

MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY

Employee Spotlight

Q&A with Sandra Morrison, B.S. Microbiology, MLT(ASCP) Research Associate - Morrison Lab



What is a fun or interesting fact about your hometown? Oklahoma City has some unique places to visit. The Oklahoma City Zoo that is one of the best zoos in the country, in my opinion, other than maybe the San Diego zoo, Remington Park hosts horse racing, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum (formerly Cowboy Hall of Fame), Oklahoma Science Museum and Planetarium, US Football Hall of Fame and field, and the 45th Infantry Division military museum. All of the above are within about a 3 mile area in NE Oklahoma City.

If you could be anyone from any time period whom would it be and why? Maurice Hilleman (1919-2005 from Miles City, Montana), who worked at Merck, developed some of the most important vaccines, still in use, that save lives and spare suffering. I would like to be him so I could use his strategy to develop a Chlamydia vaccine that would prevent infection thus reducing infertility due to (unknown) infection with Chlamydia. An effective vaccine would also provide a conclusion to our work that I feel is unfinished.

What are your top three life highlights? Meeting Rick Morrison at OU where we were both students, and our marriage almost 39 years ago. The birth of our children and grandchild. Landing a job at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton Montana which changed my career direction from environmental microbiology to basic research in Chlamydia, Neisseria and HIV, which I have thoroughly enjoyed.

Where is the best place you've traveled to and why? Costa Rica had not only beautiful countryside and interesting wildlife, but also the people of Costa Rica are some of the kindest, most friendly people we've run across in our travels. What was kind of weird there, all the homes have barbed wire encircling them. They have no military in Costa Rica, so I guess that is the form of a home security system. We managed to white water raft, zip line, got lost in a farmers market, visited a rainforest and volcano, with our kids and daughter-in-law, lots of fun.

What do you always want to try and never did? Parasailing. Our kids did that at Lake Tahoe. It looks like fun, but I never have tried. Rick's sister lives close to there, so we may have to go back and give it a try.

If you could have any view from your back porch, what would it be? The Lamar Valley in NW Yellowstone Park. I've enjoyed viewing the wildlife there in the past and would love to have it in my backyard.

What is the best book you have ever read? A Peoples History of the United States by Howard Zinn opened my eyes to a side of history that I never knew happened. I never liked history as taught in school, but this was well written, comprehensive and interesting.

What has been the most important innovation you have witnessed in your lifetime? Probably the Internet has had the most impact on our way of life.

What is your favorite day of the year and why? No particular day, just the first day of any vacation. Conversely, the last day of a vacation is my least favorite.

What is something you're looking forward to in the coming months? Retiring and moving back to Bozeman Montana to be closer to our kids, hiking, fishing, golfing, rafting, camping (Rick doesn't know about the camping yet), traveling to national parks and presidential libraries, volunteering, and most likely babysitting our grandson.