

DISTINGUISHED SECONDARY SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER AWARD: 2001

GARY W. BARRIGAR

Elizabethton High School, Elizabethton, Tennessee

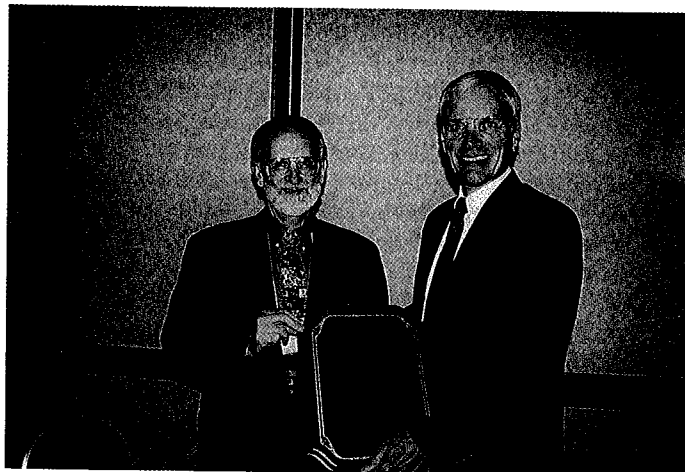
Gary W. Barrigar was the recipient of the prestigious 2001 Tennessee Academy of Science Distinguished Science Teaching Award. Mr. Barrigar, a chemistry, physics, and ecology teacher at Elizabethton High School, Elizabethton, Tennessee, received the award on November 9, 2001, during the joint meeting of the Tennessee and Kentucky Academies of Science Conference in Murfreesboro (Middle Tennessee State University).

Begun in 1997 by the Tennessee Academy of Science, the awards program is designed to recognize excellence in secondary science teaching. This award is given annually to one science teacher in Tennessee who has made significant contributions to science teaching and learning. In addition to the award and a trip to the TAS annual meeting, Mr. Barrigar received a \$500 cash award and a plaque.

Mr. Barrigar received a Bachelor of Science (BS) from the University of Tennessee; Masters in Science Teaching (MST) from Florida Atlantic University; and has completed additional graduate work at the University of California-Berkeley and East Tennessee State University.

Through his many contributions to science education at the local and state levels, Mr. Barrigar's service to science education is long-term and truly outstanding. He is widely recognized for his demonstrated excellence in science teaching, and his efforts and hard work have been instrumental in planning and implementing innovative and exemplary science programs in his school and school district. For example, he has actively involved his students in extensive studies and analyses of the water quality in the region's streams. Each year he conducts a system-wide environmental education course for secondary school students, and he has been instrumental in planning and writing the Tennessee Science Standards for high school courses.

Mr. Barrigar has made many presentations at the local and state levels, and has presented numerous science in-service activities throughout the region and nation. He currently serves as science department chair at Elizabethton High School, and he has held numerous leadership positions in science organizations



Mr. Gary W. Barrigar (right) and Tennessee Academy of Science President-elect Dr. Jack Rhoton.

including Upper East Tennessee Director of the Science League, and Director of the Roan Mountain Fall Naturalists' Rally. Moreover, a grant for a summer institute at the University of California at Berkeley allowed him to prepare curriculum materials for Global System Science, a new approach to environmental education.

Mr. Barrigar is truly an award-winning teacher. He is the recipient of the Tennessee Department of Conservation's Gold Star Excellence Award; Teacher of the Year for the Tennessee Valley Authority Student Water Quality Monitoring Network; Elizabethton City Teacher of the Year Award and District Teacher of the Year Award; Conservation Educator of the Year Award from the Tennessee Conservation League; East Tennessee Regional Teacher of the Year Award from the Tennessee Environmental Education Association; and Carter County Teacher of the Year Award.