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PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE FOR 1989

Dr. Bernard W. Benson is a UC Foundation Professor of Education at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He is director of the Center for Environmental/Energy/Science Education and teaches in the departments of Curriculum and Instruction and Environmental Studies.

Dr. Benson was raised in Chicago, Illinois and attended the University of Illinois' Chicago campus before transferring to Northern Illinois University where he received a B.S. degree in biology in 1962. After completing a year in residence as a naturalist at NIU's Lorado Taft Field Campus, he moved with his wife Marilyn to Rock Falls, Illinois, where he spent three years teaching biology and advanced biology. His research interests while pursuing his M.S. degree at NIU focused on fungal cytology and genetics, although he reminisces more often about his many field experiences while in that area rather than on the countless hours spent in microscopic studies.

The Benson family moved to Iowa City in 1966, where Dr. Benson entered the Ph.D. program in science education and botany. They thoroughly enjoyed their three and a half years in the rolling hill country around Iowa City but left for Chattanooga and UTC in the middle of a January blizzard. The Benson's third child was born within three weeks of their move. Now almost twenty years later they still reside in the Chattanooga area. Marilyn is associate director of Records at UTC. Daughters Traci and Janette have finished college and son Wayne is a freshman majoring in industrial engineering at UTK.

Dr. Benson's current research interests center around the applications of laser disc technology to science instruction and the development of interactive courseware and desktop published materials for science instruction. His largest ongoing project through the Environmental Education Center is the TVA Water Quality Monitoring Network which involves over 30 teachers and their students in water quality monitoring studies and related instructional activities. This project creates a vital link between classroom teachers and professionals in the area of water quality.



Bernard Benson with laser disc. Such discs are visual data bases containing 54,000 images per side.

For several years Dr. Benson directed the academy's Visiting Scientist Program and continues to serve on the *Journal's* editorial staff. He has been president of the Science Association of Tennessee and has recently served as a consultant to the Special Projects Division of ORAU and The Educational Testing Service.

The Bensons are avid square and round dancers. However, she does not fish and he does not quilt. Dr. Benson is now serving as junior warden of Hixson Masonic Lodge.