

DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY SCIENTIST AWARD

ELSIE QUARTERMAN, PHD

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

The Tennessee Academy of Science honored Vanderbilt University Professor Emeritus Dr. Elsie Quarterman as the 2003 Distinguished College/University Scientist Award recipient. Dr. Quarterman's many contributions were recognized and she was awarded a plaque at the awards breakfast during the November 2003 joint meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science and the Tennessee Science Teachers Association held at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Conference Center in Franklin, Tennessee. The Distinguished College/University Scientist Award was es-



Dr. Elsie Quarterman (center), Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) Distinguished College/University Scientist Award recipient accepts congratulations from former students TAS member Dr. Tom Hemmerly and TAS secretary Ms. Sarah Swain.

tablished to recognize Academy members who have made significant contributions to science teaching and academic research in Tennessee.

As Professor of Biology at Vanderbilt University, Dr. Quarterman became renowned for her contributions to the study and protection of cedar glade ecosystems, common in Middle Tennessee. Together with her colleague, the late Dr. Catherine Keever, her field studies have resulted in a new interpretation of the forests of the Coastal Plain region of the southeastern United States. In addition to her own research, one of her greatest contributions may be the dozen or so doctoral students she mentored, many of whom have served as Professors of Biology across the Southeast and continue to conduct studies on plants of the cedar glades. Based on the research conducted by Dr. Quarterman and continued by her students, there has emerged an increased awareness of the glades as ecosystems of global significance. The recent establishment of a Center for Cedar Glade Studies at Middle Tennessee State University represents an important part of her legacy.

Dr. Quarterman's work also has significantly impacted both public and governmental policies regarding land use in Tennessee. For example, her studies were instrumental in promoting the acquisition of land protecting unique Tennessee natural areas including the Radnor Lake area near Nashville and the Savage Gulf area on the Cumberland Plateau.

A long-time Tennessee Academy of Science member, Dr. Quarterman has made numerous contributions, including papers presented, publications and other efforts on behalf of the Academy. Dr. Quarterman retired from her long and distinguished academic career as Professor of Biology at Vanderbilt University in 1976. Since her retirement, she has continued to be active in environmental causes. Of special note is her volunteer work with the Tennessee Nature Conservancy.