



The Basic Facts

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

Prevost Chairs Research and Creative Activity Showcase!

Dr. Suzanne Prevost, Chairholder of the National HealthCare (NHC)



Chair of Excellence in Nursing has chaired the University-Wide Research and Creative

Activity Conference for the fourth year in a row! Prevost's leadership is a major asset in the MTSU School of Nursing. Recently she was a major force in preparing the CCNE Self-Study Report for the accreditation visit held last month.

Prevost led the steering committee this year in hosting a "showcase" of faculty research and creative activity. According to Prevost, "For the past three years we have hosted a University-wide Research Symposium, and faculty representatives from every college and nearly every department have participated in one way or another. We had a great response to our call for presentations this year!"

Faculty presented their

research and creative activity in several venues. Video presentations were done by the Art Department (Andrew Kaufman), Recording Industry (Mary Nichols and Dan Pfeifer) and Chemistry and Educational Leadership (Gary Wulfsberg and Barbara Young). There were three easel displays: Biology (Thomas Hemmerly), Preston MacDougall (Chemistry) and Donald Kendrick (Psychology). Additionally, there were 28 poster and tabletop exhibits.

Several faculty from the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Business, Education and Behavioral Science and Liberal Arts shared their publications.

The Science of Success

Inside this issue:

Prevost Chairs Showcase!	1
Sigma Xi Hosts Symposium	1
Earth Day Celebrated!	1
Our B.E.S.T	2



Annual Sigma Xi Graduate Student Research Symposium

The annual Sigma Xi Graduate School Research Symposium was held on Friday, April 11 in the Alumni Center. The Chemistry Department had



seven submissions, Biology had five and the Departments of Mathematical Sciences and Psychology had one each.

The winner of the best overall poster was Niger Kaur (center) of Chemistry who is working with Dr. Burden. Each department that had more submissions was awarded a best poster award. After Niger was removed from the pool, Leah Wong (right) won best Chemistry submission. She is working with Norma Dunlap. Sarah Collins (left) won the best Biology submission. Sarah is work-



ing with Dr. Stephen Wright.

Dr. John P. DiVincenzo currently serves as President of the MTSU Chapter of Sigma Xi, the scientific research society. Dr. DiVincenzo helped to organize the annual Sigma Xi meeting held on April 28 at the Garden Plaza. This year's featured speaker was Dr. Lee Limbard, from Vanderbilt University. She is Associate Vice Chancellor for research as well as Professor of Pharmacology. Her research centers on G-protein coupled receptors, particularly subtypes of the alpha-2 adrenergic receptor.

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

Earth Day Celebrated!

Dr. Cliff Ricketts, Agribusiness/Agriscience, and his students celebrated "Earth Day" this past month. Dr. Ricketts sponsored several events for the occasion. They exhibited and demonstrated their new alternative fuel/electric hybrid truck (right). Dr. Ricketts (right) offered Dr. Bob Glenn (left), Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, a ride on MTSU grounds. Presently the truck with its charging system will run

off nearly any fuel. Future adaptations include capturing the sun, gravity, and wind to extend the range before refueling. A 2nd electric truck was exhibited by Mr. Ralph Barrett, teacher from Station Camp High School. Also exhibited were the hydrogen fueled vehicle, the ethanol powered Corvette and the soybean oil powered Corvette. The Alternative Fuel Research is funded by the Tractor Supply Company (TSC) with

matching funds from the Office of Sponsored Programs.





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

All departments are invited to submit items for this column

Agribusiness/Agriscience

Bill Allen presented, "Jet Engine Particulate Emissions" at the research seminar series this past April 23.

Anne Brzezicki was awarded the lifetime achievement award from the International Horse Show Association.

The **MTSU horse judging team** placed fourth at the Southwest Intercollegiate Contest last month.

Biology

Dwayne Estes, an undergraduate student working with **Jeff Walck**, will be the recipient of a 2003 Botanical Society of America Young Botanist Award. Dwayne is among the top 25 recipients to receive a "Certificate of Special Achievement." This award is given to outstanding graduating seniors in the plant sciences. Dwayne will pursue a Master's degree in Plant Systematics at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville starting this fall 2003.

John Zamora is co-presenting a paper, "The Isolation and Identification of Amylase Producing Microorganisms" at the May meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Washington, D.C.

Jeffrey Walck gave a presentation titled, "Exotic Invasion in the Cedar Glade Ecosystem" at the 26th Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage held in Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

Cindi Smith-Walters is working with local cub scouts on summer programming for day camp events. This will allow participating scouts to meet requirements for their Forrester, Naturalist, Wildlife and Conservation achievements.

The MTSU Environmental Education (EE) Center and associated professors, **Kim Cleary-Sadler** and **Cindi Smith-Walters** hosted an EE Center booth and display at the Murfreesboro Earth Day celebration on the Square in April.

Cindi Smith-Walters has been asked to serve on the conference planning committee for the North American Association for Environmental Education. The 32nd Annual International Conference will be in early October in Anchorage Alaska.

Chemistry

Norma Dunlap has been awarded a \$105,000 NIH Area Grant for her research titled, "Peptidomimetics of D-ala-D-ala as Novel Antibacterials."

Norma Dunlap, Jim Howard and Andrienne Friedli were awarded \$319,900 from the NSF for the NMR proposal titled, "Hands-On Experiences with NMR in the Undergraduate Chemistry Curriculum."

Computer Science

Ralph Butler traveled to Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, Illinois to conduct research on parallel computing through one of his funded grants.

Suk Jai Seo attended the 16th Cumberland Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory and Computing held in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference brings together internationally known researchers, university and college professors from throughout the southeastern region, as well as some industrial mathematicians and computer scientists. **Suk Jai Seo** will serve on the organizational committee for the year 2003.

Richard Alexander, James Hargis, Joelle Key and Gokul Naur—all CSCI majors—received summer internships at Global Exchange Services.

Engineering Technology/Industrial Studies

Saeed Foroudastan presented a paper titled, "How to Improve Recruitment and Retention in Engineering Technology through Project Innovation" at the 4th Annual Conference on Student Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Engineering Technology held in Miami, Florida this past May 2-3. The conference was supported by the NSF Advanced Technology Program.

Saeed Foroudastan, faculty advisor for Tau Alpha Pi, sponsored an open house in April for students meeting qualifications to join the honor society. This was also the 1st official meeting of Tau Alpha Pi. Charter members were given their certificates, and Dana Puckett was chosen as President.

Mathematical Sciences

The **Mathematical Sciences Department** hosted Dr. Dennis Davenport

from the Miami University of Ohio. He presented, "Writing Winning Grant Proposals." Dr. Davenport recently finished a term as a program officer at the National Science Foundation and presented information about the NSF Division of Undergraduate Education grant proposals. The event was a huge success with 25 mathematics faculty and MTSU administrators participating.

Military Science

Dean Cheatham and Pam Holder will participate and observe the cadets as they train at Fort Lewis, Washington. MTSU will send 16 junior class cadets to Fort Lewis, WA for National Advanced Leadership Camp. Five cadets will participate in the Leadership Training Course at Fort Knox Kentucky. Four cadets will attend Airborne School, another cadet will travel to Hawaii for Air Assault School, while another cadet will tackle the Alaskan Mountains at Mountain Warfare School. Also, four cadets from the junior class received internships and will train with Field Artillery, Military Intelligence, and the Army's Engineer Corps.

The **MTSU Blue Raider Battalion Spring Commissioning Ceremony** took place on May 9, 2003. Fifteen ROTC students were commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army. Several branches of the Armed Services were present at the commissioning ceremony.

Nursing

Linda W. Covington and **Suzanne S. Prevost** presented, "Impact of JCAHO Standards on Pain Management in U.S. Hospitals" at the research seminar series held by the CBAS this past April 23.

Suzanne S. Prevost gave the Keynote Address at the 10th Annual Evidenced-Based Practice Conference in Iowa City, IA this past April 25 on the topic, "Professional Organizations: Leadership in the Promotion of Evidenced-Based Practice." Suzanne also gave the Keynote Address at the National Research Conference at Auburn University on the topic, "Improving Nursing Practice Through Outcomes Research" this past May 6.

Karen Ward has been appointed to the editorial board of the *Tennessee Nurse*.

Judy Campbell was the recipient of the first **Jean Hastings Memorial Clinical Award** from the Xi Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Intl'.

Linda Covington gave the *Keynote Address* at the Baptist College of Health Sciences Nursing Honor Society Day held in Memphis TN.

Michael Cheeney received certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner from the American Nurses Credentialing Center Commission on Certification and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program.

Laura Gilley, Jon Fisher, Chad Richardson, Angela Chandler, Andrea Farley and Ashley Greer presented a poster on Cardiac Risk Factors; **Matt Elrod, Julie Raines**, and **Laura Polson** presented a poster on Herbal Therapy; **Dara Rogers** on Fatigue in Cancer Patients and **Becky LaLonde** on Ritalin Usage at the Annual Xi Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Research Symposium.

Janice Harris presented, "Verbal Aggression in the Emergency Department" at the Nursing Practice and Research Symposium sponsored by the Xi Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Physics

Robert Carlton presented an overview of research being done in the Department of Physics and Astronomy on April 23.

Bill Robertson gave a presentation titled, "Group Velocity Manipulation in Simple Acoustic Band Gap Fillers," at the 145th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America held in Nashville from April 28 through May 2.

CBAS

Lynn Parsons was an invited speaker for the graduating senior nursing class at Roane State Community College in Harriman, Tennessee this past April. Her topic focused on the NCLEX-RN licensure exam with an emphasis on nursing management topics.