such secondary and tertiary affiliates in developing programming and participating in other Section activities and leadership.

As my parting homework assignment to you, I charge each of you with two tasks. First, I encourage you to think of Teaching Section programming you'd like to see at *EB*. Submit your ideas to Lynelle Golden, chair of our Section Program Committee, or any member of the Steering Committee. We are currently looking for ideas for *EB-2009*. Second, please encourage your students and junior colleagues to affiliate with the Section or (and!) apply for one of our annual research awards.

The Teaching Section is *your* Section. You can make it more responsive to your needs simply by speaking out and joining in. We are eager to hear from you!

## 2. Experimental Biology 2008. April 5-9, San Diego

### An Exciting Program Awaits You!



Our *Claude Bernard Lecture of the Teaching of Physiology Section* will be given by Randy Olson, an evolutionary biologist turned filmmaker. His feature documentary, *Flock of Dodos*, released in 2006, explores the cultural clash between evolution and intelligent design. Inspired by the controversy arising from the actions of the Kansas School Board in his home state, Olson tries to make sense of the issue by visiting with proponents on both

sides. It turns out the problem isn't just the "facts" of the matter, but also the personalities of the players. As summarized on the film's web site, "at first, it seems the problem lies with intelligent design – a movement labeled recently as 'breathtaking inanity' by a federal judge – but when a group of evolutionists convene for a night of poker and discussion, they end up sounding like ... *a flock of dodos.*"

Don't you be a dodo and find yourself becoming extinct; be sure to come watch the movie on Saturday and hear Dr. Olson's *Bernard Lecture* on Sunday.

The film screening is being partly underwritten by a generous grant from AD Instruments.

### The Full Program:

1. **The screening of *Flock of Dodos*, Saturday afternoon** (April 5, 3 PM, San Diego Convention Center Room 28A). Dr. Olson will host a screening of the 84-minute-long film, followed by a 30-minute Q & A session.
2. **The Symposium, Sunday morning** (April 6, 8-10am). *Is Formative Assessment an Effective Way to Improve Learning?*
3. **The Bernard Lecture, Sunday morning** (April 6, 10:30am). Don't Be Such a Scientist: Talking Substance in an Age of Style
4. **The Featured Topic, Monday morning** (10:30am - 12:30pm). *Encouraging Unforgettable Learning.*

5. **Teaching posters** will be presented as part of the cross-society session: *Teaching and Testing in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences*. Posters will be displayed from Sunday through Tuesday and presented at scheduled times on Sunday and Monday.

Lynelle Golden, Programming Officer

### The Business & Social Program:

1. **Steering Committee Meeting**  
Saturday April 5, 1pm  
Mission Hills, San Diego Marriott Hotel
2. **Teaching Section Box Lunch Roundtable**  
Sunday, April 6, 12:00 pm  
Santa Rosa, San Diego Marriott Hotel  
*Email John Griffin ([jdgri2@wm.edu](mailto:jdgri2@wm.edu)) by March 1<sup>st</sup> if you want to come.*
3. **Section Business Meeting**  
Monday, April 7, 5:45 pm  
Rm 28A, Convention Center
4. **The Teaching Section Dinner**  
Monday, April 7, 7:00 pm  
Napa Valley Grille, 502 Horton Plaza, San Diego, CA 92101.

Cost:

\$46 for Members and Guests

\$38 for Students and Postdocs

*The deadline for ticket purchase is March 3, 2008. Order tickets online at:*

*[https://www.the-aps.org/cgi-bin/ecom/eticket/ticket\\_list.cgi](https://www.the-aps.org/cgi-bin/ecom/eticket/ticket_list.cgi)*

(Note: Tickets will NOT be sold onsite and are available on a first-come-first-served basis)

John Griffin, Events and Awards Officer

### Congratulations to our Award Winners!

1. **Dr Mauricio Guiliodori, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina** (winner of the *New Investigator Award*)
2. **Dr Scott Kirkton, Union College, Schenectady NY; Dr Willmann Liang, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore** (winners of the *Research Recognition Awards*).

## 3. Updates and News

### Programming Committee

The Section is currently working on the program for EB09. If you have an idea for a Featured Topic or Symposium for EB09, then you should prepare a draft of your proposal and submit it to the **Chair of the Programming Committee, Lynelle Golden**, during or before EB08. Proposals will be discussed at the Teaching Section Business Meeting and the Symposium and Featured topic will be selected for the EB09 program. The final proposals must be submitted to the APS office by May 1, 2008. Forms for submitting Symposia and Featured Topics are available on the APS website.

Lynelle Golden.

## Education Committee

In my capacity as the Teaching Section Liaison to the Education Committee I attended the Fall, 2007 Meeting at APS Headquarters in Bethesda on November 14th and 15th. Many topics were discussed and many actions were assigned. Highlights included review of the APS Mission and Strategic Plan and an update on APS Council meetings how they will impact programs of the Education Committee; planning for Education Committee activities at the 2008 and 2009 EB meetings, as well as a report from me on the planned Teaching Section activities at EB 2008. Education Committee sponsored activities at EB 2008 include the Refresher Course (on pulmonary physiology this year), the Undergraduate Poster session and Bruce Award. The Committee also reviewed outreach programs to graduate, undergraduate, and K-12 education and discussed how to establish better links between the APS and the LCME and NBME.

Mike Levitzky.

## Trainee Advisory Committee

The APS Trainee Advisory Committee (TAC) has members from all APS sections including Teaching Section. The group is involved in trainee-related issues on many levels of ranging from undergraduate to junior faculty. Of specific interest to the Teaching Section members is a TAC-sponsored **EB '08 symposium** that will include a workshop entitled “**Creating a Teaching Philosophy You Can Use**” in which students will actively participate and begin writing their own teaching philosophy statement. This session will be lead by Dr. Kevin Johnston from Michigan State University with members of the Teaching Section Steering Committee assisting. Special thanks to Drs. Dee Silverthorn, Rob Carroll, Penny Hansen, and Barb Goodman for providing help with the session. After EB, this session and associated materials will be summarized and published in “Advances in Physiology Education”. In addition, the TAC will be participating in the undergraduate orientation session and undergraduate poster session at EB.

The TAC website has great information on many trainee issues, including career planning and job searches, and also has a link to sign up for the Trainee LISTSERV to receive valuable information by email. For more information on the TAC and TAC activities, please visit: <http://www.the-aps.org/trainees/index.htm>

Erica A Wehrwein

## 4. Our Special Thanks

**Frank Belloni** will cap his term as our section chair by leading our troops at EB'08. He, and all of us, should take pride in our section's accomplishments since he took office in 2005. Under Frank's able leadership we've programmed three excellent and provocative Bernard Lectures, culminating in the one this year by Randy Olsen, accompanied by a showing of his film *Flock of Dodos* – probably a first for an EB meeting. We have continued development of our programming with a decision to have one session at each EB meeting on teaching and learning methods and a second on pedagogical research. Two of our primary members, Dee Silverthorn and Barb Goodman, were elected to APS Council – a very welcome first for the Teaching Section. Our section's nominees for the APS presidency were successful in the last three elections. Our primary members are being appointed to APS committees in ever greater numbers. (We should definitely take these results as a harbinger for times to come...)

We thank Frank sincerely for his leadership and hard work for our section. He has been a very *successful, thoughtful, organized, wry, effective, unflappable, politically-savvy, professional, avuncular (even fatherly), reflective, kind and contemplative\** chair – and we all are fortunate to have him continue as our “Wise One” when Bill Galey takes over the hot seat at the end of EB.

\* These adjectives supplied by Steering Committee members give a good picture of the pleasure they’ve had working with Frank.

Penny Hansen, (as outgoing “Section Sage”)

**Mike Levitzky** completes his term as our Liaison to the Education Committee at EB08. Mike continued to ably serve the Section despite the extraordinary trauma of being dissociated from his home in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. Our thanks and best wishes!

**Erica Wehrwein** also completes her term as our representative on the Trainee Advisory Committee. Thank you for being such an articulate and energetic member of The Steering Committee. Our best wishes for the future.

*If you would like to contribute an article, or have other comments or suggestions for the Newsletter please send to:  
[jonathan.kibble@med.mun.ca](mailto:jonathan.kibble@med.mun.ca)*