



## In Good Company

### Sorensen Named an AAAS Fellow

January 12, 2011



Dr. Soren Sorensen, Professor and Head, has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He joins UTK Physics Professors Robert Compton, Elbio Dagotto, and Witek Nazarewicz, who were elected last year.

Sorensen's research field is experimental nuclear physics, specifically relativistic heavy ion physics, or RHIP. His UTK group is active at [PHENIX](#) (the Pioneering High Energy Nuclear Interaction eXperiment), a detector designed to investigate high energy collisions of heavy ions and protons at Brookhaven National Laboratory; and [ALICE](#) (A Large Ion Collider Experiment) based at CERN. He has been head of the physics department since October 2000.

Sorensen's fellowship citation is for "distinguished contributions to the field of relativistic heavy ion collisions, particularly for systematic studies of transverse energy production, and to academic leadership and public service." He is one of [eight UTK professors elected to the 2010 class of fellows](#), who will be presented with an official certificate on February 19 at the 2011 AAAS annual meeting in Washington, D.C. [Election as a Fellow of AAAS](#) is an honor bestowed upon members by their peers. Fellows are recognized for meritorious efforts to advance science or its applications.

Sorensen's election continues a storied legacy of University of Tennessee stalwarts who have combined scientific and academic leadership. [Brown Ayres](#), the University's president from 1904 to 1919 and for whom Ayres Hall is named, was also a physicist and a fellow of the AAAS.