

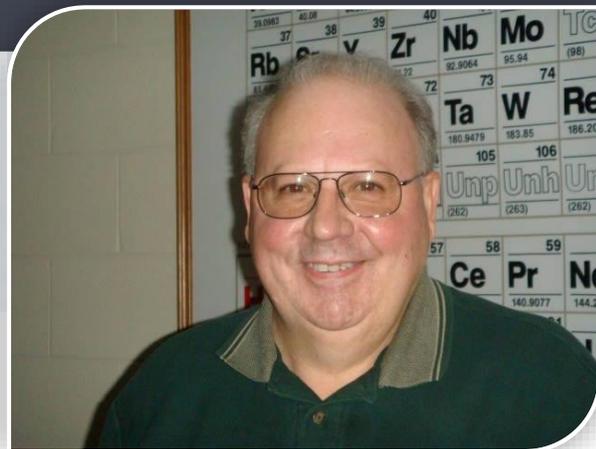
STEM SPOTLIGHT

Gary Mansfield

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Mr. Mansfield has also received certification in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) from the U.S. Department of Labor. He is a Certified Safety Manager in the Science Area from The University of Memphis and TOSHA. He received The Outstanding Scientific Materials Manager of the Year Award presented by the National Association of Scientific Materials Manager (NAOSMM) in 1988 and the Outstanding Staff Member Service Award from the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences in 2005.



Pictures from the NAOSMM Meeting in 2013.



Q How did you select your college major?

A I was at UT Martin as a full-time lab tech for the Chemistry Department in 1968. I completed one year of college in 1964, but then the love bug bit me and I dropped out. In order to support my family I got a job here at the UT Martin, where I realized how much an education would benefit me in the future. I took advantage of the benefit the university gave employees to take classes at half price. I worked 40 hours a week, worked a part-time masonry job, and took as many classes the university would allow (6 credit hours per semester).

Q What was the biggest influence in your selection of a major/career?

A My department chair at the time did not enjoy the budgeting, financial accounting, and business aspect of running a department. She told me if I would take some business and accounting courses she would add that to my job description. I loved math so I agreed.

Q If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

A More math and history.

Q What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A Dealing with people. I really enjoy being around young folks. I feel it helps me stay younger. I love the instruction portion of my job and training the young folks to mature and be responsible.

Q How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?

A Being examples before the students, teaching them responsibility, helping them to grow up and give them experiences to help prepare for the real, outside world.

Q What's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your professional career?

A Belonging to a national organization where I meet individuals from all over the country. These individuals are from the business side of the science world as well as academics. The most interesting thing is to realize that many of these have the same problems that I do.



Q What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

A There are many parts of my job that is the same day after day; however, there are other parts that are new and different every day. I get excited about the possibility of meeting and dealing with students who may be my doctor, lawyer, or a person who may cure cancer one day.

Q What advice would you share with K-12 students who are considering your profession?

A Take a wide range of courses in order to experience as many different fields of interest as possible. Prepare yourself for any direction. You never know what may interest you down the road. You have plenty of time to choose a direction in the college years if you are well prepared with excellent base subjects.

