



The Basic Facts

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

The Science of Success

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Third MTSU Agricultural Field Day Shines

MTSU's School of Agriculture and Agriscience hosted a September field day which was attended by over 150 people on the new MTSU Agricultural Laboratory farm on Guy James Road.



Community Engagement and Support, kicked off the event by introducing Commissioner of Agriculture Terry Oliver. Highlights included a tour of the student gardens and nursery led by Nate Phillips and Warren Anderson, a demonstration of the new geo-

thermal vegetable cooler led by student Daniel Messick, a beekeeping / honey demonstration led by Ed Holcombe and a tour of newly established native warm season grasses and alfalfa by Tim Redd and Danny Troup. CBAS is proud of ABAS director, Warren Gill, faculty, and staff and appreciate our partners.

CBAS Graduate Program Wins TBR Award

The Master of Science in Professional Science (MSPS) Program recently received the Academic Excellence Award from the Tennessee Board of Regents. In September, President Sidney McPhee and Saeed Foroudastan accepted the award for Academic Excellence on behalf of MTSU at the TBR Meeting held at MTSU.

This honor is bestowed upon unique programs and

initiatives that benefit educational disciplines, the community, and the state of Tennessee. The receipt of this prestigious honor is a testament, not only to the quality of the MSPS students, but also to the dedication of the MSPS faculty and staff. Dr. Foroudastan wishes to recognize the MSPS faculty, staff, and students for their contributions to the program's success and to congratulate the MSPS program for receiving this award.



Excellence in Aviation Scholarship Event

The Excellence in Aviation fundraising event was held on September 25 at the home of Bruce Thomas. There were between 60-80 in attendance and took in \$8,400. All expenses were covered, therefore all proceeds went directly

to the scholarship! AERO will be awarding \$4,000 in scholarships this coming year and deposited \$4,400 into the endowment account to continue to build the scholarship for the future. Thanks to all who helped!

MTeach Open House

MTeach, the new approach for training secondary math and science teachers, has 48 new students enrolled this fall and celebrated a successful launch. Amy Phelps (CHEM) and Phil Waldrop (ED) are co-directors. Leigh Gostowski is program coordinator, Sally Millsap and Mark LaPorte are master teachers. Around 75 people participated in the open house in the temporary home in CKNB, 123. MTeach is grateful to the School of Nursing for temporary use of this space. Dean Lana Seivers (ED) and Dean Tom Cheatham (CBAS) spoke, but the MTeach students who conducted active learning exercises with guests were the best part of the program.



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

Agribusiness/ Agriscience

Tony Johnston, Warren Anderson, and Nate Phillips have had a great grape year. The



yield on the grapes was very good at the vineyard, which we manage along with UT Extension at the Lane Agri-Center. Then, several hundred pounds of the grapes made a perfect demonstration of the kind of activities ABAS students get involved in. ABAS students and professors led the way but many others joined in the great grape stompin' at this year's Departmental Fair.

Ten Candidates for the Congressional seat being vacated by Bart Gordon gathered on a stage in the main pavilion of the Tennessee Live-stock Center on Tuesday, July 13, and addressed agricultural issues before a crowd estimated at three hundred people. The event, hosted by the Rutherford Farm Bureau and the MTSU School of Agribusiness and Agriscience, was focused primarily on agricultural issues, but candidates also addressed issues ranging from immigration to health care to the environment.

Warren Anderson discussed the importance of soil structure

and problems that arise from soil compaction at the "Get Your Grass in Gear" workshop presented by Knox County Storm-water Management. He helped the Rutherford County NRCS host the county 4H-FFA land judging contest. Thirty students from Blackman, Riverdale and Smyrna HS participated. Blackman and Riverdale teams came in 1st and 2nd.

Biology

On October 1, MS Biology student and NSF GK-12 Fellow Jerrod Shipman and Vince Cobb presented a talk titled "The Thermal Ecology of Hibernation in the Northern Watersnake" at the 16th Annual Herpetological Conference held at the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. This study stems from research being carried out in the Stones River adjacent to the greenway in Murfreesboro, TN.

Cindi Smith-Walters has been meeting three times per year with the Keep TN Beautiful Advisory Council. She is currently in her third term in which she was appointed by the Governor.

The MTSU Center for Environmental Education (CEE), along with National Project WET, has created and developed a new publication called "Discover the Waters of Tennessee." The "Discover the Waters of Tennessee" booklet is just another CEE product to help increase stewardship by providing firm factual information about Tennessee waters. Although targeted to a student au-

dience, users of the booklet will include formal and non-formal educators, storm water program managers, watershed groups, citizen organizations, parks and recreation, and even the tourism industry and more. "Discover the Waters of Tennessee" will soon have a link on the CEE website, www.tennessee-waterworks.com, and has been correlated to State Department of Education Standards in Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Mathematics. All of these ancillaries help to meet the storm water permit goals for MTSU and the City of Murfreesboro.

Mathematical Sciences

Zachariah Sinkala attended the Ohio State University-Mathematical Biosciences Institute-Mathematical Endocrinology Workshop, August 9-13 in Columbus, Ohio.

Physics & Astronomy

Victor J. Montemayor was invited to deliver the closing plenary talk at a summer school at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia that was organized by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. The purpose of the summer school from July 22-25 was to discuss improving medical physics graduate programs. The summer school was attended by about 120 medical physicists and oncologists from four continents who are faculty in or program directors of medical physics Masters, PhD, and residency programs.

**First Friday
Star Parties
for November and
December, 2010**

6:30 p.m., WPS 102
and Outside

Friday, November 5
"The Cosmic Microwave
Background"
E. Klumpe

Friday, December 3
"Long Wavelength Astron-
omy" C. Higgins

CBAS

The 14th annual Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) conference held at MTSU was a huge success! Almost 300 middle school and high school girls came to the MTSU campus for a day of interesting speakers, fun activities, and a positive atmosphere. These young ladies heard from our keynote speaker, Dr.



Amy Massengill who promoted women

in her speciality, veterinary medicine, and other STEM-fields. Middle school girls also chose three hands-on workshops during the day. High school girls participated in a panel discussion presented by women engineers and scientists of Nissan as well as afternoon workshops. Maybe most important of all, they were placed in a positive (all-girl) environment where they were able to interact with other girls their age who share similar interests, and were able to meet women in STEM careers who were encouraging role models.