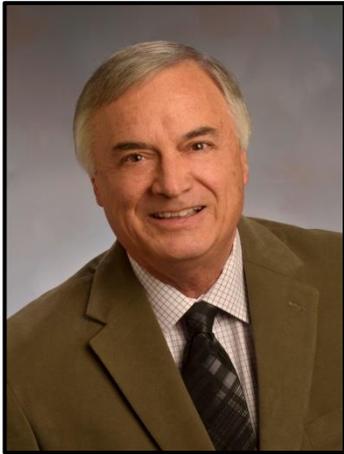


## 2013 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Professor of the Year Dr. Harry (Hap) McSween, University of Tennessee



Dr. Harry (Hap) McSween is Chancellor's Professor and Distinguished Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He has spent the entirety of the thirty-five years of his professional career as a member of the University of Tennessee's geoscience faculty, but his research spans the solar system.

Since 1978 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has continuously funded Dr. McSween's research. He participated in NASA spacecraft missions in 1997 as a member of the science team for the Mars Pathfinder rover and later for the Mars Global Surveyor. Additionally, he serves as a co-investigator for the Mars Odyssey spacecraft, which is mapping the mineralogy and chemistry of the Martian surface from orbit.

Dr. McSween's research focuses specifically on analyses of meteorites and measurements of rocks and soils on other planets using spacecraft remote sensing. It constitutes an essential part of planetary exploration, allowing him to have actively participated as a co-investigator in five successful spacecraft missions to Mars and asteroids. His work integrates aspects of geology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. And in 2001 he became namesake for asteroid 5223 McSween, an honor bestowed on him by the International Astronomical Union.

Professor McSween has written six books, including *Cosmochemistry* (Cambridge Press, 2010), the only textbook in this emerging field, *Fanfare for Earth: The Origin of Planets and Life* (St. Martin's Press 1997), and *Geochemistry: Pathways and Processes* (Prentice-Hall, 1989). Additionally, he has written 265 peer-reviewed papers, and is a widely sought-after speaker. One measure of the significance of his research is the 34 papers he has authored or co-authored in *Science* and *Nature*, the world's gold standard for scientific publication.

Dr. McSween's list of honors and recognitions is extensive. He has been awarded the Leonard Medal of the Meteoritical Society and the J. Lawrence Smith Medal of the National Academy of Sciences, where he was described as the most important meteorite researcher alive today. He was named the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences' best teacher six times by Tennessee students, and the University has recognized his teaching with the Alexander Prize, one of the University's highest awards.

Throughout his time on Rocky Top, Dr. McSween has served at all levels of the university, including department head and dean of the UT College of Arts and Sciences. He has been a lecturer for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Sciences, mentor in UT's GTA Mentoring program, and tutor for a number of College Scholars and visiting international students. He has also been a visiting professor at the California Institute of Technology (Cal Tech) and the University of Hawaii.

Dr. McSween is a graduate of The Citadel (Chemistry, 1967), University of Georgia (MS, Geology, 1969), and Harvard University (PhD, Geology, 1974). He was a U.S. Air Force pilot during the Vietnam era.  
[Read more about Dr. McSween.](#)