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UA66/6/2 Alumni Newsletter

WKU Biology

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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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Department of Biology

May 1982

Dear Biology Alumnus:

The 1981-82 academic year is almost complete, and it has been one of the most uncertain years in Western's recent history. By now, you are aware of the impact that the ailing national economy is having on all areas of public service, including higher education. The national condition, unexpected shortfalls in Kentucky revenues, and efforts of the Kentucky Council on Higher Education to fund Western as a second class educational facility have forced Western's administrators and faculty to reevaluate carefully all existing programs and reassess current goals. During the 1980-82 biennium, Western had to absorb three separate reductions in the budget, the last of which required faculty dismissals, including 16 tenure-track personnel and a number of temporary faculty. The College of Applied Arts and Health has been dissolved and its various departments reassigned to other colleges. Some university programs, including string music and several minor sports, are being discontinued and others may be. Western's leadership in responding to these crises has been exemplary in making responsible academic decisions and presenting in a highly professional manner the realistic needs of Western to the Governor, Council on Higher Education, and Legislature.

Department News

The Department of Biology has not been immune to the University cutbacks, having had to endure reductions in library spending, student help, travel, and the loss of two faculty members, Dr. Hoffman and Dr. Brown. No further faculty reductions are anticipated in the near future.

As a result of the dissolution of the College of Applied Arts and Health, the Medical Technology advisory program has been transferred to the Biology Department. Dr. Elliott serves as chairman of the advisory committee consisting of himself, Dr. Toman (Biology), and Dr. Hunter (Chemistry).

Dr. Gary Dillard has been appointed Acting Associate Dean of the Ogden College of Science, Technology, and Health. Dr. Tom Coohill was awarded the OCSTH Faculty Excellence Award for 1981. Dr. Pat Pearson received her Ed.D. degree from Indiana University in May 1981. Several biology faculty members had grant proposals funded by outside agencies during the past year. Dr. Elliott received \$7,000 from the Kentucky Council on Higher Education to support medical technology students in gaining clinical experience, Dr. Ferrell was awarded \$10,000 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to study the effects of photoperiod on the reproductive development and breeding cycle of starlings, and Dr. Hoyt received \$44,000 from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the National Marine Fisheries Service to conduct two attitude surveys of Kentucky fishermen and sportsmen and a study of the paddlefish in Lake Cumberland.

After several years of planning and waiting, the Ogden College is the proud possessor of a scanning electron microscope. This welcomed instrument is located in the EM facility in the Department of Biology.

Student News

Mr. Steve Shelton (BS '81) received the Outstanding Biology Graduate Award for 1981. Ms. Rebecca Lacy (BS '82) and Mr. Kevin Moore (BS '82) were named co-recipients of the Award for 1982.

Western's pre-medical and pre-dental students had another successful year in gaining admission to professional schools. Nineteen of 28 pre-medical students (68%) were accepted to attend medical school at U of L, UK, Cincinnati, Florida, Indiana, Drew (UCLA), or Howard Universities. A remarkable 17 of 18 pre-dental students (94%) were accepted into dental school at U of L or UK.

Student enrollment in the biology department is down slightly from previous years with 204 majors, 62 minors, and 61 Medical Technology students. Likewise, total enrollment at WKU is down slightly with 13,000 in the fall of 1981 as compared to 13,300 in the fall of 1979. One hundred (100) students graduated with a major or minor in Biology in 1981.

Ms. Robin Munsey (MS '81) and Ms. Janet Rowlett (MS '81) were co-recipients of the first place award for their theses research papers presented at the 1981 (11th annual) WKU Sigma XI Research Conference.

Ms. Sharon Moore (MS '74) will receive the Ph.D. in May from the cooperative doctoral program of the University of Louisville and Western Kentucky University. Sharon is the first biology student enrolled in this joint program to receive the doctoral degree and has accepted a position in the Biology Division of the Brookhaven National Laboratory.

As in past years, many of our former graduates "dropped by" for a visit in 1981. Some of our visitors were Robert (MS '76) and Judy Van Hoff, Anna Hansen (MS '80), Greg Kindschi (MS '79), Sally Arnold (MS '79), Bill Settles (MS '74), Chuck Shannon (BS '81), Dr. Billy Joe Bryant (BS '75), and Dr. Larry Daniel (MS '75).

Mrs. Ruth Faulkner (MA '74) was named the Outstanding Biology Teacher in Arkansas for 1981 by the National Association of Biology Teachers. Congratulations Ruth.

Mr. W. E. Ray (BS '33) sent us a nice letter in response to the 1981 newsletter and updated us on his retirement and fishing endeavors on Lake Elmer Davis. Thank you Mr. Ray for the letter, and good fishing.

Dr. Wm. Meacham (BS '37) gave the Second Annual L. Y. Lancaster Lecture. Dr. Meacham made a very informative and enjoyable presentation to a large and very appreciative audience.

Biology Scholarship Fund Continues Growth

The Biology Scholarship Fund was \$12,775 at the end of 1981. In 1981, over \$1,700 was received in 21 contributions from faculty and alumni. The fund, administered by the College Heights Foundation, is used exclusively by the Department of Biology to aid deserving undergraduate majors. Coordinator of the Fund is Dr. Joe E. Winstead. Donations in any amount are welcome from alumni and all contributions are tax deductible. If you desire any information about the Biology Scholarship Fund, please contact Dr. Winstead.

The past year has been a trying one for Western, the Department of Biology, and probably you. In keeping with the tradition of this newsletter, to keep you informed about current happenings in the Department, it was felt necessary to provide you with an update on the impact of the current economy on higher education at Western. In the upcoming year please come by for a visit and update us about yourself, or write if you can't visit. The departmental faculty heartily welcomes you and your support.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Drs. Hoyt and Slean for their effort in preparing this newsletter.

The Biology Department
Western Kentucky University

Jeff H. Jenkins

Jeff H. Jenkins, Head

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