



### Michelle Wood

Associate Professor  
Department of Biology  
University of Oregon

Ph.D. in Zoology  
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Michelle attended the University of Corpus Christi where she earned B.A. degrees in Biology and Speech. After graduating from the University of Georgia with a Ph.D., she continued her work as a postdoctoral student at the University of Chicago. She studied genetics and the evolutionary ecology of recently discovered photosynthetic organisms. After her postdoc, she continued as part of the research faculty in Ecology and Evolution Department until 1990. She then moved to the University of Oregon where she is now an Associate Professor.

Dr. Wood's research interests include studying picocyanobacteria from an evolutionary viewpoint. She is looking at how these microorganisms can survive in a wide range of marine environments. For instance, in the Arabian Sea, she and her student, Nelson Sherry, found that these organisms could reproduce several times a day and reach population sizes of more than a million cells per milliliter. These were free-living picocyanobacteria that bloomed during the summer Monsoon season. In the winter she found many examples of picocyanobacteria living symbiotically with dinoflagellates.

She would like the students to know that people who study the ocean are a community of creative, curious, and wonderful people. She says, "If you are a student interested in ocean science, rest assured that there are many wonderful people out here who want to help you follow your dreams."