

## 'Muddy Boots' — Henry, Hardin, Revis recognized at ETEC luncheon

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OAK RIDGE, Tenn. —



After moving to East Tennessee, New Jersey native Nathaniel Revis 'served on almost every economic development board in the region,' including the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce, the Knoxville Chamber, the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET), Nine Counties/One Vision and the East Tennessee Economic Council (ETEC). He also served on the board of Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge and has been a member of the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge since 1986.

**Photos: Scott Fraker/Staff**

Nat Revis , the president and senior scientist of Scientific and Technical Resources Inc., and Helen Hardin, who has served for the past 16 years as U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp's chief of staff, are the recipients of the 2010 Muddy Boot awards, "a tribute to the individuals who make East Tennessee a stronger region through their work and community activities."

Additionally, WSI Oak Ridge (formerly Wackenhut) public affairs manager Courtney Henry has been named the 2010 Postma Young Professional Medal winner.

The Postma Medal was created by the East Tennessee Economic Council, commonly referred to as ETEC, to honor the accomplishments of young professionals who have made an impact and fostered a community culture in the region. Pat Postma, wife of the late Herman Postma, a former director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, presented the award during a Friday luncheon that drew about 260 attendees to the DoubleTree Hotel.

Postma stated she was "awestruck" by the community engagement of this year's recognized young professional -- with ETEC officials noting Henry has served on the board of United Way of Anderson County, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of East Tennessee, the Junior League of Knoxville and the Breakfast Rotary Club of Oak Ridge.

She has also co-chaired the popular "Go Red for Women Anderson County" event for the American Heart Association, as well as participated in the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce "Chamber Connectors" group and ETEC's own Member Services Committee.

"A part of Oak Ridge since before she graduated from college," Henry interned at the East Tennessee Technology Park, Y-12 National Security Complex and ORNL while a College of Communications student at the University of Tennessee. Shortly after graduation, she joined AkinsCrisp Public Strategies and then joined WSI Oak Ridge in 2006.

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Jan McNally of Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge's parent company, Covenant Health, and outgoing Third District Congressman Wamp presented this year's Muddy Boot awards to Revis and Hardin, respectively.

Revis, described by McNally as a "distinguished scientist, entrepreneur and businessman," gave credit for his success to "partners" such as ORNL, Y-12, local banking institutions and "the Oak

Ridge community."

A native of New Jersey, Revis came to Oak Ridge in 1975 after completing his Ph.D. in biochemistry and teaching at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. He arrived in East Tennessee with a joint appointment on the faculty at UT and ORNL in biomedical sciences.

The holder of three patents and the author of more than 50 scientific and technical papers, Revis left ORNL in 1981 to start his first company, Oak Ridge Realty Holdings Inc., and started Scientific and Technical Resources several years later. Both companies are still active in Oak Ridge today, and Scientific and Technical Resources has won the Small Business Administration's "Administration Award of Excellence" four times: in 1985, 1992, 1995 and 2001.

However, an ETEC release stated that Revis "is best known for his work in the community -- as well as at the regional, state and national level -- advocating for business, education, and quality health care."

In naming Hardin as the recipient of Friday's second Muddy Boot, Wamp applauded his veteran chief of staff for "giving much more than she takes."

"She is a woman of deep personal faith and high moral character," the congressman stated. "She has been a public servant on the highest level."

For her part, Hardin thanked those in attendance for allowing her to work with "an extraordinary member of Congress" -- and for allowing her to tell Oak Ridge's story for the better part of 20 years. "I really feel the last 16 years were the award and the gift," she remarked.

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In 1973, the founders of the East Tennessee Economic Council (then known as the Roane Anderson Economic Council) created the Muddy Boot award "to reflect the efforts of the Manhattan Project founders of Oak Ridge, who worked through adverse conditions ... sometimes actual rivers of mud ... to build this community."

Each year thereafter, ETEC has honored "those who've continued to help build and booster the community's economic base."

The keynote speaker at Friday's standing-room-only event was Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, who was introduced by current ORNL Director Thom Mason.

Before formally addressing the Muddy Boot program's attendees, the governor, a Democrat, scanned the audience looking for Congressman Wamp, a Republican, and then wryly remarked: "Zach's on my left ... that's unusual."

Despite the good-natured political jab, Bredesen's remarks during his keynote address focused on how "working partnerships" scattered throughout the state inevitably help the entire state as a whole.

Whether individual interests may normally lean Democrat or Republican, state or federal, union or business ... "it pays to bring a lot of people to the table," said the outgoing governor, citing Tennessee's recent successful national bid for "Race to the Top" educational funding as an example of how a joint effort can bring victory to the educational and economic needs of the Volunteer State.

"What they saw wasn't Phil Bredesen's plan, but something grounded in all the communities across the state," he said.

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