MCCB News

Spring 2014

MCCB President's Letter

Fellow Biologists,

It has been a long winter and I'm sure we are all ready for the warmer weather that is coming. I, for one, am looking forward to the Spring Conference (May 30 – June 1) at the MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon, Michigan. It is always fun to learn something new, catch up with colleagues, meet new colleagues, and enjoy the great outdoors! The registration document should be uploaded to the website (www.mccb1.org) soon, if it isn't already posted.

Lately, the biologist in me has been pleasantly surprised about a few programs on TV. One is a remake of Carl Sagan's 'Cosmos'. The remake stars Neil deGrasse Tyson and airs on Fox Sunday nights and is repeated on National Geographic Monday nights. If you missed any of the episodes, you can watch them online for free! The other program, which begins airing on April 9th at 10 p.m. on PBS, is based on the non-fiction book by Neil Shubin called 'Your Inner Fish'. I am hoping the show is as

Inside this issue:

Meet the Host, Neil Shubin

Neil Shubin is the Robert Bensley Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago and associate dean for academic strategy of the university's Biological Sciences Division. He's also the author of two popular science books — *The Universe Within: The Deep History of the Human Body* (2013) and the best-selling *Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body* (2008). *Your Inner Fish* was named best book of the year by the National Academy of Sciences.

The focus of Shubin's research is the evolution of new organs, especially limbs. He's conducted fieldwork in Greenland, China, Canada, and much of North America and Africa and has discovered some of the earliest mammals, crocodiles, dinosaurs, frogs and salamanders in the fossil record.

One of his most significant discoveries, the 375-million-year-old *Tiktaalik roseae* fossil, is considered an important transitional form between fish and land animals.

Shubin earned his Ph.D. in organismic and evolutionary biology at Harvard and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2011.

-Taken from: http://www.pbs.org/your-inner-fish/about/neil-shubin/

President's Letter (cont.)

good as the book! There is a website for the show and it contains some pretty good short video clips and classroom resources for teachers (http://www.pbs.org/your-inner-fish). If you get some time away from your other responsibilities, these shows are right up a biologist's alley.

I have always enjoyed reading and thinking about quotes. In my courses, I usually start the class by placing a quote on the screen in front of the room. Sometimes I spend time asking students what the quote means to them. Other times I just let them read it and move on with the day's activities. I will leave you with a quote that I really enjoyed in Neil Shubin's 'Your Inner Fish'.

"The unknown should not be a source of suspicion, fear, or retreat to superstition, but motivation to continue asking questions and seeking answers."

- Tim Periard, Lansing Community College

Newsletter Spring Theme: Mobile Devices

Submitted by Darrell Davies, Kalamazoo Valley CC

In this day and age we certainly don't lack for technological assets to use in teaching our courses. The challenge, for me anyway, is selecting which assets work best for the way I teach my anatomy and physiology course. I really don't need course management programs, our college provides Moodle for that. What I do need, is a visual database that will be available to my students at their convenience 24/7, is user friendly, has consistent content, is a time proven product, will most likely not change next week, and is affordable for students. The ADAM AIA product meets these requirements. My students purchase a 6 mo. subscription from the ADAM company at a discounted rate of 45% off the list price. We have been doing this for many years now. ADAM is happy to extend that discount to any school program that requires students to purchase the product. I then itemize ahead of time which structures make up the database for lab testing. Every software asset out there today contains more than any of us usually needs for our course content. The task then becomes the amount of time required to whittle down that content to what is needed and to communicate that effectively to our students. The asset of choice for me then is one that makes these tasks most user friendly and efficient for me. All the major assets out there are basically well

Theme: Mobile Devices (cont.)

done, just like the textbooks we have to choose from. So the ultimate decision is usually based upon what works best for each of us for our own logistical purposes.

The ADAM AIA (www.ADAMeducation.com) product has served me and my students well over the years. It uses a combination of illustrated and cadaver visuals you can manipulate within the categories of: "Dissectible Anatomy", "Atlas Anatomy", "3D Anatomy", "Clinical Illustrations", & "Clinical Animations" to provide the visuals you may use for testing. Setting up lab tests is as simple as producing power point presentations through screen capture of the ADAM visuals. A hardcopy manual is available to go along with the software if you want to use one (ADAM Student Lab Activity Guide, Schaeffer, Scott, D., Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkins, 4th. ed., 2014). Although it is listed as a 4th. ed., you will find it necessary to revise it for your purposes. If it is 3D visuals you want exclusively, you might consider the "Visible Body" database

Newsletter Themes

For the Summer Newsletter, please consider submitting an article about….

Nutrition

"Oh! The theme I've been waiting for all my life."

- Miss Shields in *A Christmas Story*

MCCB Spring Conference

Coming up this **May 30- June 1** will be the MCCB Spring Conference. The conference will be located at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center at Higgins Lake near Roscommon, Michigan. This special venue will allow for many exciting sessions, evening time for socializing and some great special guest speakers. Due to the special location, this meeting will run from Friday, May 30 at 1:00 pm through Sunday, June 1 at noon. Plan on coming alone or bringing other teachers, family or friends to enjoy the area. They may attend parts of the conference as guests. There will be room accommodations on site in the Straits Lodge that accommodates 40 people in 20 double rooms with adjoining bathrooms. (Single rooms are available also.) Conference registration begins at 1 pm Friday, May 30th, but people can register before dinner or ,of course, on Saturday.

Preregistration is very important to reserve your room and to allow for proper amounts of food to be prepared for the conference. Please be considerate of the conference organizers and complete your pre-registration **by Monday, May 12th**. You may use the preregistration form included in this newsletter or get it on the MCCB website (www.mccb1.org).

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this exciting event! We're looking forward to seeing you there! Updated information will be posted on the MCCB website as we get closer to the conference date ..... check it out.

Highlights

- Keynote Speaker: Dr. John Vandermeer, UofM Prof. Biology, will give a presentation about his tropical ecology research.
- David A. Wooten, WCC, will give an insightful and unique seminar on the history and publications of Charles Darwin. “Books, Beetles and Blasphemy”
- Jerry Rhead, MSU Global Knowledge and Learning Innovation, will discuss the benefits of using MOOC’s for faculty professional development.
- Hartwick Pines Tour with Susan Starr and Janea Little.
- Leigh Kleinert will share her experiences with service learning.

Plus a tour of the Main Branch Gallery to see nature-inspired art, a MCCB photography contest, and some other fun and interesting activities!!

A Statewide Network for Biology Educators

2014 Spring Conference Registration Form

Pre-registration

Register and submit fees before May 12th

MCCB memberships need to be renewed prior to or at every Fall Conference. See the membership registration form at www.mccb1.org for more details or e-mail Katie La Commare at mccbmembership@gmail.com if you are uncertain of your membership status. If your address or teaching status has changed, please submit an updated membership form to Katie La Commare.

The spring 2014 Conference is being held at the Ralph McMullan Center in Roscommon, Michigan on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 30 – June 1, 2014. A schedule and conference details can be found in the MCCB Newsletter and at the MCCB website, www.mccb1.org, under MCCB Conferences. The website will be continually updated as new information about the fall meeting is received. Due to the circumstances of this destination conference, you MUST preregister or you may be turned away.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please select your attendance days and boarding arrangements below:

Annual membership dues (full time: $20, part time/retired: $10) - year begins in September $_____

(If attended fall conference or paid last semester, no dues are required)

Conference Fee:	All three days	$60 x _____ (number attending) =	$_____
	Friday or Sunday only	$20 x _____ (number attending) =	$_____
	Saturday only	$40 x _____ (number attending) =	$_____
Rooms:	Friday and Saturday nights	$160 x _____ (number attending) =	$_____
	Friday or Saturday only (one)	$80 x _____ (number attending) =	$_____
	(add $10 per night for a single)		

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $_____

Meals are included in above fees.

Please indicate any special dietary restrictions here: _____

Please make checks payable to: MCCB or Michigan Community College Biologists.

Send registration form and check by May 12th to: Susan Dentel, 414 S. First St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

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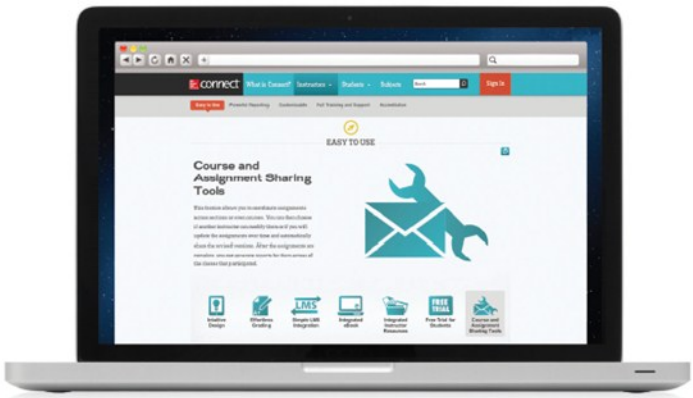

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- **Simple LMS Integration:** access your Connect assignments with one-click access and grade sync from your campus learning management system
- **Powerful Reporting:** generate a number of powerful reports and charts that let you quickly review the performance of a given student or an entire section

Tailored to You : Connect features a customizable suite of digital teaching and learning tools, including:

- **Learning Outcome assignment creation and reporting:** create assignments using tagged content and run reports based on those tags that measure specific learning outcomes
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- Integrated eBook
- **Customizable content:** edit any of our existing materials or upload your own

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McGraw-Hill's Connect Biology offers a number of powerful tools and features to make managing assignments easier, so you can spend more time teaching. Students engage with their coursework anytime from anywhere in a personalized way, making the learning process more accessible and efficient. Connect Biology optimizes your time and energy, enabling you to focus on course content and learning outcomes, teaching, and student learning.

McGraw-Hill Connect strengthens the link between faculty, students and coursework, helping everyone accomplish more in less time. Innovative, adaptive technology engages students in the course content so they are better prepared, are more active in discussion, and achieve better results.

Get Connected. Get Results.

mcgrawhillconnect.com

Bridging The Gap in Laddered Courses Via Faculty-to-Faculty Conferencing

Submitted by: Maggie Moffett, Delta College

In any educational setting, especially in a community college setting, it is very important for adjunct and full-time faculty to work together as a team. Currently at Delta College in the Biology discipline the adjuncts are paired up with a full-time faculty mentor. The mentor is assigned by the course they teach in relation to the course or courses that the adjunct instructs. That way, the adjunct can ask questions about ideas or outcomes/objectives for that specific course that they have in common. This is a great idea and is also very productive when both parties participate.

I have been an adjunct at Delta for 4 years now and I teach Bio 111, which is an Integrated Biology course for non-majors. Most recently, I have picked up another course, Bio 130. Bio 130 Introduction to Chemistry and Cell Biology is a recommended prerequisite course for students who did not take appropriate science courses and/or develop appropriate science concepts for a successful pathway in courses leading to careers in health care. Since I was new to this course and new to the pathway which my students would be progressing in, I wanted to think outside the box and not only have successful students in my course, but also in the course that follows. How would I do this?

The step I took was one of the best practices I have taken in my total of 10 years as an adjunct; I sought out help not of my mentor, but from a senior faculty in the next laddered class in my sequence. I set up a meeting with her and simply asked, “What do you find that students entering your class struggle with the most?” Little did I know how much of an impact this would have on my class.

Faculty-to-Faculty Conferencing (cont.)

After a short meeting and some reading material, I was on my way to not only provide my students with the tools they needed in my class, but also a solid foundation for the class to come.

Luckily, I did not have to wait an entire semester to collect data as one of my students was duel enrolled in both classes. With her permission, I talked to her about the steps I took before the semester started and asked her if it was okay for her to provide me with feedback as to how well we were doing at preparing her for each topic in the other class. Throughout the first 4-6 weeks, I would ask her how the concepts were matching up and she said we were spot on with the other course and at times were a little further in depth, which she appreciated because this allowed her to answer questions her classmates had at her lab table.

My goal was to provide a solid enough foundation of the concepts covered so that my students would have a jump start when entering the next course. Students entering the next course would be a step ahead in their studies and the first exam would be merely review for them. By getting feedback from this student, it reassured the other students that I was there to help pave their pathway and that this "suggested" class was not a waste of their time and money.

Just last week, I ran into another student from that class and as she approached me she said with a huge smile, "THANK YOU for all the extra steps you took to make sure I was well prepared for my current course. And I wish that all faculty would talk to each other and display the teamwork that you did with the other fulltime faculty member." That really made my day and reminded me of the "Starfish Story" in that, "I made a difference to that one!"

Faculty-to-Faculty Conferencing (cont.)

I would strongly encourage all faculty members to talk to one another and team up with adjuncts not only as a same class mentor, but also as a teammate for a pathway from one course to another. Remember, we are all here to promote student success and you never know when that one little starfish will make a huge impact on society because YOU took the extra time to help pave the way for their educational journey.

THE STARFISH STORY

ORIGINAL STORY BY: LOREN EISLEY

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked," What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said "I made a difference for that one."

Featured Famous Scientist: Richard Leakey

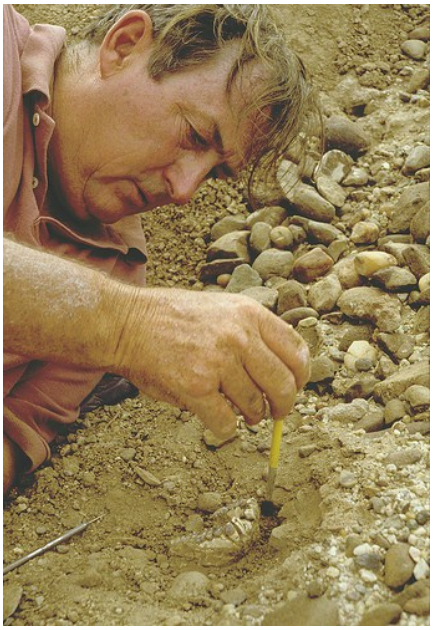
Richard Erskine Frere Leakey, second son of Louis and Mary, was born on December 19, 1944. He participated in his parent's field expeditions from an early age and was therefore well-placed to inherit their legacy. His efforts withpaleoanthropology involved not only field research and discoveries but also many years serving as the director of the National Museums of Kenya (NMK). Work at Koobi Fora began after a chance landing in the area led Richard to believe that the area held a wealth of fossil deposits. Together with a team from the NMK, Richard led the first expedition to Koobi Fora in 1968. Between 1968 and 1989 he coordinated the NMK field expeditions to the eastern and western shores of Lake Turkana. With the team of talented and experienced fossil hunters led by Mr. Kamoya Kimeu, many important finds were made, including early stone age tools dating to around 1.9 million years old, evidence of early members of the genus *Homo*, including skulls of *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus*, and remains of robust australopithecines *A. boisei* and *A.aethiopicus*. The extraordinary discovery of the nearly complete 1.6 million year old skeleton of the "Nariokotome Boy" (or "Turkana Boy"), a *Homo erectus* youth, was undoubtedly the most important.

After Dr. Leakey was appointed the head of the Kenya Wildlife Services KWS in 1989, he was no longer able to continue with fieldwork, though he remains interested in paleoanthropology. As head of the KWS, Richard successfully combated elephant and rhino poaching and

oversaw a reorganization of Kenya's troubled national park system. In 1993, he lost both legs below the knee when the plane he was flying crashed. The following year, political opposition caused him to leave the KWS and he became more involved in Kenyan politics, serving as Secretary General of Kenyan opposition party Safina. In December 1997, he was elected to an opposition seat in the Kenyan parliament.

"In the area of species protection, we should concern ourselves with what is right as opposed to what might be easier, or popular in the short term."

Dr. Leakey's political career culminated in 1999 When then-president Moi appointed him head of Kenya's Civil Service and of a so-called "Dream Team" of technocrats assembled from various fields and backgrounds to tackle management, corruption, and reorganization issues within the Kenyan government. He stepped down from this position in 2001, announcing at that time that he was retiring from politics.



Although subjected to political impasses, intimidation and physical violence, he continues to fight for political justice in Kenya. Dr. Richard Leakey continues to lecture on environmental themes and is currently involved in grassroots wildlife conservation projects. In his spare time he enjoys growing grapes and producing wine on his farm near Nairobi.

-Taken from: http://www.leakey.com/bios/richard-leakey

Calling All Nature Photographers!

This is your chance to share your best photos with other biologists.

*Subjects can be anything related to biology - landscapes, scenery, macro photography, animals, flowers, micro photography, etc.

*Each person may submit 1, 2 or 3 photographs (photo size either 8 x 10 or 11 x 14 mounted on a stiff material (Matte board or foam board).

*Bring your photo(s) and Registration form to the Spring 2014 MCCB Conference. Print off the form from the www.mccb1.org website or in this newsletter and fill it out.

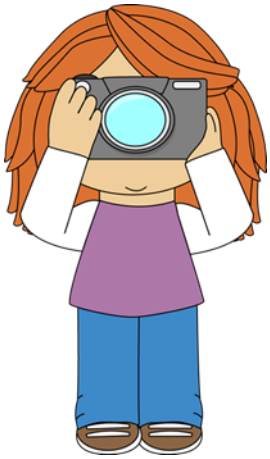
*Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes as determined by attendee voting. Each conference attendee may vote only once. Voting ends at 5 pm Saturday with awards given during dinner.

*All submitted photos will be entered in a silent auction with earnings donated to MCCB. Bidding will start at $5 and at the end of the auction (5 pm Saturday) highest bidders will be determined. Hopefully many people will be able to take home a beautiful photograph.

Registration Form on next page

Calling All Nature Photographers!

Enter the First MCCB Photography Contest



Registration Form

Your Name: _____

School: _____

Contact phone: _____

Contact email: _____

** Photo Entry #1 Title:

Shooting/Subject Information:

** Photo Entry #2 Title:

Shooting/Subject Information:

** Photo Entry #3 Title:

Shooting/Subject Information:

Upcoming Conferences

American Association of Anatomists

April 26-30, 2014 in San Diego, CA

American Society for Microbiology

May 17 - May 20, 2014 in Boston, MA

Human Anatomy and Physiology Society (HAPS)

May 24 - May 29, 2014 in Jacksonville, FL

Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE)

June 17-20, 2014 in Eugene, OR

National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT)

November 12-15, 2014 in Cleveland, OH

Michigan Science Teachers Association

February 26-28, 2015 in Grand Rapids, MI

National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)

March 12-15, 2015 in Chicago, IL

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MCCB Spring Conference

May 30—June 1, 2014.....The Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center

MCCB Fall Conference

October 17-18, 2014.....Delta College

MCCB News

Spring 2014

Executive Committee

President: Tim Periard (Lansing)

President Elect:

Past President: Matthew Badtke (Jackson)

Secretary: Mario Lamberti (Oakland)

Treasurer: Darrell Davies (Kalamazoo Valley)

Standing Committee

Communication—Membership: Katie LaCommare (Lansing)

Communications—Newsletter: Holly Hoare (Grand Rapids)

Nomination/Elections: Leigh Kleinert (Grand Rapids)

Spring Conference Organizer: Susan Dentel (Washtenaw)

MCCB (Michigan Community College Biologists) provides a state-wide forum for sharing instructional techniques and up-to-date information for teaching college-level biology. The organization fosters communication, friendship, and unity among the biologists of the twenty-nine community colleges in the State of Michigan. Our logo reflects the location of those 29 colleges. Two state-wide conferences are held annually.

Founded in the early 1980's, MCCB began as an offshoot of COSIP (the College Science Improvement Program). Two COSIP groups were originally created in Michigan: a southern group of colleges (associated with the University of Michigan/ Dearborn and directed by Dr. Hertzler) and a northern group of colleges (associated with Central Michigan University and directed by Dr. Carl Scheel). The initial meeting to form a statewide organization of community colleges took place at Delta College in 1981. The first slate of officers was elected at that time, with Eldon Enger as President and Janet Dettloff as Vice-President.

Mission of MCCB

- To promote an interest in biology.

- To improve the teaching of biology by providing opportunities to share and discuss instructional techniques and teaching methods.

- To provide opportunities for updates on current topics and trends in biology.

- To facilitate the exchange of ideas and foster communication, friendship and unity among the community college biologists in Michigan.