

PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE FOR 1996

It is traditional in this space to give an autobiographical account of my activities, especially as they pertain to the Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS). For those interested, this information is available on my home page (<http://kesler.biology.rhodes.edu/default.html>). Instead, I am taking this opportunity to communicate with you information about the Academy and to describe my goals.

Who are we? According to Dr. John Harris, our long-time treasurer, the TAS has 687 dues-paying members. Affiliation by groups is as follows: 317 (45.7%) state universities, 104 (15.1%) private colleges and universities, and 59 (8.6%) businesses or government agencies. Other groups include state community colleges (39, 5.7%) and retired (34, 4.9%). Interestingly, there are 127 active members with unknown affiliation.

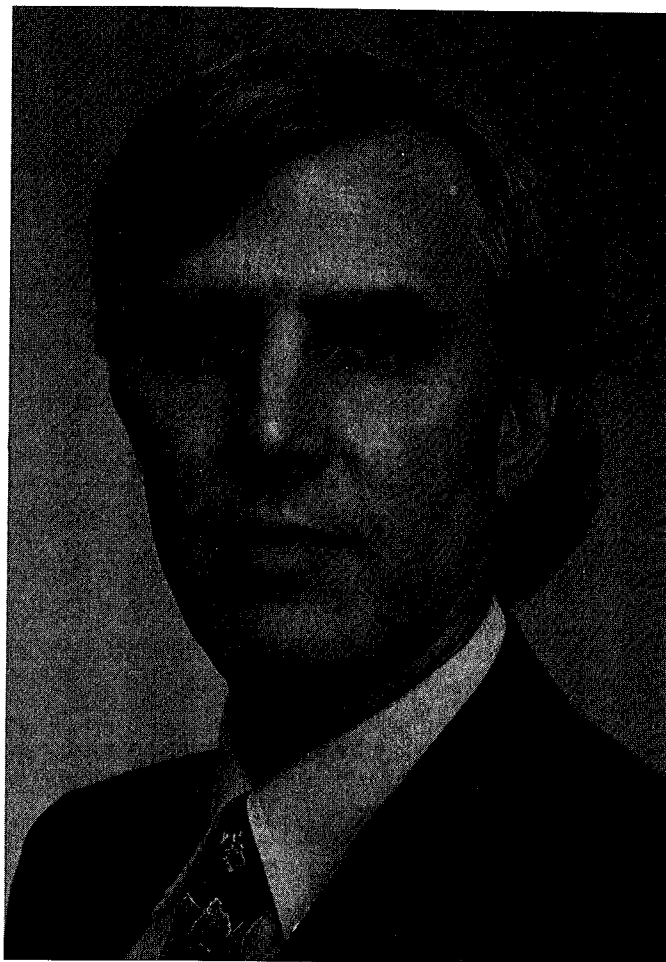
What do we do? Since its founding in March of 1912, the TAS has functioned to promote education and scientific research in Tennessee. Programs supported by the Academy include the Visiting Scientist Program, Tennessee Junior Academy of Science, Collegiate Division Meetings, Annual Meetings, and the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*.

The Visiting Scientist Program and the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science are ways we can all directly affect science education in our state. What more hands-on effect can there be than to give a presentation to elementary students or to judge high-school science projects? Have you ever attended a Collegiate Division Meeting where wide-eyed, nervous undergraduates give research presentations? We were all there once and received support and feedback from established scientists.

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to interact with professionals in your field. Our last meeting saw 227 TAS members and 448 Kentucky Academy of Science members interacting. I always come away from these meetings stimulated and knowing more than when I arrived. I hope you will attend the next meeting in November 1996 at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

Scientific research in our state also is furthered by TAS through publication of the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*. There are too many people who, for whatever reason, fail to appreciate that articles in this journal are peer-reviewed. The *Journal* is critically important to the Academy and can only continue with your support. This support can come from submission of manuscripts, letting an associate editor know you are available to review papers, and educating your colleagues about the *Journal*.

One of my goals for the Academy has been the establishment of a www home page. Thanks to the efforts of Andy Sliger, TAS has a home page (<http://www.utm.edu/departments/artsci/biology/tas.htm>). At this site, you will find useful information such as addresses of section chairs, e-mail links, description of programs, and meeting announcements. I also would like our home page to include a searchable membership list. When you are asked to renew your membership, there will be a place for you to check if you wish your name to be added to the home page membership list and with what section you are most closely allied. This list will allow you to locate fellow members in the same discipline.



Dr. David H. Kesler

Another goal, to insure we stay on sound financial footing, is consistent State funding. I have appointed an ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee, consisting of Drs. George Murphy (chair), Bernard Benson, Mike Kennedy, Andy Sliger, Ben Stone, and David Yarbrough, to consider, among other things, how best to obtain a funding commitment from the State. I am sure they will welcome your thoughts.

The Tennessee Academy of Science, like any organization, does not run itself. We all need to support the on-going activities of the Academy, and participation is the key to support.