

126th Meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science

19 November 2016

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee

The annual meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) was held at Austin Peay State University on 19 November 2016 with President Fred Matthews presiding. President-Elect Dan Swartling served as the Program Chairperson, and Past President Gilbert Pitts as the Local Arrangements Coordinator. Steven Murphree served as acting Annual Meeting Coordinator. The meeting opened with registration and poster set up in the Sundquist Science Complex Atrium E106 and lobby. The annual business meeting was held in the Charles Bruno Lecture Hall of the Sundquist Science Complex from 10:00 AM until 10:30 AM followed by presentation of the Distinguished Secondary School Science Teacher Award to Barry Farris. The award presentation was made by Director of the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science, Dr. Preston MacDougall. Attendees were welcomed by Dr. Jaime R. Taylor, Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Austin Peay State University. President Matthews introduced the plenary speaker, Dr. Carmelo J. Rizzo of the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Vanderbilt University. The presentation was titled “DNA Damage: A Key Event in Carcinogenesis and Cancer Chemotherapy.” Academy members enjoyed boxed lunches in the Sundquist Science Complex Atrium. Afternoon technical sessions followed in the Sundquist Science Complex.

Annual Business Meeting

19 November 2016

Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) President Fred Matthews called the annual business, and 126th meeting of the TAS to order at 10:04 AM in the Charles Bruno Lecture Hall of the Sundquist Science Complex on the campus of Austin Peay State University, and offered greetings to all in attendance. President Matthews thanked Austin Peay State University for hosting the meeting, and commended local arrangements chair Gilbert Pitts for the great job organizing the meeting. A motion was made by Cindi Smith-Walters to suspend the reading of the minutes from the 2015 meeting. Charles McGhee seconded, and the motion carried.

Managing Editor Rachel Rigsby reported that *The Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science (JTAS)* issue 91:1–2 was published in June, and that everyone should have received a call for papers in their registration folder. Managing Editor Rigsby encouraged members to consider submitting a paper for review. She also announced that *The Journal* was looking for reviewers, and an assistant editor. Gore Erwin made a motion to accept

the report of the Managing Editor. Martin Stewart seconded the motion.

Collegiate Division Director Fred Matthews announced the location of the 2017 Collegiate Division meetings. The Eastern Division meeting will be held at Mississippi State in April. The Middle Division meeting will be held at Belmont University, but a coordinator is needed. Information will be posted on the website regarding the Western Division meeting.

Treasurer Steve Murphree provided a summary of the treasurer’s report (published in full in the 18 November 2016 Executive Committee minutes) and indicated current total holdings (as of November 2016) of \$258,776 with an income of \$47,181 in the 2015–2016 fiscal year, and expenses of \$48,187. Treasurer Murphree noted that there are currently over 500 members in the Academy and the most significant expenditures are for printing of the *Journal* and funding the Junior Academy. Treasurer Murphree provided copies of the treasurer’s report to those requesting, and offered to answer any questions. He reminded members that an informal audit is conducted each year by accounting students under the direction of Belmont Professor Thomas Wooten for a donation of \$50.00. A motion was made by Tony Johnston and seconded by Cindi Smith-Walters to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion carried.

Junior Academy Director Preston MacDougall announced that the Junior Academy had an excellent meeting at Belmont University on 15 April 2016. Director MacDougall thanked all judges: Carmen Greenberg, Joel Harp, and Gore Erwin. Director MacDougall noted that Bearden High School of Knoxville was a first time participant in the meeting. The winners of the competition were: William Levi Rousell from Hillsboro High School; Naureen Azeez, Duncan Broadie, Kenneth Liao & Vamsi Subraveti from the School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt; and Vinila Baljepally from Bearden High School in Knoxville. All have expressed interest in presenting at the American Junior Academy of Science meeting to be held in Boston in 2017 and TAS has offered some financial support to those students. The 2017 TJAS meeting will be held on Friday 21 April 2017 and will be the 75th anniversary of the Junior Academy. Director MacDougall also announced the awarding of a research grant to a student from Kingsport to purchase a stratospheric balloon to study atmospheric methane.

A motion to accept new members was made by Allyn Smith and seconded by Stephen Wright. The motion passed with no opposition, and names of new members from 2016 will be published in the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*.

Chair of the Fellows Committee Charles McGhee presented a nomination for Dr. Gilbert Pitts to be considered as a Fellow of the Academy. Dr. Gilbert Pitts is a professor of Biology at Austin Peay State University and served as President of the Academy in 2015. Dr. Pitts has served as Director of Electronic Communications, Section Chair, and has chaired numerous committees. Membership provided unanimous acceptance of the nomination followed by applause.

Chair of the Necrology Committee Dr. Martin Stewart submitted the 2016 necrology report. Dr. Harvey F. Blanck died in May 2016. Dr. Blanck received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University and in 1964 joined the faculty of APSU, teaching instrumental analysis as well as general physical and analytical chemistry. Dr. Blanck's research interests included physical and theoretical chemistry and chemical education. He was especially noted for science demonstrations with original apparatus built in his home workshop. Dr. Thomas E. Hemmerly died in February 2016. Dr. Hemmerly received his Ph.D. in plant ecology at Vanderbilt under Professor Elsie Quarterman and studied the Tennessee cone flower. He came to MTSU in 1964. He retired in 2007, but continued as an adjunct. Dr. Hemmerly taught general studies biology, botany, and a series of special topic courses. Dr. Hemmerly was the author of many papers and books including *Wildflowers of the Central South*, *Appalachian Wildflowers*, and *Wildflowers of Tennessee*. Parris F. Powers died in July 2016. He was a graduate of Tennessee State University and joined the faculty at Volunteer State Community College where he remained for 25 years. He was an outstanding educator, and students from across the country have positive remembrances of his teaching, mentoring and study abroad trips. For the past 15 years he organized the annual Volunteer State Science and Math Expo involving hundreds of secondary school student in hands-on science and math activities. The Academy observed a moment of silence to acknowledge the passing of these members.

Resolutions Chairperson Preston MacDougall read the Resolution of Appreciation as follows:

Whereas, the Tennessee Academy of Science is enjoying the most pleasant, profitable, and well-organized series of meetings at Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN, and

Whereas, the success of these meetings has resulted mainly from the efforts of the Chairs of the respective sections; the Local Arrangements Committee Chair, Gilbert Pitts; Program

Chair and President-elect Daniel Swartling; Local Arrangements Committee Daina Hunter, Don Dailey, Amy Thompson, Fred Matthews, Colleen White, Tri Beta Clubs, The Pre-Professional Health Society, Acting Meeting Coordinator Steve Murphree; the 2016 TAS officers and Executive Committee, and from the recognition given the meetings by the local media and from the gracious hospitality of the host university,

Be it resolved, therefore, that the Tennessee Academy of Science expresses its sincere appreciation to these and all others who contributed to the success of the meetings.

Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee Gilbert Pitts submitted the following slate of officers for 2016: President-Elect Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn from The University of Tennessee at Martin, Secretary Teresa Fulcher, and Treasurer Steve Murphree. No additional nominations were submitted from the membership. Steven Wright made a motion to accept the slate of officers. The motion was seconded by Martin Stewart and the motion carried.

Junior Academy of Science Director Preston MacDougall announced the recipient of the 2016 distinguished teaching award, Barry Farris. Barry Farris received his M.S. and D.A in Chemistry from MTSU based on research in synthetic organometallic Chemistry He is in his 37th year of teaching at Columbia Academy in Maury County, TN and has been very active in service activities the benefit secondary science education He currently serves as the treasurer for the Tennessee Science Teachers Association. Dr. Farris will received a plaque and \$500.00.

President Fred Matthews announced that the 2017 meeting will be at The University of Tennessee at Martin with Dr. Allyn Smith serving as the Annual Meeting Coordinator. President Matthews thanked Treasurer Murphree for serving as the interim Annual Meeting Coordinator. To close the meeting President Matthews presented the Past President's plaque to Gilbert Pitts for his service as President in 2015 and entertained adjournment. President Fred Matthews adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM CST.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa L. Fulcher
Secretary, TAS
Pellissippi State Community College