A Letter From Our President

ANTICIPATION . . . AND ACUBE

Dear Colleagues,

Meeting in February with ACUBE colleagues in River Falls, WI reminded me of the central place this organization now has in my professional life. As we move into the second full year with the name change from AMCBT to ACUBE, there is an infectious enthusiasm within the membership. We can be proud of our accomplishments and our promise for the future. As Past President Karen Klyczek reminds us, ACUBE is increasingly recognized as the primary undergraduate biology education organization in the United States. Executive Secretary Marc Roy notes the increasing international interest in the organization with the recent addition of European members.

I think there is a growing sense of anticipation in ACUBE. This anticipation may be connected to Y2K, the end of one millennium and the start of another. It may also be a sense of anticipation related to the drive toward integration of process and content within biology and across other disciplines. This is, in fact, the theme for the 43rd Annual Meeting; "Integrating Process and Content: Flexibility for the Future". Meetings through the 1990s have addressed aspects of teaching as scholarship (1994 - Henderson Community College), technology in the classroom (1995 - Alverno College), linking biology learning (1996 - Loras College), coherence in curriculum development (1997 - Beloit College), and the development of students as global citizens (1998 - Rockhurst College) to list just the most recent topics. I think it is appropriate that the final meeting of the decade, of the century, indeed of the millenium, ought to draw us into some very fundamental discussions about just what it is we do in the biology classrooms and why we do what we do.

Integrating process and content presumes a student-centered classroom. Like many of you, I wrestle with incorporating the best tactics in my classroom to shift ownership of the learning enterprise to my students. To make learning an internal and student-oriented activity requires, that we all consider the sorts of questions voiced by Buzz Hoagland, President-Elect and Program Chair for the 43rd Annual Meeting to be held at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. Buzz asks how anticipated career changes by our students ought to affect our teaching of biology: How should we equip them? What content do they need to know? Also, to be sure, the discipline of biology itself is changing rapidly; there is occurring a certain coalescence of our view of the biotic world. The human genome project, the holism of landscape ecology, and the embedded nature of technology in our biology teaching are just a few examples of the exciting and synthesizing nature of our discipline.

I look forward with great anticipation and genuine enthusiasm to the fall 1999 ACUBE meeting. I know all of you have much to share in relation to the fall meeting's theme in particular and to biology teaching in general. Keep in mind the great value of publishing your efforts in Bioscene, our refereed journal. Also, as the 1998-99 academic year draws to a close, consider making a presentation or developing a workshop for the fall 1999 meeting. A new year and a new millenium lies before us!

With warm regards,

Charles J. Bicak
President