On July 9, 1998, Karen Klyczek, ACUBE President, and John Jungck, past editor of *Bioscene*, met with leaders of 24 other professional societies in the life sciences to discuss their undergraduate education initiatives. The workshop, "Collaborations in Undergraduate Biology Education," was sponsored by the Coalition for Education in the Life Sciences (CELS). Participants exchanged information about undergraduate activities supported by their societies, discussed the types of programs that are well suited to sponsorship by individual societies or clusters of societies, and identified potential roles for CELS in coordinating activities sponsored by clusters of societies.

Workshop participants discussed the nature of teaching as a professional and scholarly pursuit and the place for peer-reviewed educational articles in societies' journals. John and Karen advocated the publication of educational articles and *Bioscene* was held up as model for others to emulate. In Fall 1999, CELS plans to host a workshop on peer-reviewed educational articles in the journals of scientific societies.

Participants also discussed the CELS "Issues-Based Framework for Bio 101," a curricular framework for introductory biology courses. CELS invited the professional societies to enrich this framework by identifying concepts in their own disciplines that are critical to literacy. Dr. David Kramer, chair of the Botanical Society of America Education Committee expressed his hopes that BSA will examine this framework and showcase hands-on activities that illustrate concepts in plant biology. "I am particularly pleased about efforts to bridge introductory course offerings with the needs of preservice teachers," commented Dr. Kramer. "Our future teachers will foster lifelong attitudes and beliefs about science in their classrooms."

Education committee chairs from several professional societies recommended that CELS partner with them in coordinating workshops on undergraduate education for their annual meetings. These could focus on teaching as a scholarly pursuit, critical components of biological literacy, and exemplary curricular activities drawn from particular disciplines.

This CELS workshop built on a workshop co-hosted by CELS and the American Society of Plant Physiologists (ASPP) on July 2, 1998. That workshop, "Toward Literacy in Plant Biology," launched a discussion among plant-based professional society representatives on ASPP's document, "Principles of Plant Biology - Concepts for Science Education." ACUBE was represented at that workshop by Margaret Waterman, secretary of ACUBE, and Ethel Stanley and Tim Mulkey, co-editors of *Bioscene*. Undergraduate plant science education, the identification of its underlying principles, and the roles of professional societies were explored by the group in a series of breakout sessions and mini-presentations. A lively discussion of the publication of teaching articles occurred.

These workshops marked the debut of a CELS monograph, *Professional Societies and the Faculty Scholar: Promoting Scholarship and Learning in the Life Sciences*. This 87-page report celebrates the contributions of dozens of professional societies to undergraduate biology education and recommends specific actions to enrich teaching and learning. The monograph can be viewed at the CELS website, http://www.wisc.edu/cels. The website also posts information for ordering bound monograph copies and posts the "Issues-Based Framework for Bio 101."

The Association of College and University Biology Educators is a supporting member of CELS, a coalition of professional societies committed to enhancing life science undergraduate education.

For more information about CELS, contact:

Dr. Louise W. Liao,
CELS Program Director
e-mail: cels@macc.wisc.edu.
http://www.wisc.edu/cels