

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT ON THE ANKENY CAMPUS

Bill Trotter

Since my hiring in 1986, the Biology Department has seen many changes. Changes include faculty member hiring/turnover, addition of new courses, addition of course sections being taught, and pedagogic delivery methods.

Certainly one of the most noticeable changes over the years has been the turnover of faculty. With increased growth of the department comes an increased need for full-time and adjunct faculty.

Since my hiring, the following individuals have served as full-time instructors. The years in parentheses are their first years of employment at the Ankeny Campus.

Gary Nelson (1975)  
Bob Wollaston (1982)  
Bill Trotter (1986)  
Dick Walker (1986) - deceased  
Fred Krick (1988) - lab assistant/adjunct instructor  
Lyle Kesl (1993)  
Janice Sexton (1993)  
Florence Dusek (1994)  
Beryl Packer (1994)  
Jane Bradley (1996)  
Don Glassman (1998)  
Qian Moss (1998)  
Curtis Eckerman (2005)  
Julie Gonzalez (2008)  
Craig Dilley (2011) - deceased  
Coralie Lashbrook (2013)  
Aaron Alford (2014)  
Miranda Gauthier (2017)

As the college has expanded with the addition of new programs (Vet Tech, Mortuary Science, and Biotechnology), there has been a need for the creation of not only new courses, but an increased number of sections of pre-existing courses. For example, the Vet Tech and Mortuary Science programs require their students to enroll in BIO 733 (Health Science Anatomy). This course had previously been required only for the Nursing and Respiratory Therapy programs. These students require other biology courses as well, so the number of offered sections has increased to fill the demand.

The Biotechnology program required the implementation of many new courses designed specifically for students going into that field. Beryl Packer, Jane Bradley, and Julie Gonzalez have been very instrumental in the development and expansion of this program. Courses include: BIO 249 (Biotech Internship), BIO 250 (Cell & Molecular Biology – Nucleic Acids), BIO 251 (Cell & Molecular Biology – Proteins), and others.

Environmental Science courses are now taught under the ENV acronym. These classes include ENV 103 (Sustainable Living), ENV 115 (Environmental Science), and ENV 116 (Environmental Science Lab).

Several anatomy and physiology courses have been offered each semester, including BIO 156 (Human Biology), BIO 164 (Essentials of Anatomy & Physiology), BIO 733 (Health Science Anatomy), and BIO 734 (Health Science Physiology). The Nursing Department has undergone radical changes in its science requirements. As a result, the Biology Department has implemented two new anatomy and physiology courses to meet these needs: BIO 168 (Anatomy & Physiology I) and BIO 173 (Anatomy & Physiology II).

The nursing program also requires that students take BIO 104 (Introduction to Biology) and BIO 151 (Nutrition). These courses are newly developed as well.

Former office space for faculty has been transformed into classrooms as no new science buildings have been erected. With the modification of Building 5, new office space was added there.

A fantastic resource for students is the Academic Achievement Center located in Building 6. Stacy Vaughn and her team provide excellent help for our biology students. More students need to take advantage of this resource.

There is one final topic that I would like to comment on. One of the major changes that I have witnessed over the years is the evolution of how our course material is taught. Pedagogical resources have increased in amount and quality. Delivery methods have changed from blackboard usage to overhead projectors to Power Point presentations with audio/video enhancements including the use of document cameras and other technological advancements.

DMACC has undergone significant changes to keep up with the ever-constant flux in our society and how we can meet the challenges faced by our changing student population.