



The Basic Facts

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

Science Building Update

The Science of Success

Inside this issue:	
Science Building Update	1
CBAS Faculty Strike Gold	1
New CBAS Chairs/Interim Chairs	1
Our Best	2

A number of key decisions have been made as planning for the new science building moves forward. First, to make optimum use of limited space, the departments of Biology and Chemistry have been identified as occupants of the new facility. Shared research spaces are planned for the new building as well. Later, upon evacuation of Davis Science and Wisner Patton by Biology and Chemistry, these spaces will be renovated for Geosciences, Physics and Astronomy, as well as additional classrooms. After Geosciences vacates Kirksey Old Main, the depart-



ments of Computer Sciences and Mathematical Sciences will be able to expand into renovated KOM space. The architects and design team for the project have been announced and include Thomas, Miller & Partners, in joint venture with Hastings Architecture, and science building design specialists Einhorn, Yaffe, and

Prescott. Art Lidsky will complete the programming of the project in the next month which will provide an excellent starting place to begin the design phase. All teams came together at MTSU during Mr. Lidsky's last visit and took part in discussions with math and science faculty, ensuring a smooth transition. The site for the new science building has been chosen. Dr. McPhee and the vice presidents have selected the area immediately west of Walker Library. Wood, Felder, Clement and Gore housing facilities currently occupy the site.

CBAS Faculty Strike Gold (Over and Over)

At the annual fall university-wide faculty meeting, our talented CBAS faculty and staff won eleven (11) Foundation Awards. Typically we are very happy to win six (6) awards, which we have done for six years in a row. Eleven is incredible! CBAS award winners include: **Teaching:**

Vic Montemayor (PHYS), Cliff Ricketts (ABAS), Saleh Sbenaty (ETIS); **Research:** George Benz (BIOL) and Jeff Leblond (BIOL); **Service:** Kim Sadler (BIOL), Suzanne Prevost (NURS), Karen Case (CBAS), and Saeed Foroudastan (CBAS); **Instructional Technology:**

Ginger Rowell (MATH); and **Special Projects:** Cindi Smith-Walters (BIOL) and Laura McCall (BIOL). Award winners receive a check from the Foundation and a trophy from CBAS. We are very proud of this recognition for our talented faculty.



New CBAS Chairs/Interim Chairs

The College of Basic and Applied Sciences has appointed two new chairs and two new interim chairs for fall 2006. Lieutenant Colonel Michael T. Walsh is the new Chair for the Military Science Department. He earned a Master of Business Administration from Troy State University and a Master of Arts Degree in Defense Studies from King's College in London, England.

Dr. Terry Quinn serves as Chair for the Mathematical Sciences. Dr. Quinn received his Ph.D. from Dalhousie University in Canada and conducted post-doctoral work as a Research Associate at Trinity College Dublin. He held a two-year position with the National

University of Ireland and consecutive tenure-track positions with Texas



Pictured: Quinn, Weller, Walsh & Hoffman

2003. She serves as the faculty advisor for the MTSU Horsemen's Association and maintains the MTSU Horse Science website.

While Dr. Robert Carlton serves as Interim Vice Provost for Research & Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Martha Weller is serving as Interim Chair for the Physics Department. Dr. Weller received her Ph.D. in Physics from California Institute of Technology. She has been teaching at MTSU since 1988.

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<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

USAF Captain Dan Roberts is a graduate student working on his master's degree in biology/physiology and is working with the Aerospace Department to conduct first-ever hypoxia research with civilian pilots. The project joins a reducing oxygen breathing device (ROBD) and a flight simulator. The ROBD is on loan to MTSU from the U.S. Navy, and the flight simulator is one already used in the Aerospace Department. Participants fly a profile that takes them to an altitude that will produce hypoxia. The ROBD actually reduces the oxygen content to the pilot through a mask and the pilot experiences hypoxia symptoms. The research will acquaint the pilot with their personal reaction to hypoxia and make them safer if/when they experience hypoxia in actual flight. Amy Jetton from Biology and Nate Callender from Aerospace are working together to extend the research beyond the work of Dan Roberts.



Biology

Kim Cleary Sadler co-facilitated a field trip for the Ecological Society of America to Flat Rock Cedar Glades in Murfreesboro and the May Prairie in Manchester August 5-6.

Denny Olsen, an internationally-known, award-winning speaker, performed his humorous alter-ego "Crittman" September 25-26 as a guest speaker for the Distinguished Lecture Series. The event was hosted by the Center for Environmental Education and the Office of New Student and Family Programs. This was not only a wonderful chance for children to be exposed to the "other side" of nature, but the adults were given an unforgettable opportunity to be a kid again!

Cindi Smith-Walters received state funds in the amount of \$97,000 for solid waste disposal.

Kim Cleary Sadler and Karen Metius-

House presented a poster titled "Changes in Elementary Student Knowledge and Attitude About Cedar Glades Through Field Ecology Experiences" August 10 at the Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting in Memphis.

The Tennessee Environmental Education Association (TEEA) held its 2006 Annual Conference "Where the WILD Things are" on September 22-24 at Montgomery Bell State Park. **Cindi Smith-Walters** received the Distinguished Service Award at the conference for her long-time contributions to environmental education.

Laura McCall was honored as the Middle Tennessee Educator of the Year. **Padgett Kelly**, a charter member of the TEEA, **Cindi Smith-Walters**, **Laura McCall**, **Karen Hargrove** and **Kim Sadler** conducted workshops at the conference.

Padgett Kelly and student Stephanie Peterson presented a workshop titled "The People Connection: Activities on Population and Human Ecology" at the National Marine Educators Association Convention at Long Island University in July.

Congratulations to **Padgett Kelly** who received the prestigious distinction of being elected to the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) board of directors.

Tony Farone and **Mary Farone** received notification that their grant "Characterization of Naturally Occurring Amoeba" in the amount of \$183,000 (joint with TTU) was recently funded by the EPA. The grant period is August 2006-August 2008.

Chemistry

At the American Chemical Society in San Francisco, **Judith Iriarte-Gross** made several presentations.

Ngee Chong and **Mari Weller** also made presentations.

Judith Iriarte-Gross and **Trixie Smith (ENGL)** were invited to organize and preside over a symposium entitled "Writing in the Undergraduate Chemistry Curriculum" at the American Chemical Society.

Judith Iriarte-Gross was recognized as an "emerging leader" of the American Chemical Society.

Computer Science

Brenda Parker and senior James Edmondson presented a paper entitled "Application of Simulation in Computer Architecture" at the International Conference on Education and Information Systems: Technologies and Applications (EISTA) July 20-23 in Orlando, FL.

Michelle Higdon, executive aide for the Computer Science Department, was this quarter's recipient of the secretarial/clerk award. Congratulations, Michelle!

Military Science

Lynn Parsons and **Jennifer Danylo** observed MTSU cadets and cadets from all over the nation during their assessment at the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Ft. Lewis, WA. At the end of camp, 3 MTSU cadets were commissioned as Second Lieutenants, 12 cadets graduated and returned as seniors, 3 completed the leadership training course and returned as juniors, 5 completed paratrooper school, and 3 others completed air assault school. Sarah Frazer is on an internship in Germany with U.S. Army units.

The Blue Raider Battalion provided support to the on-campus Veteran's memorial 5K road race. Army ROTC won the team competition, and over

\$4,500 was raised for construction of a veteran's memorial on campus.

Forty-seven cadets and cadre participated in Adventure Training at Horn's Creek Resort in Ocoee, TN, September 22-23. Competing in team and individual events, cadets faced off on an obstacle course, a paintball arena, and raft races, and challenged both skill and confidence on a 60-foot rock wall. The high point of the training was a 1,000 foot long, 150 foot high "slide for life" where cadets zipped down an inclined cable at speeds approaching 40 mph.

Nursing

Suzanne Prevost presented "Ten Things You Can Do to Improve End-of-Life Care," and **Lynn Parsons** and **Karen Ward** presented "The Future of Nursing: Creative Strategies and Dealing With the Facts" at the 23rd Annual Conference of the American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Nurses (AASCIN) September 4-7 in Las Vegas, NV. **Lynn Parsons** and **Karen Ward** also presented a poster on "Teaching-Learning Strategies for SCI Patients and Families."

Physics & Astronomy

First Friday Star parties will be October 6, November 3 and December 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Physics & Astronomy received funding for the observatory in the amount of \$700,000.

CBAS

The TLSAMP program is back in full swing. The group was hosted by

Dean Cheatham on September 11 at the Foundation House. On September 18, the group hosted a health careers forum along with the Murfreesboro National Pan-Hellenic Council. Several individuals from

local medical professions shared words of wisdom and encouragement to the aspiring students. The panel included two MTSU alums.

