



The Basic Facts

Volume 5, Issue 3, April 2004

The Basic Facts, College of Basic and Applied Sciences, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

CBAS Undergraduate Research Symposium

The Science of Success

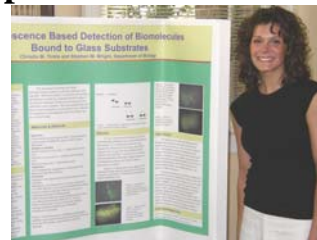
Inside this issue:	
CBAS Undergraduate Research Symposium	1
Faculty & Students Win NASA Positions	1
ETIS Student Teams Compete Nationally	1
Our Best	2

Thirty-nine posters were entered in the 2004 symposium representing research from six departments—ABAS, BIOL, CHEM, CSCI, GEOL, and PHYS. Biology had the most student posters (15) with chemistry second (10). Dr. Rebecca Seipelt mentored the most student projects (10). Adam Farmer (BIOL, CHEM, PHYS), mentored by



First-Place winner Adam Farmer

Robertson, Steve Wright, and Adrienne Friedli, won first place. Amy Coffey (CHEM and Smyrna High School) was second, and there was a tie for third place: Claibourne Gibson (ABAS) mentored by Kevin Downs and Christin Tinkle (BIOL) mentored by Steve Wright. It



Christin Tinkle tied for third place

was a great event and very well organized by the CBAS Undergraduate Research Council chaired by Dr. Bill Robertson.

Faculty & Students Win NASA Positions

Five CBAS faculty and three CBAS students have been accepted to research positions at NASA labs for summer 2004. Faculty winners include Lisa Bloomer (MATH), Ahad Nasab (ETIS) and Suk Jai Seo (CSCI) at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Chuck Higgins



(PHYS) at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland and Gail Zlotky (AERO) at Langley.

Student winners include Mark Durrett (MATH) at JPL, Julianna Donahue (AERO) at Langley, and Alice Quan (PHYS) at Pasadena.

Congratulations!



ETIS Student Teams Compete Nationally



The MTSU robotics team, supervised by Dr. Ahad Nasab, was the first team to

complete the entire mission in the national robotics competition held in Houston, Texas. Their robot, with his sidekick rover, located a box buried 4" below the sand, drilled a hole in it, installed an air lock, pressurized the box, and disengaged from the area. All of this was done by remote controls through camera vision. Obviously,

they won first place. Team members were Aaron Dudley, Amy Black, Seth Holland, James Barker and alumnus Travis Martin. Support was provided by Rick Taylor and Ken Garrett.

Dr. Saeed Foroudastan sponsored two teams in NASA's Great Moonbuggy Race in Huntsville, Alabama. Thirty teams from the best engineering schools across the nation competed. The course was more difficult than last year; but after a disappointing first round, our



teams finished strong ranking 4th and 5th nationally. University of North Dakota and Cornell were tops. We are very proud of our teams. Team leaders were Dean Sandefur and John Winker. The other team members were Amilea Raborn, Jon Poston, Lashlee Odom, Michael Puckett, Tim Trice, Leah Grothaus, Bobbie Meredith, Ken Garrett, Matt Earle, Jerry Elliot, Joe Baxter, Josh Meadows, Justin Rains, Zac Clark, Brett Vansickle, and J. T. Tapp.

Visit our newsletter web site to view all *The Basic Facts'* issues:

<http://www.mtsu.edu/~collbas/newsletters>



The Basic B.E.S.T. (Boastful Educators Sharing Talents)

All departments are invited to submit items for this column

Aerospace

The Aerospace Department received a generous gift from Mrs. JoAnn Price, Ken Price & Sherry Price-Holmes. The gift was given to name an Aerospace conference room to honor the memory of their son, Capt. James H. Price, Jr.

Agrribusiness/Agriscience

The MTSU Horse Science Program and the UT Extension Program collaborated to conduct a Horse Show Judges Certification Program on March 12 and 13. Ten students from the MTSU Block & Bridle Club and faculty advisor, **Jessica Gentry**, attended the national convention held February 19-22 in San Antonio, Texas. The convention was hosted by Texas A&M University. This club hosted the Preview Steer & Heifer Show on February 21 at the Tennessee Livestock Center.

Johnny Haffner presented a lecture entitled "Horse Diseases and Parasites" on February 17 on behalf of the UT Agricultural Extension Service in the "Fundamentals for Horse Owners" short course.

Regional achievements by the MT Equestrian Team include Regional Champion Western Team, High Point Western Rider Rusty Rea, Regional Reserve Champion Hunter Seat Team, High Point Hunter Seat Rider Dionne Stigge, Reserve High Point Hunter Seat Rider Jaclyn Craddock, Senior of the Year Dionne Stigge, Versatility Award Lydia Whitlow for placing in both Hunter Seat and Western divisions, and Coach of the Year **Anne Brzezicki**.



Biology

Working with **Mary Farone**, graduate

student and Sigma Xi member **B. Jason Hayes** received a Grant In Aid of Research.

Department of Biology's Center for Environmental Education natural resources coordinator, **Karen Hargrove**, presented "Catfish in the Mainstream: Social Marketing and Change" at the Fourteenth Annual Tennessee Water Resources Symposium.

Chemistry

John DiVincenzo, Al Ogden (Geosciences) and **Rebecca James** (CHEM alumni) presented at the Fourteenth Annual Tennessee Water Resources Symposium recently at Montgomery Bell State Park. The paper was published in the conference proceedings.

Judith Iriarte-Gross, Terrence Lee, graduate student **Pooja Marella**, and undergraduates **Chelsea Bond** and **Chatoria Kent** presented one oral and two poster presentations at the 227th National Meeting of the ACS.

Amy Coffey, undergraduate research student working with **Judith Iriarte-Gross**, received several awards at the 52nd Middle Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair in April. She was named Grand Prize Winner and will present her work at the 2004 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Portland, Oregon in May.

Computer Science

The following faculty presented at the 42nd Annual ACM Southeast Conference held in Huntsville, Alabama in April: **Suk Jai Seo** presented "Algorithms for Optimal Orientations of a Unicyclic Graph."

Joseph Driscoll published and presented "A Virtual Machine Environment for Teaching the Development of System Software." Co-authors are **Ralph Butler** and

graduate student **Joelle Key**. **Medha Sarkar** presented "GXL-A New Graph Transformation Language."

Engineering Technology/Industrial Studies

Saeed Foroudestan presented two papers entitled "Engineering Technology Summer Program for K-12 Students" and "Capstone Design Projects: More than a Matter of Meeting a Program Requirement" which was nominated for Best Paper Award. Both papers were peer reviewed and published in the 2004 ASEE-SE proceeding. **Saeed Foroudestan** was also nominated for the ASEE-SE Outstanding Teaching Award.

Military Science

The MTSU Army ROTC took the lead in coordinating a successful four-day field training exercise for over 300 cadets from MTSU, EKU, ETSU, UTK, CN, TT and APSU.

Nursing

Maria Smith presented "Take Charge of Your Success" for the EEOC Federal Women's Conference.

Karen Ward was recently granted certified online instructor status by the Learning Resources Network.

Lynn Parsons & **Patricia Reiss** (Oakland University, Rochester, MI) coauthored "Breaking Through the Glass Ceiling: Women in Executive Leadership Positions" in *SCI Nursing*.

Lynn Parsons recently published "Delegation Decision-Making By Registered Nurses Who Provide Direct Care for Patients with Spinal Cord Impairment" in *SCI Nursing*.

Judy Campbell presented "Teaching Through Community Partnerships" at the April CBAS teaching-learning seminar.

Mary Jane Lavender, Pam Roesler, Janice Harris, and **Barbara Draude (ITD)** presented "Evaluating the Quality of Test Questions: Using Web-CT and Respondus as Tools" at the April 2004 IT Conference.

Anita Crockett presented "The Learning Race: Start Your 'N-Gens' with Operational Ethics" at the April 2004 IT Conference.

Jennifer Spann (Chair), Linda Covington, and **Maria Smith** sponsored a health fair to recognize Minority Health Month in April.



Physics & Astronomy

Adam Farmer will be receiving the Provost's Award this spring. The Provost's Award is the university's highest honor for academics. Adam is the third Physics major to win this prestigious award.

Join us Friday, May 7, for the MTSU Naked-Eye Observatory. For details, check the web site at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~physics/starparty.htm>.

CBAS

TLSAMP participants **Mary Avent** and **Greg Jones** were chosen as 2004-2005 ambassadors.



TSLAMP participant **Yolanda Flagg (MATH)** was selected to receive the **Mary Hall and Terry Weeks** scholarships in the College of Education.