

WISER



C. W. Wisner Medical/Allied Health Award and Scholarship

MTSU Biology faculty: 1956-1995

The last of the 1960 'founding' departmental faculty to retire.

This award was established with recycling program funds and first awarded in 1985.

Dr. C. Wymer Wisner received a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry at Harding College in Searcy, Ark., earned his M.A. degree in biology at Peabody College in 1946 and completed his Ph.D. at Vanderbilt in 1956.

Dr. Wisner devoted the greater part of his professional life to Middle Tennessee State College (and University). He developed and taught many courses including modern biology, physiology, embryology, radiation biology, and aquatic ecology. Although his doctoral specialty was limnology, his greatest contributions as a teacher were in embryology and physiology. In order to help students cope with large amounts of information in embryology, he effectively used an audio-tutorial approach in the laboratory. His courses were characterized by well-organized lectures that were often punctuated by jokes and puns. Students enjoyed his classes despite the heavy workload and his high expectations for performance.

He contributed to the Graduate Committee, the Social Committee, and the Pre-Professional Advisory Committee. He was an advisor for medical technology students, biology majors and Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society.

He most enjoyed seeing students develop and grow during their time at MTSU and then moving on to professional schools and into careers. Many of his former students returned to MTSU to serve on the faculty, including Gerald Parchment, Ralph Sharp, Patrick Doyle, Eugene Strobel, and Jim Kemp. Drs. Bob McGhee, Sarah Barlow, Padgett Kelly, Gore Ervin, and Kim Sadler were all former students of Dr. Wisner. Other former students include several science and math teachers in Rutherford County schools and elsewhere, including several at colleges and universities throughout Tennessee and the U.S. He mentored a brother and a nephew, who, along with many other students, went on to become physicians and dentists, many practicing here in Murfreesboro.