

PATTEN



John A. Patten Scholarship

The award was partially established with funds from the recycling program and first awarded in 1981.

Faculty – 1951-1980; Dept. Chair 1959-1980

Dr. John A. Patten held a B.A. degree from Berea College, an M.S. degree from the University of Kentucky, and a Ph.D. from New York University.

Dr. Patten began teaching at Middle Tennessee State College in 1951. His areas of expertise included invertebrate zoology, parasitology, embryology, and ornithology. Students who enrolled in his classes will never forget his engaging lectures and artistic chalkboard illustrations. He became chair of the department in 1959. By the time he retired, the department had tripled in size while maintaining a tradition of teaching excellence coupled with concern for students. Wisner-Patten Science Hall was named in recognition of his many accomplishments and contributions to the University. Upon his retirement, Dr. Patten became the first person to be awarded the status of Professor Emeritus by the University. His abilities as a teacher twice won him the Outstanding Teacher Award given annually by the University Foundation.

Dr. Patten was a man loved by all who knew him. His interests included a love for mountain lore, Civil War history, colonial American history, hunting, bird-watching, storytelling, spectator sports, listening to music, botanizing, reading, coin collecting, stamp collecting, gun collecting, and participation in muzzle-loading rifle events.