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NEW PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE FOR 1979

James Dante Caponetti was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on March 15, 1932. He received his primary and secondary education in the public schools of Boston. He graduated from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Boston, with a B.S. degree in 1954. An interest in the morphology of medicinal plants led to a M.S. degree in 1956. A continued interest in plant morphology led to A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in Biology at Harvard University in 1959 and 1962 respectively. His doctoral dissertation was on the developmental morphology of cinnamon fern leaves in sterile tissue culture. While attending graduate school, he was employed part-time as a Registered Pharmacist in two Boston area pharmacies, and was a teaching assistant in laboratory courses of general botany and zoology, pharmacognosy, plant morphology, economic botany, and parasitology. He has retained licensure as a Registered Pharmacist in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is also a Registered Pharmacist in the state of Tennessee.

Dr. Caponetti has been associated with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, since Fall Quarter, 1961, as Assistant Professor of Botany until 1971, and as Associate Professor of Botany to the present time. He has taught and still teaches many courses concerned with developmental plant morphology, plant tissue culture, and economic botany. On the administrative side, he has served on many committees in the Botany Department and chaired several; the most recent being chairperson of the Graduate Committee and Coordinator of Graduate Studies. Service to the university has included Pre-Pharmacy advising in various capacities, and member of the Advisory Committee for the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium.

Dr. Caponetti's research interests have centered around the developmental morphology and propagation of ferns and woody ornamental plants in sterile tissue culture. He has publications in several international botanical journals. In his spare time, he has presented occasional lectures on poisonous and medicinal plants to local civic and garden clubs.

Dr. Caponetti is a member of many botanical and biological societies including the Tennessee Academy of Science of which he is a Fellow and has served as Secretary from 1966 to 1977, Botany Editor for the Journal since 1967, President-Elect in 1978, President



in 1979, and member of the Executive Committee during all tenures of office. He is also member and Treasurer of the American Fern Society, member and Secretary-Treasurer of the Pteridological Section of the Botanical Society of America, member and Fellow of A.A.A.S., and a member of Sigma Xi.

Dr. Caponetti is a member of St. John Neumann Catholic Church of the Nashville Diocese. He was appointed Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist by the Bishop of the Diocese and served on the Parish Council of St. John Neumann Parish as Chairman of the Administration Committee during 1978.

He was married to Marilyn Messieri on June 18, 1966. They have two children: Ann Marie and James Michael. Ann Marie is in the Kindergarten at Cedar Bluff Primary School, and 10-month-old James Michael is still at home.