

KELLY



J. Padgett Kelly Research Scholarship

This award was established with funds from the recycling program and first awarded in 2007.

MTSU Biology faculty: 1991-2015

Dr. Padgett Kelly received his B.S., 1967, and M.S., 1970 from MTSU and his Ph.D. in 1975 from Mississippi State University.

Dr. Kelly taught the non-majors Biology course, the old Zoology course, and Biology for Elementary Teachers. He also taught Biome Analysis during summers in the Florida Keys and spring breaks in Maui. The most enjoyable part of his job was working with pre-service teachers in the Biology for Elementary Teachers course. His students credit him with turning them on to biology just like his mentors did for him. Global warming and other environmental pressures make it imperative that teachers be well-informed and excited to teach environmental biology, and Padgett devoted his career to that mission.

Before being hired by MTSU, Dr. Kelly was the state director of conservation education in Tennessee, in which capacity he founded Project C.E.N.T.S. (Conservation Education Now for Tennessee Students).

Padgett was co-director of the MTSU Center for Environmental Education (CEE). In this capacity, he presented numerous workshops for both teachers and students, most notably with the assistance of a 68-foot-long, inflatable humpback whale. He estimates he has given over 250 whale presentations to more than 200,000 high school students. During his time at Project C.E.N.T.S. and the CEE, he presented workshops to more than 30,000 teachers. Dr. Kelly's work with environmental education garnered him several local and national awards.