Rear View Mirror --
Looking Back
Edward Kos
ACUBE Historian

1994
The 1994 meeting (38th) of the Association of Midwest College Biology Teachers took place at Henderson Community College in Henderson, KY, September 22-24. The theme of the meeting was “Teaching as Scholarship.” It opened with a panel on the question, “How is Teaching Scholarship?”, which focused on such things as Modeling, Simulations, and Student-Designed Labs. The panel was followed by a series of Workshops including Role Playing and Classroom Theater in Teaching Biology, and Biology in Cyberspace. The various concurrent sessions held after the panel and workshops dealt with ways to develop scholarly laboratory and research endeavors. The banquet speaker was Dr. Angelo Capparella, Illinois Normal University, Normal, Illinois whose topic was “Bird Diversity in South America.” (A lasting memory was my introduction to southern-style barbeque, vinegar-based rather than tomato-based BBQ. Quite tasty.)

1984
The 1984 meeting (28th) of AMCBT was at St. Xavier College (now University) in Chicago, IL, September 27-29. The theme of the meeting was “Brave New World.” The opening, keynote speaker was Dr. Joan Straumanis, Academic Dean and Professor of Philosophy, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio. Her presentation was titled, “Re-Visioning Science Education.” It was followed by questions and audience participation. The sessions on the next two days, centered on topics dealing with introducing the student to research design, data collecting, using computer retrieval systems, developing research equipment by students, preparing manuscripts, and experiments that work. The banquet speaker was Dr. Daphne Fautin, California Academy of Sciences, who spoke on “Coevolution of Sea Anemones and Anemone Fish in Tropical Reefs.”

1974
The 1974 meeting (18th) was held at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO, October 4-5. There was no major theme for the meeting; however, in May of that year the president of AMCBT (Rev. John Ostdiek) sent out a request (see “AMCBT News”) for presentations. He listed nine areas in which changes were occurring. These were troubled times throughout the country, not the least of which seemed to be going on in the area of biological education. What had seemed to forecast a bright future in biological education had dimmed considerably. The president of AMCBT, in the September issue of “AMCBT News,” raised some specific concerns: How could biology departments become more effective? How could they become more flexible and versatile, both in curriculum and in imbuing those traits to our students? Most of the sessions were conducted as discussion groups attempting to define the problems and suggest possible solutions, or looking at specific problems including Problems Concerning the Departmental Chair, Attracting Quality Students, Expectations of Incoming Students, and Interdisciplinary Courses. It was a meeting of very concerned members. (Personal note— I didn’t attend the meeting being in Thailand at the time. It was the presidency of Richard Milhouse Nixon, the time of Watergate, and the intensifying of the Vietnam conflict. It was a time to be concerned.)

1964
The 1964 meeting (8th) of AMCBT was held at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. It was a meeting of considerable significance for such a young organization. It was a Midwestern Regional Conference presented by AMCBT and the Commission on Undergraduate Education in the Biological Sciences (CUEBS). The opening Plenary session had one presentation on the CUEBS program by Victory A. Gruelach Executive Director of CUEBS, and a report on the Berkley and St. Louis Conferences by Willis H. Johnson, CUEBS Commissioner from Wabash College. Following these presentations and lunch, the members broke up into 12 group discussion sessions. Each group discussed a given topic. These were: Courses and Curricula for Prospective Elementary and Secondary School Teachers, Courses and Curricula for Professional Students, Biology in Liberal Education—Large and Small (two sessions), and Courses and Curricula for Biology Majors—Large and Small (two sessions). The results and findings of these sessions were reported back to the entire group, consisting of
faculty from both large and small institutions. It is interesting to note that the primary reason for the formation of AMCBT was a topic of national significance. Not all the attendees were members of AMCBT, but some non-members did join. AMCBT held its business meetings, lunches, and dinner speaker session separately from the CUEBS members. The speaker at dinner was Sam Hinton, Curator, The Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The results of this session and other sessions like it, and the work of the CUEBS Commission led to the development of the first revision of the high school biology curriculum; three different versions were eventually produced. In addition CUEBS produced curriculum recommendations for colleges and universities; this was something AMCBT started working on eight years earlier. It was a meeting, which verified AMCBT’s primary goals.

2004
This brings us to the 2004 meeting (48th) of ACUBE to be held at Wabash College, Wabash, Indiana, October 14-16. I most enthusiastically encourage you to attend and bring a friend. The March issue of Bioscene will contain program information as well as a request for you to present at the meeting. In some respects the aura of the time reminds me of the 1974 meeting; there is a growing unease in the educational community, which I sense more and more. There seem to be too many unfunded mandates affecting all levels of education. In the collegiate world there seems to be developing a sense of futility in having a higher education; there don’t appear to be many areas in which one can find personal and financial fulfillment with a higher degree. But we are in an election year; my hope is that once it is over things will improve.

The Association of College and University Biology Educators (ACUBE), placed the organization’s rich archive of materials online for the benefit of members and interested biology educators. Nearly 48 years of the society’s publications and resources are currently accessible.

Featuring the Online ACUBE archives:
Bioscene: Journal of College Biology Teaching (1975-present)
AMCBT Newsletter (1964-1974)
AMCBT Proceedings (1957-1972)

ACUBE Organizational Information:
ACUBE Executive Committee
Editorial Board of Bioscene
ACUBE Annual Meeting Information
Meeting Abstract Submission Form
Searchable Membership Database
Online Membership Application
Scientific Meetings of Interest
ACUBE in the News
Sustaining Member Links

Call for Nominations
Honorary Life Award

The ACUBE Honorary Life Award is presented to ACUBE members who have made significant contributions and/or service to ACUBE and the advancement of the society's mission. The award is presented at the annual fall meeting of the society.

If you wish to nominate a member of ACUBE for this award, send a Letter of Nomination citing the accomplishments/contributions of the nominee and a Curriculum Vita of the nominee to the chair of the Honorary Life Award committee:

Dr. William J. Brett, Department of Life Sciences, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809
Voice -- (812) 237-2392, FAX (812) 237-4480, E-mail -- lsbrett@isugw.indstate.edu