

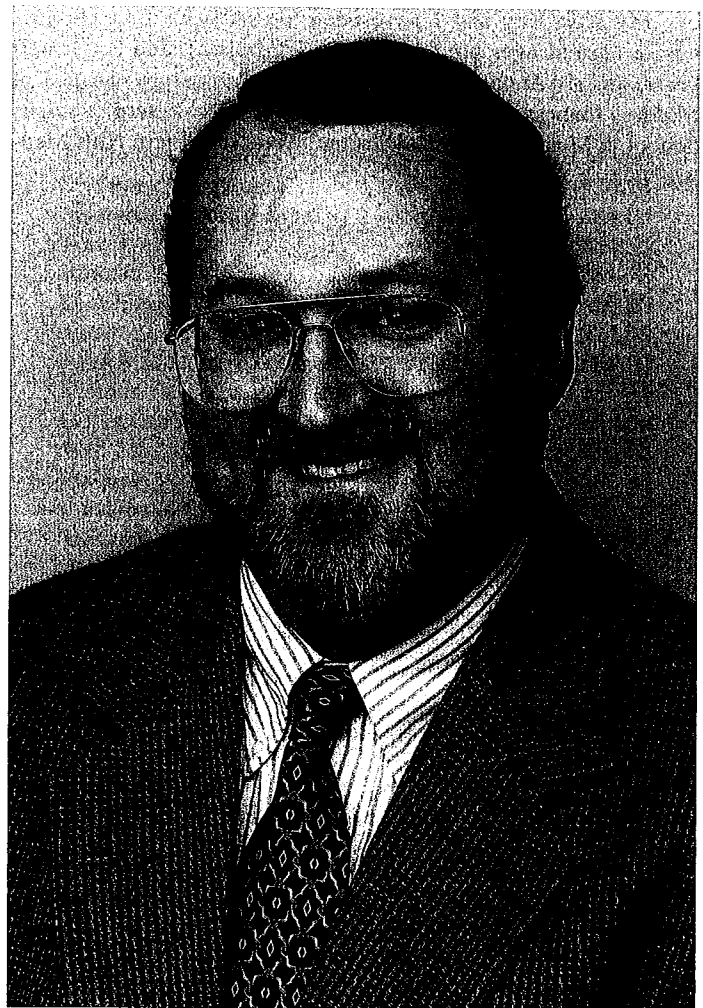
PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE FOR 1999

In this column I continue the tradition, which new presidents of the Tennessee Academy of Science have had of introducing themselves to the membership with a short biography. I grew up in rural Bedford County, Tennessee and attended Community School in Unionville. I am proud of this institution, which is still K-12, and have served as president of the alumni association for the past three years. My participation in school and county science fairs, 4-H Club activities and later the influence of an outstanding biology teacher, Mrs. Jane Jacobson, eventually led me to a career in science. In addition, my childhood explorations of my father's farm led to insect collections and to my specialization in entomology.

I completed a Bachelor of Science degree in 1981 and a Master of Science degree in 1984, both in Biology at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). My Doctor of Philosophy degree in Entomology was earned at Auburn University in 1990. My major professors, Dr. Charles R. McGhee at MTSU and Dr. Gary R. Mullen at Auburn, both were sources of encouragement and continue to serve as role models in my teaching, research, and relationships with students. I also consider my experiences in summer field biology courses at Tech Aqua Biological Station near Smithville as being the deciding factor regarding doctoral study. My work with Extension Specialists like Dr. Patricia P. Cobb at the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service while a doctoral student at Auburn (1986-91) also prepared me for my role in working with the public and the media concerning their questions about insects.

I am currently associate professor of biology at Belmont University. Since joining the Belmont faculty in 1991, I have taught both freshman and upper level biology courses and graduate science education courses. My professional interests have concentrated on invertebrate zoology, with published papers and paper/poster presentations focusing on morphology and taxonomy of daddy longlegs (MTSU) and biting midges (Auburn). I consider myself to be a medical-veterinary entomologist with broad interests in entomology and science education. I also have an interest in the history of biology/entomology and presented a paper about my 1995 studies abroad course in the Academy's History of Science section. I have advised a number of biology students who have conducted undergraduate research and presented their findings at the annual Belmont Undergraduate Research Symposium. I have served as advisor for our Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society chapter since 1992. Since 1996 I have done contract work with Dow AgroSciences investigating methods for termite control. In 1993 I became campus-recycling coordinator and have been encouraged by the growth of the program and through interaction with students, faculty and staff. It was a privilege to be a part of Belmont's recognition as the 1998 recipient of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Stewardship in Higher Education, Internal Achievement Award.

In addition to teaching, research and committee service at Belmont University, I have served on the Executive Board of the



Dr. C. Steven Murphee

Tennessee Entomological Society (TES) since 1992 and was TES president in 1998. I am a member of the Entomological Society of America and the Association of Southeastern Biologists. I also have served as a member of Meharry Medical College's Animal Care and Use Committee since 1992. In 1995 I hosted the annual Biting Fly Workshop in Pleasantville. I also was a member of the local arrangements committee for the Entomological Society of America's 1997 annual meeting in Nashville. In 1995 I served on an American Veterinary Medical Association Site Visit Accreditation Team in Columbia.

As a Belmont University faculty member I have visited many classrooms and presented various insect/spider presentations in Davidson and surrounding counties. I also have assisted in judging several science fairs in this area. I enjoy interacting with children, parents, and educators about insects. I have taught a summer insect course, "Beetles, Bugs and Butterflies", at Belmont since 1992, and have assisted staff members at Warner

Parks Nature Center in educating children and adults about insects since 1994.

I have been a member of the Tennessee Academy of Science since joining as a graduate student at MTSU. I have published in the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*, presented oral papers, served on the Membership committee and chaired the Zoology Section. In 1996 I became an Executive Committee member as Tennessee Academy of Science Meeting Coordinator.

My wife Kay and I have been blessed with four children whose current ages are 9 (Steven), 7 (Melissa), and 3 (Daniel) years, and 4 (Anna) weeks. Steven and Melissa are enrolled in Middle Tennessee State University's Homer Pittard Campus School in Murfreesboro. Kay is employed at Southern Hills Med-

ical Center in Nashville as a registered nurse. She holds a B.S.N. degree from the University of Tennessee, Memphis. Kay and I are members of First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro and are active as leaders in missions' organizations and teachers in the Sunday school children's choir programs. In addition to my involvement with the Community School Alumni Association, I have served as commander of Murfreesboro Camp 33 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans since 1997. My hobbies include photography and genealogical research.

It is an honor to serve as president of the Tennessee Academy of Science and to work with dedicated Executive Committee members, chairs of standing committees, and all Academy members in the important work of promoting the goals of the Tennessee Academy of Science in our state.