Maine is famous for many things: rugged woodlands, maple syrup, Stephen King, and especially lobsters. This past summer the beautiful surroundings of Maine served as the backdrop for a successful collaboration between scientists from NKU and the University of Maine at Orono. During June, I led a small group of undergraduate biology majors to UMaine to work on a 4-week research project in the laboratory of Dr. Gregory Mayer in the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Molecular Biology. Our research was carried out not on that most famous of Maine marine life, but rather a tiny aquatic organism called the zebrafish. A curious name for a fish, indeed, but this small creature is a classic model species within the field of toxicology, as many cellular processes in zebrafish are very similar to those in humans. Dr. Mayer’s laboratory was the ideal location for this project, as there is an established zebrafish culture available to scientists, in addition to certain types of equipment unavailable to scientists at NKU. Studies utilizing zebrafish provided the opportunity for our research team to address the mechanisms by which arsenic exposure may lead to the formation of many types of human cancers.

Arsenic is a well known human carcinogen, often found in a variety of locations such as groundwater,

-- Maine & Zebrafish continued on page 6 --
Dr. Bernie Lohr

Dr. Bernie Lohr, an Assistant Professor in Biological Sciences, is a native of the Eastern Seaboard. He comes to NKU from a postdoctoral position at the University of Maryland. Dr. Lohr received his A.B. in Biological Sciences at Cornell University, his M.S. in Zoology at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and his Ph.D. in Zoology at Duke University. His research involves the sensory ecology of acoustic communication, particularly in birds. His current research focus is on high-frequency song specialists like the grasshopper sparrow and several species of hummingbirds, and his perceptual studies involve work in both laboratory and field. Dr. Lohr has involved over 20 undergraduates in various aspects of this research over the past 10 years, and he is currently in the process of publishing papers with a number of these students. His teaching interests include Animal Behavior, Ornithology, and Animal Communication. Not surprisingly, Dr. Lohr is interested in sound more generally. He has been a musician, a technical advisor for independent film soundtracks, and has contributed recordings to professionally produced CDs of bird vocalizations. Dr. Lohr enjoys film, reading the science- and speculative-fiction literature, and he has a predisposition to engage in high-impact outdoor activities when he can afford them (the higher the associated adrenaline levels, the better).

Dr. Joseph C. Mester

Although he hails from the Amish country of southeastern Pennsylvania, the scientific path has led Joe to many other locations. Joe received his B.A. in Biology from the University of Rochester and his Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He performed post-doctoral studies in Molecular Genetics at the University of Michigan and the University of Pittsburgh, and has held research positions in Clinical Virology at the James N. Gamble Institute and at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. For the past ten years, Joe advanced vaccine research in the Biotech and Pharmaceutical industry, and for the past three years, Joe taught Microbiology at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY. Joe is looking forward to his new role at NKU teaching Microbiology, Virology, and Mycology, and to collaborating with old and new colleagues in his laboratory research. Joe’s research interests include the identification of novel compounds that enhance or inhibit immune system reactivity, probing the relationship of human genetic polymorphisms to disease states, and investigating the interaction of viral and host cell proteins to better understand viral disease.
Northern Kentucky University has a new greenhouse! Construction is almost completed on this new facility located on the East end of the roof of the Science Center. Significantly larger than the old greenhouse on Founders Hall (the old science building) that it replaces, overall dimensions are approximately 65’ x 25’ with a glass roof peak at about 25 feet above the concrete floor. A prep room runs the length of the greenhouse with access to individual growing rooms. Telecommunication and internet access links this new botanical conservatory to the University and the rest of the world.

The new facility will have three growing rooms, each with slightly over 500 square feet of plant growing space. State-of-the-art environmental controls put this greenhouse on par with the technology of commercial production and research greenhouses across the United States. Independent heating and evaporative cooling systems under computer control, will accommodate plants from tropical to desert climates in each growing room. Plants will be watered with a computer controlled overhead drip irrigation system, and an automated system will extend shade cloth over the growing area depending on sunlight requirements. University officials have made every effort to ensure that there will be no leakage from the roof to floors below.

Non-majors General Biology courses to upper division botany courses such as Plant Anatomy and Plant Physiology will be supported by the greenhouse. Three faculty – Drs. Boyce, Giesmann, and Whitson – will likely be the principal users. Their research interests include physiological ecology, developmental biology, and plant systematics. Other faculty will also have an opportunity to utilize these controlled environments. This new facility will give our students familiarity with modern greenhouse technology and will strengthen NKU’s standing as an institution where undergraduates can become extensively involved in research.

Access to the new greenhouse will be through the East stairwell, and will feature a heavy duty platform lift for wheel chair access and transportation of plants and greenhouse supplies. A roof location precludes development of outside theme gardens as we had hoped, but individual laboratory classes can visit the facility and small off-campus groups can be accommodated for educational outreach.

Dr. Larry Giesmann spent his spring Sabbatical honing his skills by working with local greenhouses and taking a Greenhouse and Garden Center Management course at Cincinnati State University. He will be the manager of the new greenhouse at NKU and will coordinate activities there.
Faculty Outreach in the Department of Biological Sciences takes many forms, not the least of which, is showing K-12 students from the area how much FUN Science can be, and in doing so, indirectly showcasing our wonderful facilities.

The Latino/Multicultural Science camp was held at NKU on June 12-16th 2005 for the third consecutive year. The camp was organized by Dr. Miriam Kannan, Dr. Richard Durtsche and Mr. Leo Calderon (Office of Latino Student Affairs). Fourteen students from the area, ranging from 15 to 17 years of age, participated in the camp. The camp was funded by CINSAM making it free for all students. Faculty members (eight) and eight undergraduates from all of the science departments, in addition to Biology alumnus Heather Mayfield, participated in teaching the camp.

The camp is designed to encourage greater interest in the sciences among underrepresented groups. Students were able to: grow bacteria from their bodies and other places in learning about microbiology; study pond-water microbes from plankton tows in NKU’s new “Loch Norse” and from the Ohio River; see their plankton collections (diatoms, bacteria, etc.) up close with a scanning electron microscope; make DNA necklaces with their own DNA in “Fun with genetics”; learn about electricity (a hair raising experience), magnets, and many other Physics gadgets; mix chemicals that “explode” and generate electricity with different metals attached to fruits and vegetables; learn about minerals, hydrology and model floods and tsunamis; look at sun spots through a solar telescope; and explore the evolution of vertebrates.

Activities included a cruise in ORSANCO’s Educational Foundation paddlewheel (The P.A. Denny) on the Ohio River, and a field trip to Grassy Creek to “electrofish”, and collect turtles, snakes and salamanders. The camp concluded with a graduation ceremony.

The outreach was a great experience for the high-school students and NKU teaching assistants alike, with exposure to new areas of learning and other cultural backgrounds. In the end all students agreed that Science is Awesome! NKU hopes to offer a similar camp next year around this same time.

As many Kentucky teachers have been shying away from teaching Evolution in their Science classes, NKU’s Biology faculty have initiated assistance with a one day workshop on Evolution organized by Dr. Richard Durtsche for students from Highlands Middle School. Several faculty showcased examples of evolution and natural selection at the microbial level (Dr. Kannan), with visual senses and dissections of the eye (Pearce), with concept games (Dr. Robertson), in invertebrates (Dr. Acosta), and in vertebrates (Dr. Durtsche). We plan to offer the workshop again next year and expand it to include more schools in the area. Several students commented the workshop was “fun”…and gave them a new perspective in terms of how they view the study of life.

Outreach as “educators” for the Ohio River Foundation ‘River Explorer’ program provides “Fun” for kids in grades 4-9, and this year involved more than 1700 students. The students collect fish (seine net), macroinvertebrates, and plankton, and analyze many water quality parameters using simple kits. Dr. Miriam Kannan has been a guest educator for this program for the past 3 years. As the program grows, there is a need for more guest educators… so alumni who took Limnology… here is your opportunity to have some fun and help the community. Ohio River Foundation volunteer information can be found at: http://www.ohioriverfdn.org.
River Run refers to our annual outing to assess various water quality parameters in the Ohio River and its major tributaries. The event began in 1999 when researchers from Thomas More College and the University of Cincinnati teamed up with Dr. Miriam Steinitz-Kannan of NKU to survey water chemistry, zebra mussel abundance, and diatom communities in the lower half of the Ohio River (Cincinnati to Cairo, Ill.). Over the years, River Run grew and changed to accommodate the needs of the researchers involved and their generally limited resources and funding.

I personally joined the River Run team in 2004 and can say that one of our greatest struggles each year is the failure of equipment, namely boat motors. This is because we have had to rely on old boats and bare bones resources pieced together by the different universities and scientists involved. The fact is, that a 981 mile river journey is hard on all involved, including the boats. But this year was different thanks to an alumnus.

Dr. Tom Fritz, an NKU alumnus and his wife Molly, began reminiscing last year when we called them as part of our annual departmental fund raiser. Tom remembered taking Limnology with Dr. Kannan and going out on local rivers and lakes in a boat. The Fritzes had a ski boat which they no longer needed and wondered if our department could use it. Of course we can! We christened the boat “The Diatomizer” in honor of Dr. Kannan’s love of diatoms. I was the fortunate person who got to take The Diatomizer and I must say I was the envy of the collaborative researchers – I very clearly had the best boat on River Run 2006! A picture of the boat may be seen on the left. This year two Biology majors split the trip. Ashley Schnitker helped sample the first half and Alicia Sullivan the lower half of the river.

Ana Liza Hernandez receives a $1000 grant from the Northern Kentucky Federation of Fly Fishers president Mike Arnold. She competed with graduate students across the southeast and was the only undergraduate to win.

**Merck/AAAS Program**

In February of 2005, the Departments of Biological Sciences and Chemistry were awarded The Merck/AAAS Undergraduate Science Research Program grant. This grant is a national competitive award program that supports research stipends for undergraduate students and ancillary programs that foster interactions between these departments. The program goals are to: (1) enhance undergraduate education through research experiences that emphasize the interrelationship between chemistry and biology; (2) encourage students to pursue graduate education in chemistry and life sciences; and (3) foster undergraduate programs and activities that bridge chemistry and biology.

Part of the program includes a poster session and competition each fall. In 2005, 26 posters were presented. This year, we expect to have at least 35 posters competing for awards. The program has provided student summer research fellowships to 6 students each summer. As a result of these fellowships, students have presented their research at local and national meetings and published in peer-reviewed journals with faculty mentors.
DNA mutated by BaP composes genes that are involved in cellular division, then there is the potential for cancer. Fortunately our cells have a way to get rid of BaP before it can elicit such devastation. Cellular elimination of BaP involves a multi-step biotransformation that incorporates the activities of many cellular enzymes. This summer we have been exploring the idea that arsenic may interfere with the metabolic pathway by which BaP is ultimately removed from the body. Cytochrome P4501A1 (CYP1A1) is a major protein active in the metabolic breakdown of BaP. If the levels or activities of any of the enzymes in this pathway, such as CYP1A1, are altered by arsenic, BaP would not be eliminated from the cell as under normal conditions. Our results indicate that arsenic may indeed diminish the activity of this critical enzyme, potentially allowing BaP to accumulate within cells. Increased cellular exposure to BaP could provide the opportunity for an increase in BaP-induced cancers. We plan to present our findings at state meetings such as the Kentucky Academy of Science, and national conventions such as the annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

Retirement?
What’s that?
—by Thomas Rambo

For the last year we have been bombarded with the question, “What are you going to do when you retire?” Our primary answer has been “We have to do something?” Do you ever find yourself saying “Some day, when we have time, we are going to ......” Well, the time is now! Since retirement we have taken several of my family on a tour of Costa Rica. The trip was wonderful and it was particularly gratifying, as a youngest sibling, to be able to show the elders that we really have been doing something worthwhile all this time. We spent a week at Pawleys Island on the South Carolina coast with our children and grandchildren. And we are about to take off to Long Island to visit our daughter, to go to the U. S. Open Tennis Tournament, and to visit my old stomping ground in Philadelphia.

What have we enjoyed most about retirement? There are several things. We enjoy that extra cup of coffee in the morning. We
enjoy knowing that we do not have to go to committee meetings, prepare syllabi, or grade papers. What do we miss? We miss seeing all our friends and we miss seeing students change and grow as they gain knowledge and experience.

What are we planning? We are planning trips to Costa Rica. We are particularly looking forward to the Biology Alumni trip in the summer of 2008. (Get your name on the list to receive information.) We are planning time to enjoy our children and grandchildren. I plan to keep involved with the CURTS (Center for Undergraduate Research and Tropical Studies) projects. Elinor will be cataloging the extensive library left to the department by John Thieret. We are planning to travel more, as funds permit, but we will always have our roots in Northern Kentucky and will keep in touch with our “family” at NKU.

A Greaves Summer Fellowship has kept the Boyce Lab busy with research techniques to better manage the abundant and invasive Amur honeysuckle that is spreading over the eastern United States. Our fieldwork has taken place behind the NKU dorms with data collection on plant gas and water use and endless computer data analysis in the lab.

In my research with Dr. Kannan we are investigating different fecal coliform testing methods, using these methods to monitor Banklick Creek, and isolating potential pathogens from the Creek. I plan to present our findings at the ORBCRE symposium and the at the Innovations for Non-point Source Pollution conference this fall.

IN MEMORY OF
JOHN THIERET

It is with great sadness that I write of the passing of the self-acclaimed “John the Beloved”. John died suddenly, on December 7, 2005, from a ruptured brain aneurysm. He was chair of our department when I was hired in 1976. He was my friend, my mentor, and my colleague. His absence leaves a large void in my heart and I am sure those of you who were lucky enough to know him share my sentiments.

It is hard to believe that he will not be popping his head into my office to see how I am doing, or to bring an unusual edible plant specimen for me to taste. (At least he presumed they were edible). He is greatly missed.

–by Debra Pearce

Recent alumn, Melissa Miller tames a water snake.

Student Research Experiences

Last year, in Dr. Acosta’s lab, we carried out coral reef research and studied the spatial distribution and movement of spiny lobsters using GIS analyses. This summer I snorkeled in Glover’s Reef Marine Reserve, Belize and tagged nearly 1000 queen conch to study the population dynamics of this commercially-exploited species. We also collected otoliths (ear bones) from the heads of commercially valuable fish for an on-going study in aging fish.

by Liza Hernandez

by Rachael Logsdon

by Suzanne Truesdell

by Marquita Humphries

Student Research Experiences

by Marquita Humphries

Celebration of Student Research and Creativity 2006.

by Liza Hernandez

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by Suzanne Truesdell

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by Rachael Logsdon

In Dr. Kristi Martines neuroscience lab we are working on four exciting projects including developing an in vitro model of the blood-brain barrier (BBB) and using dendrimers as drug delivery mechanisms to cross the in vitro BBB. We also work to localize a novel ion transporter in mice, elucidate the mechanisms by which atypical antipsychotic drugs affect the brain, and evaluate the neuroprotective mechanisms of 7-nitroindazole on an animal model of Parkinson’s disease.

by Marquita Humphries

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by Marquita Humphries

Celebration of Student Research and Creativity 2006.
**Biology Student Clubs!**

**ECOS:** ECOS is an organization for environmentally conscious students. New officers for 2006-07 are Tara Sturgill, president, Vice Presidents Jennifer Lantz and Chelsea Long, Secretary Patrick Whalen, and Treasurer Liza Hernandez. Our campus and community service continues with faculty and student participation to spread environmental awareness. This year ECOS will maintain its two mile stretch of AA highway near campus with the Adopt-A-Highway clean-up program. ECOS will continue to petition President Votruba for an improved campus recycling program. We also maintain an inkjet and toner cartridge recycling program on campus and will be advertising our drop-off points. Earth Day is the annual celebration of the environment that we host on campus. We will celebrate Earth Day on April 18th. Our goal is to promote an environmentally conscious campus community.

**Beta Beta Beta:** The NKU chapter of Tri-Beta had an exciting year. Last summer they participated in NKU’s Campus Carnival where current members met with incoming freshmen to educate them about the Biology Department. In fall 2005 the Sierra Club gave a presentation on campus which Tri-Beta and ECOS sponsored. The chapter organized a “Welcome Picnic” for faculty, alumni, and new students. Tri-Beta also participated in the Annual Alumni Phonathon. The dollars that our Alumni donate pay for students to present papers at regional and national meetings. Many of our members presented their research both on campus and off campus. On campus we participated in the “Celebration of Undergraduate Research”. Off campus students presented at numerous meetings, including, the Kentucky Academy of Sciences, Ecological Society of America, Posters at The Capitol (Frankfort, KY), and at the National Tri-Beta Convention in Melbourne, Florida in May 2006.

Tri-Beta officers for 2006-2007 are Heather Meeks, Brandon Iker, Brittany Williams, Masha Modarres, Suzanne Truesdell and Edgar VanHorne. We have a website with news of our chapter (http://studenthome.nku.edu/~bbb/). Club meetings are held in Science Center 200 on alternate Fridays at noon.

At this year’s National Tri-Beta Meeting, our NKU chapter accepted the invitation to host the 2008 National Convention. We are already planning the events for this convention which will be held on May 26-June 1, 2008. We will need a lot of help from alumni. Please check the following website for information: http://www.nku.edu/~kannan/pdf/2008%20Biennial%20National%20Convention.pdf

**HPC:** The Health Professions Club (HPC) has planned an exciting year ahead, with new officers, new members and a new meeting time! This year’s officers are: President-Edgar VanHorne, Vice President- Maureen Delaney, Treasurer-Jared Patton, and Secretary- Eric Banks. While HPC has always provided its members with resources and information concerning post-baccalaureate education in the health professions, this year we are working toward bringing our club out of the classroom. With the help of Maureen Delaney, HPC is hoping to kick off the “One Volunteer Activity A Month Plan”. Although coursework keeps us busy, it is important to remember that serving...
-A Year continued- from page 1-

still in our classroom!

On the “up” side is the addition of more, bright, energetic, faculty. New to our department this year are Dr. Joe Mester and Dr. Bernie Lohr. I hope you will take the opportunity to meet and welcome them to NKU. We have hired eight new faculty members within the past three years and anticipate hiring two more next year. Research is booming as is grant activity, giving evermore opportunity for students to participate in research and to present their data at local, national, and international meetings. Our reputation as a center of excellence for undergraduate research is expanding rapidly, with a record number of biology majors this fall.

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Dr. Rebecca Evans received a $15K grant from Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute to study land use patterns on, and eutrophic conditions in three Northern Kentucky streams.

Drs. Boyce, Durtsche and Kannan in Biology, with two Chemistry faculty, were awarded a NSF Multi-User Research Instrumentation grant to purchase a carbon-hydrogen-nitrogen-sulfur element analyzer. This instrument can quickly analyze large sample sizes for concentrations of these elements.

Dr. David Thompson names “Loch Norse”!!! No longer an “Inferior” body of water, the new NKU lake will now be the home of the Norse monster, Earl. Students have reported brief sightings after midnight during a new moon, but these sightings have yet to be verified by biology faculty.

Dr. Thompson received a NKU Faculty Project Grant ($6000) for ecotoxicology research in Maine and at NKU.

Dr. Miriam Kannan served as KAS President during the past year. She also presented a paper at the ACS meeting in San Diego, which was published.

Dr. Richard Boyce and Dr. Richard Durtsche received tenure this past year, and Dr. Patrick Schultheis received tenure the year prior. All three have been promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Richard Boyce presented three posters at the Ecological Society of America meeting in Memphis, Tennessee and has had several recent publications.

Dr. Bernie Lohr was an invited speaker in the Sensory Ecology Symposium at the Animal Behavior Society meetings this year in Salt Lake City, Utah.
Alumni News!

Biology Alumni Email ListServe provides easy access communication and among Biology Alumni regarding social and service events. Please honor general netiquette rules, as BioAlumni@nku.edu reaches everyone on the mailing list. A closed list, not open to the general public (minimizes spam), can be joined or updated by contacting Joan Arnold (KOTL – Keeper of the List), at jmalvt@aol.com. Send her your email address and full name. You cannot subscribe or unsubscribe directly. For more information go to www.nku.edu/~bioalum.

The Biology Alumni will visit Costa Rica in 2008. The dates are June 29 to July 12. Dr. Tom Rambo will lead the trip. A tentative itinerary is available at www.nku.edu/~bioalum. The cost will be about $1,500 per person not including airfare (everyone must make their own travel arrangements), some meals, and souvenirs. He estimates the total cost at $3,000 per person. Priority will be given to Biology alumni and their significant others. Informational meetings will be held in March and August of 2007 and a final itinerary meeting in September. Anyone interested in this must attend at least one of these meetings. The total payment and therefore your final decision must be made by January 2008.

Alumni Updates

Sean Binder (BS ’06)
Biology teacher
Williamstown High School
Williamstown, Ohio

Steve Castellano (BS ’06)
Graduate work in Botany
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

Josh Cooper (BS ’05)
Graduate work in Botany
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma
Josh will be a TA in a botany lab. He also works at the Oklahoma Biological Survey.

Rebecca Gilfillen (BS ’89)
Promoted to Assoc. Professor of Soil Sciences. Congrats!!!
Dept. of Agriculture, WKU
Becky has research interests in poultry waste management and acceleration of soil nutrients.

Keith Jackson (BS ’06)
Ohio State University
College of Dentistry in fall 06
Columbus, Ohio

Jaimie Jones (BS ’06)
Biology teacher
Lloyd High School
Erlanger, Kentucky

Brandon Meade, DC (BS ’00)
Wilder Chiropractic Center
Wilder, Kentucky
Brandon has been practicing in KY for over 2 years.

Melissa Miller (BS ’05)
Graduate work in Biology
Sam Houston State University
Huntsville, Texas

Jennifer Quammen (BS ’04)
Jen starts her 2nd year of Vet school this fall at Iowa State Univ. Husband Ronnie maintains the farm and supplies many Biology Faculty with fresh eggs.

Sarah Register (BS ’03)
Graduate work in Biology
Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana
Sarah is studying Cerulean Warbler ecology.

Stephen M. Richards (BS ’86)
AAS
Self-employed freelance writer
Sacramento, California

Lauren Showalter (BS ’05)
Graduate work in Biology
Southern Illinois University
Edwardsville, Illinois

Chad Soard (BS ’05)
Graduate work in Biology
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, Kentucky
Chad is studying avian biology.

John Spaeth (BS ’04)
Graduate work in Biology
Univ. of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
John is finishing his Master’s degree. He and his wife, Emily, just had their first baby. Congrats Papa John!!!
Gifts and Donations

Every year the Department of Biological Sciences contacts alumni, friends, and local industry for contributions of support in our annual phonathon. We will not disappoint you, so you can expect a call soon. We enjoy this opportunity to catch up with each of you and find out how you are doing. We are also most appreciative of any and all gifts that you give in support of the undergraduates. These donations are very special, and help the students in many ways. Much of the funding is used to defray the costs of undergraduates attending and presenting their research at scientific meetings (Tri-Beta meetings, and National/International Society meetings). The opportunity to participate in these meetings (as many of you know) can be life-changing, from seeing new cultures and places to interacting with world-renowned professionals. These interactions can result in landing a job or an invitation to graduate studies. Your contributions, no matter how big or small, are always welcome and help us to provide the highest quality education for our students. Know that your gifts really do make a difference, and it shows in the number of awards our students take home from state-wide or national competition. We are looking forward to catching up at the phonathon, and thank you for your continued support of our department and our undergraduates.

Commencement 2005-2006

Bachelors Degree

Fall 2005
Melissa Carney
Marilyn Dumpson
Toni Fogel
Peter Gulleman
Meghan Preglow
Chad Soard
Sarah Woods

Summer 2006
Abdul Banire
Stephanie Bessom
Daniel Burnett
Jody Helton
Ashley Jackson

Spring 2006
Scott Bessler
Charles Burke
Steven Castellano
Katie Clark
Kpandja Djawe
Kelley Forshee

Environmental Science
Jessica Faust
Jake Frick
Jacob Lubbers
Candace Sakalaskas

Michelle Guidugli
Keith Jackson
David Lies
Jasmine Lopez
Emily Margolen
Jennifer McEvoy
Patrick McGlasson
Michelle Neace
Justin White

THIERET’S BOOK COLLECTION DONATED TO THE NKU JOHN W. THIERET HERBARIUM

NKU’s herbarium is now officially the John W. Thieret Herbarium, in honor of its founder. Dr. Thieret collected more than 60,000 plant specimens over the course of his career. He was responsible for obtaining most of NKU’s 35,000+ specimens, either through his own collecting activities or by exchanging specimens with other schools.

Thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Mildred Thieret, the herbarium inherited John’s spectacular collection of approximately 600 botanical books. This reference collection is valued at over $20,000 and covers an eclectic selection of plant-related topics. Floras and taxonomic keys are well-represented, covering states from Alaska to Florida and Illinois, and also including exotic locales such as Japan, Europe, and the U.S.S.R.. Many of these books reflect John’s interest in economic botany. Titles range from “Medicinal and Poisonous Plants of Southern and Eastern Africa” to “Common Insect and Mite Galls of the Pacific Northwest”. A few volumes even date from the 1800s, including an 1879 edition of “Pharmacographia: A History of Drugs”.

The collection will be housed in the herbarium (on the first floor of the new Natural Science Center). It will be non-circulating, but available for use by researchers, students, or visitors to the herbarium. Mrs. Elinor Rambo will catalogue the collection in the Fall of 2006. The goal is to make a searchable version of this catalogue available online.

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We’re on the Web!
See The Biologist In Color at:
www.nku.edu/~biology

Upcoming Events....

Julia Butterfly Hill lecture (ECOS & Tri-Beta)  
Mon., Sept. 18 – NKU Science Center room 207

Fall Garden Exchange and Starry, Starry Night (Alumni)  
Wed., Sept. 27 – Herrmann Alumni House

Fall Tri Beta Initiation (Tri-Beta)  
Late Oct. near Halloween – NKU Honor’s House

Kentucky Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting  
Nov. 9 - 11 – Morehead State University

Black and Gold Day  
Sat., Nov. 18 – NKU

Annual Skyline Tavern Party (Alumni)  
Fri., Jan. 12, 2007 – Barleycorns, Cold Spring

Costa Rica Trip Information Meeting (Alumni)  
Tues., Mar. 27, 2007 – Location TBA

Tour of New Planetarium (Alumni)  
Late March, 2007 – NKU Science Center

Earth Day Celebration (ECOS)  
Apr. 18, 2007 – NKU Campus

Regional Meeting of Tri-Beta & Assoc. of Southeastern Biologists  
Apr. 18 - 21, 2007 – Columbia, South Carolina

Spring Tri-Beta Initiation (Tri-Beta)  
mid-April – NKU Honor’s House

Celebration of Student Research and Creativity  
mid-April – NKU Regents Hall

Spring Bird Walk (Alumni)  
Late April, 2007 – Location TBA

Charity dog Walkathon (Alumni)  
Late April, 2007 – Location TBA

Spring Garden Exchange (Alumni)  
May, 2007 – Location TBA

National Tri-Beta Convention (Tri-Beta)  
May 26 - June 1, 2008 – NKU

ALUMNI UPDATE
We want to hear from you!
Contact us at:  
thebiologist@nku.edu

Please include:  
Contact Information/E-mail Class year
What’s new? (promotions, special recognitions, change of job, civic involvement, family, research, travel, etc.)