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Kimberly Marshal / Special to The Sun

Several of the authors-editors of the new ASU-Biology book are (from left) Dr. Richard Grippo, Dr. Aldemaro Romero, Ms. Joy Trauth, Dr. John Harris, Dr. Tanja McKay, Dr. Fabricio Medina-Bolívar, Dr. David Gilmore, Dr. Staria Vanderpool, Dr. Stanley Trauth and Dr. Alan Christian.

A-State Biology faculty to publish adventure book

BY ALDEMARO ROMERO AND JOY TRAUTH
SPECIAL TO THE SUN

A book telling the field stories of ASU Biology faculty has been slated for publication by the University of Arkansas Press.

The book — “Adventures in the Wild: Tales from Biologists of the Natural State” — tells the field stories of several faculty members of the Department of Biological Sciences at Arkansas State University.

Their adventures range from amusing to life-threatening. The stories will take the reader from the chicken houses of Arkansas to the caves of Venezu-

ela and Mexico to the coast of Alaska. Some stories are filled with suspense and danger in exotic places while others document more routine biological field work and lab work in less-threatening environments.

Readers will meet the roommate with the rash that wouldn't clear up, a friendly bull, some blind cave fish, killer whales, life-saving and life-threatening drug smugglers and hairy roots that are used to produce new medicines. Other stories will remind readers of their own encounters with green persimmons, black seed ticks and fire ants. Camera buffs may enjoy the chapter on wildlife photography.

This book will show ASU college professors to be real people who get their feet wet and their hands dirty in their pursuit of knowledge. It will show them to be people who are sometimes funny and who sometimes make mistakes but who are always determined.

You will meet the professor who crawled through rotten-egg-smelling muck in search of an elusive mosquito fish and the one who found himself on the ground face to face with a wild hog. You will dive into the cold black water of the White River in search of

BOOK: Reviewer claims writings 'readable ... nicely done by authors'

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mussels and fly with bush pilots in Alaska. You will learn about salamanders in a mine shaft in Arkansas that will be featured in a British Broadcasting Corp. documentary. You will learn that your computer keyboard probably has more bacteria on it than your commode.

You will learn about established techniques used by biologists to study populations of wild animals and new techniques developed by ASU researchers. One story even involves international intrigue and the intervention of then Attorney General Janet Reno.

All of these stories are true adventures written by the faculty members themselves. Contributing authors are Jim Bednarz, Al Christian and John Harris, David Gilmore, Richard Grippio, Tanja McKay, Fabricio Medina-Bolivar, Tom Risch, Aldemaro Romero (who along with Joy Trauth edited the book), Stan Trauth and Staria Vanderpool.

The preface of the book is written by Dr. Christian Samper, director of the National Museum of Natural

History of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

The book was reviewed anonymously by two experts on field biology in Arkansas. Both reviewers gave enthusiastic opinions of the manuscript. One of the reviewers said, "ASU may have a good market for it especially if they get the new Biodiversity Center at ASU. Certainly other biologists will enjoy the compilation."

The other reviewer wrote, "I find it very readable, witty, informative, well-edited and nicely done by the multiple authors used in this project."

The proceeds of this book will go to fund biology initiatives at ASU, including the development of the Biodiversity Center.

For more information contact the ASU Department of Biological Sciences at biology@astate.edu.

Dr. Romero is Chairman and Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences at Arkansas State University, and Trauth is a doctoral candidate in the Environmental Sciences Program and an instructor in the Biology Department at Arkansas State University.