About the Annual Meeting

Program planning is progressing well. We are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker will be Dr. George Kieffer of the Department of Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution at the University of Illinois. Professor Kieffer will speak, following our banquet, on the general topic of the scientific community and its role in society. His lecture is entitled, "What Should Society Expect From Scientists?" He will address, in part, the charge that scientists are unresponsive to the problems that arise from science and technology and examine aspects of our role in the wise use of new knowledge.

Dr. Kieffer is the author of a book entitled Bioethics: A Textbook of Issues and he has published numerous papers dealing with bioethics. In addition to the scholarly activities in this area, Dr. Kieffer has worked extensively in the development of materials for biological education, especially biology for non-majors.

As part of this endeavor he has written two audio-tutorial texts for use in the non-majors biology at U. of I.

Once again, we are calling for papers for the Annual Meeting. As we noted in the previous BioScene, it seems appropriate to look at the contributions of biologists to public policy. Biologists function in society as consultants, advocates, educators and researchers. Our activities frequently impinge on controversial social issues. Questions regarding our role in the dissemination of new knowledge and new technologies need to be discussed. What are our responsibilities as biologists? We are especially asking for papers that focus on biologists as citizens who because of their special expertise and skills have much to contribute to the public debate and to public policy issues. Such issues as the nature of science education and the effects of new knowledge and techniques in biology on medical and ethical issues are but two examples of societal issues that we influence. Please consider making a presentation. Don't limit your response to the theme if you wish to share course ideas, laboratories, or other valued experiences with your colleagues.

About the University

Sangamon State University, designated the state's public affairs university, is a liberal arts institution educating students for careers in the private and public sectors. It is an upper-division university, beginning at the junior year and continuing through graduate studies. Sangamon State began classes in 1970, offers 22 undergraduate and 23 graduate programs and is accredited by the North Central Accrediting Association. University enrollment is approximately 3,200 with about 180 faculty, providing the atmosphere of a small private institution at attractive state tuition rates.

Sangamon State is open at the undergraduate level to graduates of accredited junior and community colleges who hold the associate in science or associate in arts degrees. Graduate study is available to students with a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.

The campus is located on a 740-acre site near Lake Springfield, six miles southeast of downtown Springfield. The
campus includes a 380,000-volume library, Public Affairs Center with excellent conference and performing arts facilities including the 1,951-seat university auditorium, student housing and a physical recreation facility.

The Biology Program has a faculty of four biologists with curricular contributions also coming from biologists in related programs. The Program is currently housed in Building K, one of the temporary buildings constructed on the site of the permanent campus. The Board of Higher Education has recommended a Fiscal Year 1987 budget approval of $466,700 to plan a new health sciences building. Biology has been well funded historically and we are pleased to be able to teach our students with equipment that is of research quality. Consequently, our students have the opportunity to master marketable skills such as a working knowledge of the transmission electron microscope, a wide variety of other microscopy and microtechniques, and a variety of analytical chemical instruments.

Students earning a B.A. in biology enter a variety of professions, including environmental protection specialists, secondary science education teachers, and medical laboratory analysts. Additionally, a number of our B.A. graduates have continued their education entering various graduate schools in biology. Still others have been successful in entering professional schools in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and other health related professions. Graduates with an M.A. in biology have also been very successful in career advancement. Several have obtained the Ph.D. and are presently actively engaged in research and teaching at the university level. Other M.A. graduates entered professional schools and are now practicing doctors, dentists, and veterinarians.

The Biology Program Faculty and the University Administration look forward to the presence of AMCBT and its membership on the campus for the annual meeting in September.