Rear View Mirror --
Looking Back
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The 2005 Annual Meeting of ACUBE will be held in Cape Girardeau, MO at Southeast Missouri State University, October 13th – 15th. The General Theme for this meeting is “Interdisciplinary Explorations”. Again I am struck by the fact that we have remained so true to our original goal, facilitating instruction in the classroom.

In 1965, the Annual Meeting was held in DeKalb, IL at Northern Illinois University on October 8th – 9th. The format followed that of our first meeting, namely to put together a group of Panels to discuss things going on in different areas. It was a slight deviation from showcasing latest advancements in different fields of biology. There were five Panels scheduled:

I. The Uses and Abuses of Secondary Teaching
II. Approaches to Undergraduate Research
III. Approaches to Programmed Audio-Tutorial Instruction
IV. Preparing the student for Medical School
V. Curricular Improvement. (This was an informal report on the CUEBS conference held at the University of Kansas in 1964.)

The featured speaker at this meeting was Dr. Mary A. McWhinnie, Professor at DePaul University, Chicago, IL. She spoke on the ‘United States Antarctic Research Program’ in which she had participated.

The 1975 meeting was held at Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN, on October 17th – 18th. This meeting held with prior tradition in not having an overriding theme, but rather a series of Group Discussions, a panel discussing Curricular Developments, Field Trips, and the popular Film Festival featuring useful Biology education films. The main speaker was Dr. Richard Roblin of Harvard University who spoke on “Recombinant DNA Molecules: The Challenge of a Revolutionary Technique.”

The Panel on Curricular Developments consisted of: Russell TePaske, Univ. of Northern Iowa, Austin Brooks, Wabash College, Orell Vandewater, Lincoln Land Community College, and George Gries, Oklahoma State University and AIBS Education Committee Chairman.

There were four different Group Discussions over the two day period which covered such topics as Undergraduate Research; Labs That Work; Workshops in: Use of Millipore Filters; Electron Microscopy; Ecological Succession; Mammal Skin Preparation; Urban Ecology; Film Making and TV. There were also discussions on: Physical Science and Mathematics for Biology Majors; Status of Embryology in Undergraduate Programs; Cooperative Education Programs; Methods Courses; and Differing Background Levels in Students.

The 1985 Annual Meeting in 1985 had a theme: “Biology: An Experimental Science.” It was held at Augustana College, Rock Island, IL, September 27th – 28th. The featured speaker was Dr. Joseph R. Larsen, Professor of Entymology and Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Center, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL. The title of his talk was “The Importance of Laboratory Education in Life Sciences.”

There was a Biology Film Festival which ran several times, along with a series of Demonstration Workshops covering Videotapes, Instrumentation and Software. There also was a Poster Session. There were five different Concurrent Session Topics: Learning - Is It Possible; Bioethics and Perception; What’s Going On In The Lab; Old, New & Different; and Writing Creative Thought - who need ‘em. These sessions were continued over 3 different time periods. There was a return of the former Discipline sessions which covered: Biology of Cells; Biology of Animals; Biology of Plants; Biology of Populations; and Methods and Issues.

1995 saw the AMCBT Meeting in Milwaukee, WI at Alverno College on September 28th – 30th. The central theme of the meeting was “Breaking Through Technological Barriers.” There was an interweaving of both lab technology and computer technology/software throughout the sessions. A late night multi-hour introduction to the ‘Internet’ was given, a first for AMCBT. Other sessions dealt with Multi-Media advances and New Lab Technologies. Two speakers spoke about medical technology issues. One was Susan Amador, Department of Physics, Haverford College, PA, who gave a talk entitled, “Making Sense
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of New Medical Technology.” The second was Janis Ellis, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, who talked on “Methanol Toxicity.”

Interestingly, Dr. John Devereux, President of Genetics Computer Corporation, Madison, WI, was invited to give the keynote address. He declined, sending a letter outlining his reasons, but attended the meeting. I would refer readers, who have lasted this long in this article, to go to Volume 21 of “Bioscene” and read his letter, it’s quite interesting.

There were two Workshops which dealt with Software/Laboratory Technology.

Session I:
1. Use of Macromedia Director
2. Protein/Nucleic Acid Analysis

Session II:
1. Teaching Human Biology
2. Jump-Starting Student Concept Maps
3. Powerpoint

There were three Paper Sessions:

Session I:
1. Fractal Geometry in Biology
2. Building 1 page Taxonomic Keys
3. PC Multimedia Tool for Field Biology
4. ‘Inspiration’ Concept-Mapping Software

Session II:
1. Does writing about biology enhance learning about biology?
2. Molecular Biology and On-Line Curricula
3. Virtual Research in a Virtual Library

Session III:
1. Data Acquisition in Physiology Lab
2. Darwin’s Finches & Beyond: Evolution and Conservation in the Galapagos
3. Resources for SciEd Programs at NCSA
4. Sequential use of Case Studies to teach Investigative Skills and Interdisciplinary Views of Scientific Questioning

Note that we keep repeating those critical areas of concern: Interdisciplinary Studies, Hands-On Approaches, Up- Dates on Technology and Content, and, probably most important, our constant concern for Curricular Structure. I’m certain we will do this again at the Cape. Come on down and participate and bring a friend. Who knows, the fault may be ‘rockin-and-rollin’ with us.

Your friendly Archivist,
Edward Kos

Call for Applications – John Carlock Award

This Award was established to encourage biologists in the early stages of their professional careers to become involved with and excited by the profession of biology teaching. To this end, the Award provides partial support for upper division undergraduate and graduate students in the field of Biology to attend the Fall Meeting of ACUBE.

Guidelines: The applicant must be actively pursuing an undergraduate program or graduate work in Biology. He/she must have the support of an active member of ACUBE. The Award will help defray the cost of attending the Fall meeting of ACUBE. The recipient of the Award will receive a certificate or plaque that will be presented at the annual banquet; and the Executive Secretary will provide the recipient with letters that might be useful in furthering her/his career in teaching. The recipient is expected to submit a brief report on how he/she benefited by attendance at the meeting. This report will be published in Bioscene.

Application: Applications, in the form of a letter, can be submitted anytime during the year. The application letter should include a statement indicating how attendance at the ACUBE meeting will further her/his professional growth and be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from an active member of ACUBE. Send application information or any questions about the Award to:

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

If you wish to contribute to the John Carlock Award fund, please send your check to:
Dr. Pres Martin, Executive Secretary, ACUBE,
Department of Biology, Hamline University, 1536 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104