Chairman’s Corner……..

Enrollment continues to grow at UCO. Once again, UCO had the largest freshman class in its history. Sixteen full-time faculty and eighteen adjunct lecturers taught classes for the Biology Department during the fall semester, 2001. We utilized two unfinished lab rooms in the Howell Hall LAB Annex. Dry wall, paint, and ceiling tiles make the rooms habitable. Tables and chairs complete the lab room. The Vertebrate Museum area is being organized also. Rusty Snipes, Yukon resident, donated a Coral Reef Aquarium to the Department. It is housed in the atrium. (See photo and more description on the next page.) We also received a book collection from the estate of Mr. Bob Thompson of Thompson Biological Lab, Ketchum, Oklahoma. Faculty and students are enjoying these gifts. We appreciate being remembered with these donations.

We are pleased to welcome two new faculty members, Dr. Randall Myster and Dr. Greg Wilson, who joined the faculty this fall. Brief biographies of these Assistant Professors are included in this issue. We will be saying “goodbye” to Ms. Geneen Lannom, General Biology Lab Coordinator in May. Her husband, Robert, has accepted a job promotion in Houston, TX. Geneen will be missed. We have enjoyed our association with her.

Sharon Lafave, former secretary in Dean G. Kay Power’s office, is the new Biology Administrative Secretary. She replaces Glenda Lietze, who transferred to UCO Career Services as Administrative Assistant. Andrew Schwartz, Tracey Perdue-Rudisill and Sean Smith are Graduate Assistants in the department his year. David Miller, Michael Hartless and Marie Babb are Research Assistants.

An open invitation is extended to Biology Alumni and former students. The “welcome mat” is always out for you. Come see us.
What’s Happening

The Biology portion of the first floor of the LAB is still not completed. However, the rooms have now been taped and painted, and ceiling tile added. The floors are still the concrete slabs and the furniture has been donated or scrounged, but laboratory classes are being taught in many of them. The UCO Library donated some shelving for the UCO Vertebrate Museum, which will allow us to properly store the Herpetology collection.

The UCO Biology Department received a $20,000 gift in August. Rusty Snipes donated a 210-gallon reef aquarium holding live hard and soft corals. The aquarium is now located in the Howell Hall atrium.

The live rocks are from Fiji and the Caribbean. The aquarium has enhanced the learning experience of all who have visited the atrium in recent months. The presence of the aquarium has particularly been exciting for the Animal Biology classes. Seeing the organisms alive is much better than just pictures and laboratory specimens. We are very grateful to Rusty Snipes for this donation.

http://biology.ucok.edu/MarineAquarium/index.htm

Update on Selman Living Lab

The UCO Selman Living Lab continues to develop. Two foot bridges have been constructed across Salty Creek on the SLL by Jim Stevens (volunteer from Evan Electric) and Phil Cloud (UCO Physics and Engineering Associate) using telephone poles. The bridges will help groups move across the creek from one side of the SLL to the other. The pictures show Jim and Phil assembling the bridges. The group of students crossing the bridge was on a field trip to a bat cave in Dr. Caire’s Mammalogy Class this past fall.

The astronomy facilities are also moving along. The pictures below show the two domes being erected on an additional four acres of land donated to the SLL by Mrs. Betty Selman. Steve Maier, physics instructor at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, will be directing most of the astronomy activity at the SLL. An additional slab of concrete was donated by Alva Concrete, which will provide a
site for astronomy clubs to place many telescopes at the same time.

The Central Oklahoma Grotto has completed a map of the Selman Cave System. This project took nearly five years. The cave system is nearly three miles long. The map below shows the complexity of the system event though you cannot read the labels. The map may be seen in detail on the web at: http://www.biology.ucok.edu/SelmanLL/Selmancavesys.htm. In the winter the cave is an important hibernaculum for nearly 50,000 bats.

Dr. Gloria Caddell’s graduate student Robin Buckallew has almost completed a MS that involved the documentation of nearly 230 species of plants on the SLL. Her thesis also examined the distribution of plants on gypsum outcrops.

UCO is very appreciative of all the volunteer efforts that have gone into the development of the SLL. Thank you.

Opening night for the astronomy facilities was held February 16 in conjunction with Mrs. Betty Selman’s 80th birthday. About 50 people attended. Dr Bill Caire gave a short presentation on the Selman Living Lab and Steve Meier from NWOSU at Alva talked about the capabilities of the Meade Telescope. In addition to the Meade Telescope there were 5 other telescopes set up for viewing. Dr. Gloria Caddell (Department of Biology) and Phil Cloud (Department of Physics and Engineering) helped with the event.

Faculty Activities

Faculty publications


Faculty presentations (meetings and invited seminars)


Baird, T.A. Growing up, growing older and earning success as a male in a competitive society (of collared lizards that is). Invited seminar to UCO Sigma Xi Society, February 2001, Edmond OK.

Barthell, J.F. Introduced Bees and Weeds: Invasion among mutualists. Invited seminar to School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska, Lincoln NE, January 2002.


The Third Annual Research Day for Regional Universities was held on the UCO campus on November 9, 2001. Thirteen universities participated in this symposium, which was sponsored by the Oklahoma State regents for Higher Education and organized through the UCO College of Graduate Studies and Research. Overall, there were 296 abstracts submitted with 226 student participants. The Biology Department had 12 abstracts, the titles and authors of which are listed below (student names are bold-faced).


Comparison of freshwater macroinvertebrate communities from small Caribbean islands. D. Bass


Genetic diversity of a marine invader, the Japanese shore crab (Hemigrapsus sanguineus), on the mid-Atlantic coast. J.M. Hranitz and T. Whitford.


Sources of nutrition for Venus’ trap. A.R. Middick and J.E. Bidlack.

Year three of weed control in pigeon peas. A. Middick, K. Greer and J.E. Bidlack.


Community presentations


Congratulations to the faculty that received the Spring 2001 Incentive Awards from the College of Graduate Studies and Research. Those receiving the award were: **Dr. Troy Baird**, **Dr. David Bass**, **Dr. Paul Stone** for publications and **Dr. John Hranitz** for external grant submission and funding.

Undergraduate **Elizabeth Turner** and faculty sponsor **Dr. David Elmendorf** had their research project “Bioaugmentation of Crude Oil Spills” selected for display at the March 2001 “Posters on the Hill” event in Washington D.C.

**Dr. Jim Bidlack**’s OCAST Grant entitled "Agricultural Internships: USDA-ARS-UCO Collaboration," was renewed (for 2001-2002) and funded in the amount of $23,000 for another year.

**Dr. Jim Bidlack** was re-appointed this year by the Chancellor's Office to the MERLOT Project and then appointed by the MERLOT Staff to the MERLOT-Biology Editorial Board.

In this section we spotlight full-time faculty and staff. This spring we want you to meet **Dr. Randall Myster** and **Dr. Greg Wilson** who joined the Biology Faculty in the Fall 2001.

**Dr. Randall Myster**

I was born and raised in southern Minnesota. My early scientific interest manifested itself in such activities as tying knots around the house and starting fires to see how different things would burn. My mother didn't like this. I also had a chemistry set in the basement. I started in the Boy Scouts at age 10 and stayed in it till I was 17 and got my eagle award. I really enjoyed the outdoors and got all of the scientific merit badges (chemistry, electronics, etc.). In high school, I was into everything: sports, playing the saxophone in the band and serving in the church. At some point, I discovered that I was good at science and mathematics and decided to go to College.

No one in my family had ever gone to college and could not advise me very much. I didn't know what to major in or even what a professor was, but I had not found high school very difficult and wanted to see what I could do. I chose the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis because it was the largest public institution in the state and I had little money since I had to put myself through. I did have a friend there already though and got a job at the Computer Center as a undergraduate consultant. The money from that job was enough, however, along with some money awards for getting good grades. I started as a Physics major but realized that my brain worked better in two dimensions rather than three or four, so I changed to Math and Computer Science. I then went to Purdue to get a masters degree in Theoretical Computer Science (automata theory, computability etc.). After that I went to Rutgers to get a Ph.D., but without much "fire in the belly" for Computer Science anymore.

I started to go out on field trips with the Botany Club of the Rutgers Biology Department. I discovered that as an ecologist I could use my quantitative skills and also spent time outdoors again, it was a perfect match. I switched departments and got both a masters degree and a Ph.D. in five years. I then was an adjunct professor in New Jersey before getting a tenure-track job at the University of Puerto Rico. The tropics were wonderful, especially on the mainland in Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru where I did research. After ten years, I am happy to be back in the Midwest and here at UCO.
Dr. Greg Wilson

I was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Soon thereafter, my family moved to a farm near Grinnell, Iowa. We raised livestock (cattle and hogs), maintained a Grade A Dairy operation, and farmed over 400 acres of some of the richest soil in the world. We raised corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and oats. While on the farm, my parents taught my older sister (who graduated from college with a degree in nursing), brother (who graduated from college with a degree in business), and myself the importance and benefits of working hard on a daily basis. When I was 11 years old, my father experienced some unexpected and serious health problems and we decided to sell the farm and move into town. Life in Grinnell was different versus the life I so enjoyed in the country, but I adjusted over time. I enjoyed participating in several extra-curricular activities throughout junior high and high school.

After graduating from Grinnell High School, I attended Central College in Pella, Iowa (yes, the home of Pella windows). While a student at Central, I was exposed to a broad array of aspects of biology. I will forever cherish those days and am grateful to several professors who had a profound impact on my personal and professional development as a student. Not only did I receive top-notch instruction in the classroom, but also was encouraged to become involved in several research projects that ultimately resulted in two publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. I took advantage of every opportunity relating to biology that arose during my undergraduate days at Central College. During my senior year, I was involved in an internship with the Army Corps of Engineers developing and implementing a management plan for artificial nesting structures used by birds at a large reservoir near Pella. In addition, I was the Curatorial Assistant for the collection of vertebrates at Central College and the University of Iowa Natural History Museum. This exposed me to the importance and research potential of systematic collections of birds, mammals, and herptiles. I was also very active in student organizations on campus. I was co-founder of the environmental organization on campus (SCATE – Students Concerned About The Environment). During my senior year, I was elected president of two campus organizations (SCATE and Beta Kappa Epsilon, a local fraternity). I was also very active in the Biology Club. I served as a student representative in several additional university functions during my 4 years at Central. I met my wife, Stephanie, who was also a Biology major at Central. We met during a Comparative Anatomy course and have remained the best of friends ever since our time at Central College. Stephanie is currently the Activities Director for a large retirement center in Oklahoma City.

After graduating from Central I attended graduate school at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. While at FHSU, I was the Curatorial Assistant for the collection of vertebrates at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History. My thesis dealt with the taxonomic status of populations of the southern bog lemming, *Synaptomys cooperi*, on the Great Plains. Unfortunately some of the populations, which are recognized as distinct subspecies, have recently gone extinct as a result of the fall of the Ogallala aquifer due to agricultural practices during the past 30 to 40 years. After graduating from FHSU, I began my PhD at the University of South Dakota. However, during my second year my major professor accepted a job at a different institution. Consequently, I decided to transfer to Oklahoma State University. While at OSU, I was a teaching assistant for Human Anatomy and Comparative Anatomy courses. I also decided to switch my focus of research interests and incorporated molecular techniques to address a number of questions relating to how past climatic oscillations that occurred during and following the Pleistocene have contributed to contemporary genetic structure of populations of mammals. My dissertation focused on the genetic relationships of several, co-distributed species of mammals that inhabit boreal communities on mountaintops in the central Rocky Mountain region. I truly enjoyed my days at OSU and especially loved the summers collecting data in the Rocky Mountains. During the summer of 1998, I had the privilege of spending 3 weeks with my father who joined me and helped with collecting data for my dissertation.

I applied for the Human Anatomy position at UCO and was offered the job last May. I gratefully accepted the offer and have truly enjoyed my year at UCO. I enjoy the interaction in the classroom with students and hope to include students in research projects in the future. My advice for students is to actively seek out and make the most out of every opportunity made possible by your mentors. Become involved in professional societies and volunteer
your time and services to community-based organizations. You never know where these experiences will lead you in the future. In addition, always ask questions about every aspect of your daily lives, keep a positive attitude, have confidence in yourself, believe in yourself, and never give up as you explore new horizons and confront life’s challenging obstacles.

**Other faculty professional activity**

**The Bonaire Lizard Expedition of 2001**

Last March, Dr. Troy Baird and his wife Teresa traveled to the Caribbean nation of Bonaire as part of a multi-university expedition to conduct field studies on the lizards endemic to this island. The Bairds worked as part of a six herpetologist field team that also included Drs. Janalee Caldwell and Laurie Vitt of the University of Oklahoma, William Cooper of Indiana-Purdue University, and Valentin Pérez-Mellado of the University of Salamanca, Spain. Bonaire, which is part of the Netherlands Antilles, is located 75 miles off the northern coastline of Venezuela. Primarily known as a haven for divers owing to the crystal clear waters, lush coral growth and high fish diversity, it was this island’s abundance of lizards that attracted the herpetologists. The particular objective of the expedition was to conduct behavioral and ecological field studies on the Bonaire whiptail lizard (*Cnemidophorus murinus*), which is also known as the “blue-tailed lizard” or simply “blousanna” (=blue in Dutch) because the large males are bluish-gray on the head and torso and have a striking turquoise blue patch at the base of their tail. The lizards are incredibly abundant throughout Bonaire. In some of the study areas visited by the saurologists inside of the Washington-Slagbaai National Park, it was common to see over one hundred lizards from a single vantage point! Other lizard species, including large spiny-tailed and green iguanas, the Bonaire anole, and geckos (see photos) were also conspicuous. Bonaire is also known for their brilliant pink-orange plumed flamingos, and in some areas it is possible to see several of these bizarre-looking birds either as they forage on mud flats or flew overhead in flocks. The expedition’s focus, however, was field studies on the anti-predatory responses, daily activity cycles, thermoregulatory and social biology of *C. murinus*. Data collected during the twelve-day expedition have already resulted in submission of two manuscripts for publication, and at least two others are currently in preparation. In addition to the daylight studies on whiptails, the herpetologists made several nocturnal forages to areas with coral-rock cliffs and caves, the natural habitat of several geckonid lizards. Altogether, five species of geckos were collected for the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History,
including a new subspecies now being described by Laurie Vitt. All participants had a great time working in Bonaire, and the expedition was so productive from a scientific standpoint that we are already discussing a return trip!

During Summer 2001, Dr. David Bass was appointed Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, a non-profit organization of scientists, educators, students, and individuals interested in science in Oklahoma. His duties include maintaining all records and correspondence, preparing the newsletter, organizing all meetings, and overseeing all activities of the Academy. He was the OAS represented to the 2002 Annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Boston, MA February 2002.

Dr. Peggy Guthrie served as external reviewer for academic programs in the Department of Biological Sciences at Northwestern State University at Natchitoches, Louisiana. The programs evaluated were: B.S. in Biology, B.S. in Medical Technology, A.A. in Veterinary Technology and minors in Biology, Microbiology, and Wildlife Management.

On February 9, 2002, Howell Hall served as the site for the Oklahoma Native Plant Society's (ONPS) annual Indoor-outing. Because the winter is not a good time for outdoor field trips, the Native Plant Society holds a meeting each year in February that features indoor activities. Dr. Clark Ovrebo organized and hosted this year's event and Dr. Gloria Caddell assisted. The theme was Cryptogamic Plants. The morning session featured three lectures: Introduction to fleshy fungi by Ovrebo, Introduction to Bryophytes by Dr. Suzanne McAlister of OSU, and Introduction to ferns by Dr. Bruce Smith of McLoud High School. Workshops on the three groups followed in the afternoon. About seventy folks were in attendance.

Student Activities

Undergraduate Research

Yoko Suzuki is studying the population genetic structure of the Japanese Shore Crab. She is under the supervision of Dr. John Hranitz.

Keri. Smith is studying barnacle population genetic structure. Cara Craig is assisting Keri with this project. Keri and Cara are working with Dr. John Hranitz on this research project. Keri received an undergraduate research grant (see student awards and grants below) for this project.

Andy Middick and Kelly Greer are interns on Dr. Bidlack's OCAST "Agricultural Internships: USDA-AR S-UCO Collaboration," Andy started the Internship last year and is continuing this year, and Kelly Greer has been working on the project since May 2002. Andy applying to our graduate program and Kelly is a biology major.

Mike Hartless is in his second semester as an undergraduate research assistant funded by the College of Graduate Studies and Research. Mike has quickly become proficient at isolating heat-shock proteins in a collaborative project with Drs. John Barthell and John Hranitz. Mike is also completing his final work for accreditation in Oklahoma high schools and has now passed several subject accreditation tests.

New graduate students

Ross Kiddie was accepted into the UCO Master of Science Biology program at UCO in Spring 2002. He is also a retired Sergeants Major from the Army Finance Corps and works as an Adjunct Professor of Biology at the Oklahoma City Community College. Ross will be working with Dr. Bidlack on certain plant tissues containing various chemicals or pigments; such as beta-carotene, chlorophyll, and dyes such as,
anthocyanin that are used in photosynthetic processes and other functions of plant cells. In synthesizing these metabolic processes, an attempt to generate electron flow sufficient enough to power various items is the ultimate goal.

Tracy Perdue-Rudisill graduated with a B.S. degree in Biology from UCO in 2001. She spent the summer working as an intern at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board where she gained a great amount of practical experience. Tracy enrolled in our graduate program last fall, studying under the direction of Dr. David Bass. She has been working as a graduate assistant for the Biology Department this year. During January, Tracy began fieldwork on her thesis, a detailed investigation into the ecology of the spring system in Roman Nose State Park.

Bobbie Gaskin returned to UCO to begin a M.S. degree in Biology during January. She graduated from UCO in 1999 and later moved to New Jersey. During her senior year, Bobbie conducted a survey of springs across the state of Oklahoma with Dr. Bass – this was later published. She plans to expand this research for her M.S. thesis. When not attending classes, Bobbie works as a substitute teacher.

Marie Babb graduated with her BS in biology May of 2001 at UCO. Near the end of her undergraduate career, she became interested in herpetology. She worked with Dr. Paul Stone collecting data on freshwater turtles from a pond in Piedmont, Oklahoma. Marie plans to continue working with turtles for her thesis research. She will examine the ecological and evolutionary differences between male red-eared slider turtles.

Masters thesis defense presentations


Biology education

Two December Biology Education graduates have obtained teaching positions. Ben Haizlip is teaching at Edmond Santa Fe High School and Christy McClain is teaching at Putnam City Academy. This semester we have five Biology Education student teachers. Heather Little and Amanda Pierce are at John Marshall High School. Renee Bell, Courtney Christenson, and Michelle Hostler are at Del City High School, Edmond Memorial High School, and Edmond North High School, respectively.

Student publications

See faculty publications.

Student presentations


See also faculty presentations.

Student awards and grants

Keri Smith received an undergraduate research grant ($747.00) from the College of Graduate Studies and Research to study barnacle population genetic structure. Cara Craig is assisting Keri with the project. Keri and Cara are working with Dr. John Hranitz on this research project.
April 2001 college of Mathematics and Science Eighteenth Annual Awards Banquet. The Department of Biology presented awards to Jeremy Moad, Wendy Lawson, Ben Lowry, and Angela Reap. The following are summaries of their achievements.

**Jeremy Moad** received the Ethel Derrick Zoology Award. Jeremy is a sophomore biology major, a graduate of Broken Arrow High School where he developed an interest in science and was on the track team. At UCO, he is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha and the Pre-Med/Health Professions Club (Student Senator beginning in the fall of 2001). He is working on a research project with Dr. Paul Stone and is a student assistant in Animal Biology. His career goal is to be a physician.

**Wendy Lawson** received the Outstanding Biology Education Senior award. Wendy is from Durant, Oklahoma and received her B.S. in Biology Education in December 2000. While at UCO, Wendy was active on the University Center Activities Board and in the President’s Leadership Class and received the O-TEC Scholars Scholarship for two years. She is teaching in a full-time temporary position in Sequoyah Middle School.

**Ben Lowry** was chosen as the Outstanding Graduating Senior. Ben is an outstanding student who often takes the role of leader. He was the president of the Pre-Med/Health Professions Club, a member of Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society, Mortar Board, and UCOSA. Ben has served his academic department and college as a student representative on the College Grades Appeal Board. He works 25 to 36 hours each week while attending classes and maintains a 3.89 GPA. He has received several scholarships including the Rothbaum Presidential Partners for the past two years. This spring he was accepted into the OU Medical School for the fall 2002.

**Angela Reap** received the Outstanding Graduate Student award. Angela received her B.S. in Zoology from the University of California, Davis. She received her M.S. in Biology in the fall semester 2000. Her thesis was on the geographic variation in a solitary wasp species and she worked under the direction of Dr. John Barthell. Angie is a member of Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society and has presented her research at the Southwestern Association of Naturalists and locally at the Third Annual Research Day for Regional Universities.

**Biology club news**

The Biology Club meets twice a month for lunch and to listen to an interesting guest speaker. Our guest speakers this year have included Sarah Kimball, Assistant State Extension Specialist who spoke to the group about recycling and waste disposal; Dave Lindo, from the Martin Nature Center and David Walker, from the Oklahoma City Zoo. Both Lindo and Walker brought animals with them as part of their presentation. Photographs of the visits can be seen at: [http://wwwbiology.ucok.edu/Biology%20Club/BiologyClubHome.html](http://wwwbiology.ucok.edu/Biology%20Club/BiologyClubHome.html).

Special activities included competing in and winning the chili cook-off in November before a UCO football game. Several students and faculty attended and helped consume the winning barbecue! Many Biology Club members attended the OAS (Oklahoma Academy of Science) Field Meeting held at Beaver’s Bend State Park in September. Two of our officers, Dorothy Meindok and Rachel Adams helped out with the Inner City Outing by leading students on a hike through the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. The students were 5th graders from Eisenhower Elementary School.

For the spring semester, the Biology club is looking forward to a field trip and tour of the Oklahoma City Zoo as well as our participation in the Annual Earth Day Activities on the UCO Campus. We will have plants to sell in specially painted pots to raise funds. The Biology Club Officers are: Dorothy Meindok, President; Rachel Adams, Vice President; Adrian Gray, Secretary; Jacky Ruterbauch, Treasurer, and Tracy Perdue, Senator. Biology Club sponsors are Ms. Geneen Lannom and Dr. David Bass.

**Pre-med/ Health professions club**

The University of Central Oklahoma Pre-med/Health Profession Club is in its 12th year of existence. The membership lists over 120 students. The club meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. Students may earn service points and receive a merit certificate for their efforts in community service and the work of the club. The students have been involved in numerous volunteer activities during the school year including painting a house for Habitat for Humanity.
The groups of club volunteers particularly enjoyed the habitat for humanity project and have planned at least one more Saturday job. The Club is also donating $5.00 for each Pre-Med/Health profession T-shirt sold to the American Red Cross. The Health Careers Opportunity Fair was a success despite the ice storm. Students were able to visit with representatives of Dentistry, Pharmacy, Medical, Podiatry, Physicians Assistant, Allied Health Schools and Community hospitals. The club also participates in the annual Stampede Week, Earth Day, and the President’s Christmas Party. The Pre-med/health professions club officers are: Trevor Knol, president; Michael McLaughlin, vice president; Tevi Meek, Secretary; Kevin Pargeter, Treasurer; Jeremy Moad, Student Senator. The Club sponsors are Dr. Peggy Guthrie and Dr. Jenna Hellack.

http://biology.ucok.edu/Pre-medweb/medweb/PremedHealhome.html

Alumni

Lynn Cook (BS Bio Ed. 1994) was among several teachers honored by the Putnam City School Board for earning National Board Certification, the highest recognition that can be bestowed on a teacher. The National Board Certification is a symbol of teaching excellence.

Christopher Dobry (BS 1996) graduated from Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences Podiatric Medicine and Surgery in April 2001. Chris was a former vice president of the Pre-Med/Health Professions Club.

Don Frame, MD (BS 1982) is the Medical Director of the Wound Care Center, Specialist Hospital of Austin, Austin TX.

LeDenna Raye Foster (BS 2001) On the 25th of February will leave on a NOAA research vessel to collect barnacles and assist with collection of oceanographic data from the TAO array in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. She will be out to sea for 1-2 months, leaving from San Diego, cruising past the Galapagos Islands, staying on another island for a 1-week respite, then cruising back to collect data on the second half of the trip and arriving in Hawaii. (This is through Dr. Cindy Venn at Bloomsburg University).

Elizabeth Gentry (Mobley) (BS 1994) is celebrating her two-year anniversary as a meteorologist at the Oklahoma Bureau of Standards, Department of Agriculture. She was recently promoted to OBS Quality Manager, where she is responsible for maintaining the laboratory quality system according to ISO/IEC 17025. OBS is NVLAP (National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program) Accredited and holds a NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) Certificate of Traceability.

Ben Haizlip (BS Bio Ed. 2001) is currently teaching at Edmond Santa Fe High School. He is teaching Anatomy and Physiology, Botany, Biology, and coaching wrestling.

Harold Kihega (BS Biology and M.Ed. 1992) recently resigned from Federal Law Enforcement to continue his teaching career at Northern Oklahoma College. He teaches General Biology, General Zoology, Plant Biology, and Environmental Science. He serves on various committees’ and is a sponsor of various student organizations. Harold is the EPA director for the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma.

Julie Kitchen (BS 2000) is in PA school. She and Chris Cook plan to be married in June. Chris has completed two years at the OSU Osteopathic College.

Amy McCue (Sabolich) (BS 1996) After serving on the board of directors of the Oklahoma Pilots Association for two years. Amy has been appointed to the office of Secretary. She was also hired as the new editor and publisher of the monthly newsletter for OPA. She will soon begun working with a new aviation organization called Southwest Aviation Association as their Director of Membership. She has two daughters, Caitlin (8 years old) and Riley (14 months old).

Stephanie McKenzie (Oliver) (BS 1997) is a research assistant at the OU Health Sciences Center in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (Neuropsychopharmacology Lab). She is involved in research on various aspects of alcohol withdrawal in rats and treatment of the withdrawal symptoms. She has been the co-author on several publications on the subject.

Amelia Moncho (BS 1996) has completed her PA program at Yale University and is now practicing in Edmond, OK.
Eric Reed, D.O. (BS. 1992) is now an otolaryngologist (Class of 2001). He, his wife Karen and girls have moved to Mount Pleasant, Texas.

Corey Riley (BS 2000) has moved back to Oklahoma and is working at Urocorp as a microbiologist technician identifying cultures in urine samples. He is also coming back to school. He has been accepted for the UCO MBA program. He is taking the prerequisites for the MBA program rather than making up the courses at the graduate level. Corey plans to be back at UCO in the summer enrolled in the program.

Andy Sliger, Ph.D. (BS 1964) is a Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Sliger is also director of their Biological Field Station. He writes of his fond memories of Dr. Ethel Derrick (former faculty and chair of biology) who not only forced him to learn a lot of biology, but taught him self-discipline, patience and not to let his homework slide.

Carl Sullivan (BS 1996) currently working as a network administrator for the Williamson County Appraisal District in Georgetown, Texas. He married his wife Sandy in September 2001.

Lawrence R. Williams, PhD (BS 1975) is the Director of Undergraduate Affairs and Academic Advising and a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology and Biochemistry at the University of Houston, Houston, TX.

Marc A. Wilson, MD (BS 1988) is an OB/GYN at Denton TX.

Roger Young, MD (1979-1981) has a practice at Family Choice Clinics in Oklahoma City.

The Following are excerpts from a note received from Lawrence R. Williams, Ph.D. a former student (class of ‘75) who visited the UCO Biology web page and discovered Bioluminescence.

I was pleased to find the UCO website one afternoon and more pleased to find the publication of Bioluminescence. The newsletter started with a bunch of us in the class of ‘75 and was named by Warren Smith. I loved all the information and news of former students. With the help of Dr. Guthrie, I was able to contact a classmate after 26 years of separation.

I left Central State (old language) in May ’75 and spent the summer at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station as a student and Teaching Assistant in Plant Ecology for Dr. Roger Anderson (former CSU faculty). In the fall of 75 I moved to Fort Hays Kansas State University (Hays, KS), started a thesis on the ecology of cotton rats, and completed a M.S. Biology in August ’77. Next stop was University of Houston in Houston, TX. While there, I taught at a couple of local JC’s, ran the Graduate Association, complained about the quality of Biology labs (then, of course, was put in charge of them for two years), and did my field work for my dissertation in south Texas on the Welder Wildlife Refuge who funded me for four years. Finally, in December ’85 I earned my Ph.D. for work on the ecology of Attwater’s pocket gopher. I continued to teach at UH and local JC’s and do research with my former advisor and his students. I love Houston and the coastal area (wade fishing in the bay is the best) and was fortunate to be asked to run the undergraduate program for our department. My current position is Visiting Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Affairs and Advising. My teaching duties include General Biology for majors and non-majors. I am active in the department and across campus on several committees including Chair of the University’s Health Professions Advisory Committee and a member of the Undergraduate Council.

My Wife Debby is an administrator for Exxon Mobil. We live south of Houston near Pearland on 2.5 acres. We have 4 dogs, 4 cats, 2 birds and some other critters that happen by. Life is good!

Looking back, the years in Edmond were wonderful. Truthfully, I thought they were great while I was there and time has enhanced my view. I had classmates I still think of and speak of fondly. I had professors who cared about me as a person and a developing scientist. Maybe best of all, I met a man, Dr. Warren Smith, who has become a model to follow. He taught me the balance of the aspects of life and has been a friend since he first walked into my Zoology lab in 1973 and pulled out an automobile antenna saying, “Today we will have an aerial show.” The rest is history.

I hope all students, current and past, have the same experience I had.

Most sincerely,
Larry Williams
Class of 75