



Years ago I attended a revue featuring a juggler who could spin ten dinner plates on ten bamboo wands at the same time. His secret was to tend to each in order. I can admire his discipline more after guiding the Foundation this past year, for we have had several plates spinning ourselves.

The value of the portfolio regained much of the value lost during the market meltdown that occurred in 2001-2002. That was good news. The bad was that interest rates were at a forty year low, so that our distributable income was far less than the five per cent mandatory distribution required by law.

There are movements in both houses of Congress to change the rules by which non-profit organizations must abide. What started out as an effort to prevent abuses such as took place in United Way, has become a movement to make it difficult, if not impossible, for foundations such as ours to continue from generation to generation. Each decision we make is against a background of possible change.

After considerable soul searching, the Board and the Advisory Board agreed that it was vitally important to conserve the value of the endowment portfolio. For several years we had made grants equivalent to our income and allowed growth in portfolio value to cover administrative expenses. Those days are gone and may not return.

The law allows us to take credit for those years in which grants and allowed expenses exceeded our mandated five per cent distribution. The Board voted to do so.

Consequently, in fiscal 2003 and again for fiscal 2004 we have limited our grant making to those projects for which we had made long term commitments, primarily scholarships at University of Oklahoma, University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University at Oklahoma City and Rogers State University. We made the final ten thousand dollar grant of the forty thousand dollars pledged to the Lone Oak, Texas area library in 2003. We continue to support the work of the National Institute for Developmental Delays.

We have agreed to consider no unsolicited proposals until our income recovers, and Congress decides what reforms it will require. Should things fall into line and the Board deem it advisable to open ourselves to unsolicited proposals it will be posted on the **new** Aldridge Foundation website:

<http://www.aldridgefoundation.org>

~ Robert Aldridge, Chairman ~

International Conference on Developmental Delays - Talxcala, Mexico

Robert S. Aldridge, Chairman of TMKAF and Rusty Aldridge, Advisory Board Member, TMKAF were invited by Father Paul, founder and director of the National Institute on Developmental Delays, to attend The International Conference on Developmental Delays in the city and state of Talxcala, Mexico.

In attendance were, Governor Alfonso Sanchez Anayo, Governor of Talxcala, and many other health care and Education professionals from Germany, Spain, Mexico, and North America. Approximately 150 professionals were in attendance for the two day conference.

Gov. Anaya, has moved to adopt the concepts of Father Pauls early intervention holistic program in his State and also has the vision of adopting Father Pauls program in every state in Mexico.

Members of board should be proud in knowing that all contributions made by TMKAF to the National Institute on

Developmental Delays are being used efficiently and effectively.

(See Photos)

Chair report for on site visit to Selman Living Lab (SLL), June 2004, made by Robert S. Aldridge and Rusty Aldridge, of TMKAF.

The Aldridge boys traveled to SLL, brainchild of Dr. Bill Caire, Dean of Math and Science, UCO, to help in the construction of (5) 10-inch Newtonian telescopes purchased through a grant provided by TMKAF. The original grant request was for \$10,000 for the purchase of 5 Mead, 8-inch reflector telescopes.

Rather than our customary challenge grant the foundation decided to work with Dr. Caire and astronomy instructor Steve Maier to purchase 5 comparable telescopes if similar quality. Again, TMKAF got more bang for the buck.

These telescopes are currently being used by SLL to allow access by public and student groups to study the stars in the clear North West Oklahoma skies.

(Final report from Selman Living Lab)

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SELMAN LIVING LABORATORY

Dear Aldridge Foundation,

A Big THANKYOU to the Aldridge Foundation from me and all the student groups, community groups, researchers, scout groups, the Sierra Club, the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, the Oklahoma Academy of Science and others who have enjoyed the **Selman Living Laboratory**.

Yes, they are all appreciative of what the **Aldridge Foundation** has done to help keep the SLL moving along. Thank you from all of us!



Here is a brief update report for you. Currently on site at the SLL is a doublewide trailer (with washer, dryer, refrigerator, stove, etc.). This came about from a National Science Foundation award to Dr. Caire. After the doublewide was in place, we brought in a water line from the rural water service, built a large septic system, and just recently, we added a telephone line with a high-speed internet hookup.

Just before the doublewide was purchased, we had in place two bunkhouses (each can sleep about 18 people), a classroom building, two astronomy domes, and two small outbuildings. It is beginning to look like a real outdoor living laboratory.



In addition, we found sitting in the UCO surplus a small trailer that had been used to teach decontamination techniques. We had it moved to the SLL and we plan to convert it into bathrooms. We also have converted one of the small outbuildings into an ADA bathroom. Our desire is to convert the other small out-building into a bathroom.

Research activities continue at the SLL. Dr. Caddell from UCO and her graduate student Robin Buckaleu recently published a paper in the Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Science documenting 230 species of plants at the SLL. Dr. Mather from the University of Science and Arts is studying Tiger beetles. Investigations of the genetics of bat flies are being conducted by Dr. Wilson at UCO and several undergraduate students. One of his students, Kendra Byrd, placed second at the Annual Beta Beta Beta Biological

Society poster competition. I recently received a grant from Florida Power and Light to begin construction of a bat friendly gate in one of the SLL caves to help protect bats during the hibernation season. Last week I made a presentation to the Oklahoma Academy of Environmental Education (mostly K-12 teachers) about the opportunities at the Selman Living Laboratory.

Steve Maier from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and Chad Ellington from Rose State University have both been active in offering astronomy shows. President Beran of Northwestern Oklahoma State University has also offered to help at the SLL. He has indicated that they will purchase three small refrigerators for the classroom and bunkhouse buildings. They will also install ceramic tile on the floors of the buildings. He also will make sure that we have a nice fire pit for hot dog and marshmallow roasts. One of UCO's sororities held a planning retreat at the SLL and donated two new microwaves.

The Biology Club (Tri-Beta) held a service day at the SLL. They hung blackout shades over all the windows in the trailer, placed concrete under the stairs into the trailer and erected five flag poles at the entrance.

Near the end of the day, they rode over Mrs. Selman's Ranch with her ranch hand, Jay Rankin, and collected rocks for a rock garden near the flagpoles. They hope to have another service day this coming April and gather more rocks for the garden and complete it.



You might have heard that a rare October tornado struck the SLL. It picked up one of the bunkhouses and dropped it into the classroom (we think all the telescopes survived). UCO's administration has jumped in and they are in the process of seeing that the repairs will be made.

The doublewide will be re-shingled with a better storm-resistant shingle and a more substantial skirting will be installed. The bunkhouse will be repaired as well as the classroom. However, the extent of damage to the classroom was such that after its repair, it will be converted into a storage building and a new classroom will be purchased.



All electrical repairs will be made by the UCO Physical Plant. The Architectural and Engineering department of UCO is drafting a footprint of a classroom building that will also serve as a tornado and severe storm room. It will probably be constructed of concrete. I will use their conceptual design in several grant proposals to raise the funds to construct the building.

Well, I trust you see that there has been some activity at the SLL since I last wrote. I am glad it continues to move along and I am very thankful for all the support and encouragement that the Aldridge Foundation has given. I am also thankful

that the Aldridge Foundation has permitted me the opportunity to submit the proposal for ten futon chairs/beds for the SLL. They will provide both seating during the day and beds at night.



You are all welcomed to come see the SLL. Pick a clear night have enjoy the wonders of the night sky.
Thanks Again,
Bill Caire

(See Part 2)

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07.15.06

Dear Aldridge Foundation,

We are slowly getting all the Futon beds put together that the Aldridge Foundation provided to the Selman Living Laboratory. They are a GREAT hit and everyone loves them. It is so much better than sleeping on the floor.

They also enjoy sitting on them during the day. Thanks again. We appreciate everything the Aldridge Foundation has done for the Selman Living Lab. Here are some pictures of the site and the chairs. We have also added a storage unit, finished the new roof and skirting to the trailer, added a new classroom building like the others to replace the tornado damaged one, a riding mower to help clean up the site, and some more dishes. A vinyl fence for the front has been ordered and I hope the plumbers get there soon to finish some more bathrooms.

Thanks again,
Bill Caire





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