

DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY SCIENTIST AWARD: 1999

MARION R. WELLS, PHD

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Dr. Marion R. Wells, Professor of Biology at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) was the recipient of the 1999 Tennessee Academy of Science Distinguished College/University Scientist Award. The award was established in 1996 by the Tennessee Academy of Science as a means of recognizing those individuals who have made significant contributions to both science teaching and particularly academic research in Tennessee, to the extent that both the quality of life and intellectual growth in Tennessee have been improved. A plaque denoting the award was presented to Dr. Wells on November 20, 1999 during the Tennessee Academy of Science 109th annual meeting in Memphis (University of Tennessee, Memphis).

Dr. Wells received both the BS and MS degrees from Memphis State University, and the PhD from Mississippi State University. Although his professional career began at Troy State University in Alabama, he has been an active member of the MTSU Biology Department since 1964. He attained the rank of Professor of Biology in 1976, and served for three years (1992-1995) as the MTSU Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. He was named a Fellow of the Tennessee Academy of Science in 1985.

Dr. Wells' classroom teaching skills and effectiveness are well recognized by both students and faculty. His receipt of a number of prestigious awards including the MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award evidences this recognition. The ability to evoke thought and questioning in the classroom exemplifies Dr. Wells' ability as a graduate student mentor. His contributions as major professor on almost thirty MS theses clearly illustrates his sense of contribution and his ability to teach, guide, and direct individuals in scholarly endeavors. Perhaps more importantly, al-

most half of these students have gone-on to receive advanced degrees and/or professional training, and most have, and will continue to contribute to academic growth in the state and nation through ongoing contributions in teaching and/or research.

In addition to his outstanding record as a graduate student advisor, Dr. Wells also is a highly productive investigator and scholar. His impressive bibliography includes over thirty peer-reviewed publications and approximately forty presentations at regional and national scientific meetings. Specific recognition of his contributions to research includes his receipt of the MTSU Foundation Award for Outstanding Research, and establishment of the Marion R. Wells Summer Research Scholarship in Biology. Additional scholarly pursuits include both publishing and editing of textbooks and continual development of a series of successful laboratory manuals. He has to his credit the publication of eight Laboratory Manuals in Biology, and has provided questions in cell biology and biochemistry for the Graduate Record Exam.

Dr. Wells also has an exemplary record of Public Service. As an industrial consultant for nearly one hundred Tennessee firms, twenty-eight firms in fourteen states outside of Tennessee, and industries in five foreign countries, his service has clearly enhanced industrial development within the state and region. Further recognitions include his listing in: Outstanding Educators of America, American Men of Science, Who's Who in Ecology, Who's Who in Science and Engineering, and Who's Who in America and in the World. Review of Dr. Wells' career clearly demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the advancement of students, faculty, and overall scientific growth in the state.