



The Basic Facts

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

ABAS Ag Education Program Selected "Best in the Southeast"

The Science of Success

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The National Association of Agricultural Education (NAAE) has chosen the ABAS Agricultural Education Program as "Best in the Southeast." There were five other regional winners coming from the Northeast, Central, Southwest, Pacific, and Upper Midwest regions.

The program has been unique since its inception in 1975. Agricultural Education students select a major from Agribusiness, Animal Science or Plant and Soil Science and minor in Secondary Education. By taking addi-

tionally selected courses, they meet state licensure requirements to teach at the high school level.

Dr. Cliff Ricketts, who has coordinated the program since 1976, received the award for the MTSU Agricultural Education Program at the December 2000, NAAE convention in San Diego, California.

"I am very pleased for the recognition the Agricultural Education Program has received and I am very proud of Cliff and his students," stated Dr. Harley Fouch, Director of the School of Agribusiness and

Agriscience at MTSU. "This award," Fouch continues, "is in recognition of the entire School and its efforts to best meet the needs of our students. It provides a very positive reflection of our faculty, students, and our program. In addition, it provides another avenue for the University to be recognized at the national level."

For more information, visit ABAS web site at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~deptabas> or the NAAE web site at <http://www.naae.org>.

Congressman Bart Gordon Staff Learn About B & A Sciences Faculty Research

On Tuesday, February 13, MTSU and the College of Basic & Applied Sciences in particular, had the honor and pleasure to host a visit for guests from Washington, DC.

Mr. Chuck Atkins, Congressman Bart Gordon's Chief of Staff, Dr. Dick Oberman, a professional staff member on the Space & Aeronautic Subcommittee of the Science Committee, and Mr. Tracy Lamb, a NASA staff member who is assigned to Congressman Gordon's office, came to visit the University to learn about research in the Sciences.

The group spent the day listening to B & A Sciences faculty describe their research. Dr. Barbara Haskew, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Jones, Associate Provost/Associate Vice President, Dr. Don Curry, Dean, Graduate Studies & Research, and Dr. Myra Norman, Director, Sponsored Programs were among the MTSU administration who participated in the program. Department Chairs, Dr. Robert Carlton (PHYS), Dr. Paul Craig (AERO), Dr. Richard Detmer (CSCI), Dr. Pam Holder (NURS), Dr. George Murphy (BIOL), and Dr. Earl Pearson

(CHEM), were in attendance at the conference, as were Dr. Bella Higdon, Elementary & Special Education, and Dr. Lynn Parsons, Nursing.

Those presenting were Dr. E. Ray Phillips, Dr. Steve Wright, Dr. Andrienne Friedli, Dr. William Robertson, Dr. Anthony Newsome, and Dr. Diane Sawyer. Everyone did a great job!

To learn more about Congressman Bart Gordon's office, go to his web site at <http://www.house.gov/gordon>. For more information on the Science Committee go to web site <http://www.house.gov/science>.

Special points of interest:

- AG Ed Picks Up Kudos
- B & A Sciences Host Visit
- B & A Sciences Wow NASA
- Who is B.E.S.T.? See Page 2 and learn what your colleagues are doing within the College, the University, and the Community.

B & A Sciences Faculty Make Presentation to NASA Officials

On Thursday, February 15, MTSU faculty and administrators visited NASA headquarters in Washington, DC, at the invitation of NASA and U.S. Congressman Bart Gordon. Congressman Gordon is a ranking member of the House's Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, which oversees NASA.

The MTSU delegation consisted of Dr. Ray Phillips, Dr. Myra Norman, Dr. Anthony Newsome, Dr. Andrienne Friedli, Dr. William Robertson, Dr. Tony Johnston, Dr. Mark Abolins, Dr. Dorothy Craig, Dr. Paul Craig, and Dr. Tom Cheatham.

Each member of the MTSU delegation made a presentation to a group consisting of top NASA Division officials, their associates, Congressman Gordon, and Dr. Glen Johnson, Dean of Engineering at Tennessee Technological University. The NASA officials then gave a presentation outlining their programs.

As a result of the visit, MTSU has been invited to submit three proposals to NASA Headquarters. The current plans are to submit proposals for: 1) The creation of a Regional Center for Science, Math,

Engineering, and Technology Education; 2) The creation of a National Center for Aviation Safety and Education; and 3) A research proposal in the sciences. MTSU will collaborate with Tennessee Tech on the proposals where possible.

Read more about the NASA meeting from Congressman Gordon's perspective at his web site <http://www.house.gov/gordon/mtsupitchnasa.html>.

To visit the NASA web site go to <http://www.nasa.gov>

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 Showing Talents)

All departments are invited to submit items for this column

Agribusiness/Agriscience

Drs. Tony Johnston, Joey Mehlhorn, and Kevin Downs took a group of eight students to the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists meeting in Ft. Worth, TX, in January. The group participated in sectional meetings and students competitions. **Dr. Johnston** served as chair of the Southern Regional Sections of the Institute of Food Technologists and hosted the meeting; **Dr. Mehlhorn** served as a judge in the Agricultural Economics Quiz Bowl; and **Dr. Downs** served as the team coach for the MTSU Quadrathlon team.

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn presented "Using Distance Education in Agricultural Business Curricula: Course Development, Limitation, and Faculty Rewards" at the Southeast Division Science Meetings in Charlotte, NC, February 22, 2001.

Biology

Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters has been asked by the Tennessee Department of Education to serve on a validation/standard setting panel for new teacher licensure assessments. The panel will review the biology content test for relevance to the job of a beginning biology teacher, recommend to the TN DOE a passing standard on the test, and review the test for fairness to all potential

examinee groups.

Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters will be moderating a state-wide teleconference broadcast entitled "Wapiti, Wapiti, Here Come the Elk," on March 7. The program focuses on efforts to reintroduce elk into native habitat areas of East Tennessee and is targeted toward students in grades four through eight.

Dr. Jeffrey Walck presented an invited seminar for the Department of Biology and the Center for Field Biology at Austin Peay State University in January. The presentation was entitled "Conservation Biology of the Endangered Plant, Short's Goldenrod."

Dr. Wayne Rosing was invited to participate on a "safe schools" workshop panel at the Tennessee Department of Education's "Yes 2 Kids Conference" held in February at the Franklin Marriott.

Dr. John Zamora's abstract "Isolation and Identification of Cellulose-degrading Bacteria" has been accepted for presentation at the national May 2001, meeting of the American Society of Microbiology to be held in Orlando, FL.

Chemistry

Dr. Gary Wulfsberg's textbook, *Inorganic Chemistry*, pub-

lished in 2000, will be translated into French and published by Dunod.

Engineering Technology/ Industrial Studies

Dr. Saeed Foroudestan presented papers entitled "A Parade of Exports can Enhance Student Transition from Classroom to Real Life," "Faculty Internship Program," and "Better Utilization of Adjunct Faculty Positions" at the January 2001, ASEE Conference for Industry and Education Collaboration in San Diego, CA.

Nursing

Dr. Suzanne Prevost will be honored as one of Texas Women's University's "Great 100 Alumni" at the university's centennial celebration this year.

Drs. Lynn Parsons and Maria A. Smith attended the American Organization of Nurses Executives Delegation to Cuba in January. The organization is part of the People to People Ambassador Program initiated by President Eisenhower. **Dr. Smith** was selected as a delegation leader representing critical care nurses from the United States and her efforts awarded 16 critical care nurses continuing educational credits for attending discipline specific programs.

Dr. Lynn Parsons received a re-

search award from the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses Foundation for her investigation, "The Pain Experience: A Nurse's Dilemma." **Dr. Parsons** will present her research at the 21st annual Congress in new Orleans, LA, in June.

Dr. Patricia O'Leary presented the topic, "Web-Enhanced Courses: Are They Useful and Effective Tools," at the research symposia held in the School of Nursing in January.

New NSF CSEM Scholarship recipients selected for Spring 2001:

CSCI

Stephen Farmer, Troy Gore, James Moore, Jason Perkins, Stefan Rusek, Tim Stallman

MATH

Carolyn Oliver

Dr. E. Ray Phillips and Dr. Thomas Cheatham made a presentation about "Recruiting and Mentoring Faculty" at the Annual Department Chair's Conference in Orlando, FL, February 8, 2001

