October 9, 2004

Lance Lucas, CANCAS President
Dr. Karen Guzman, CANCAS Executive Director
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Dear CANCAS Members:

Greetings from the Executive Committee of the Collegiate Academy of the North Carolina Academy of Science (CANCAS). As we begin this academic year, we would like to encourage all of our current members, as well as prospective members, to attend this year’s Fall Research Workshop. Unlike the previous workshops, which were held at various institutions in North Carolina, we have decided to try something more innovative this year. We are very excited to announce that this year’s Fall Undergraduate Research Workshop will be held at the Sigma Xi Center in the Research Triangle Park on Saturday, November 6, 2004.

On Friday evening, November 5, the workshop will begin with an informal gathering at the Kanki restaurant in the Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh at 7 PM. If anyone would like to attend this function, please contact the CANCAS Historian, Colby Decker (v_ironfrenzy@hotmail.com). At the workshop, there will be some very informative presentations which will include: giving oral presentations using PowerPoint, data analysis, writing grant proposals, choosing research project topics, and research experiences from an undergraduate perspective given by the CANCAS Executive Officers. The keynote speaker for the workshop will be Dr. John Yukich from Davidson College. His presentation, Optical Tweezers: Shining Laser Physics on Cell Biology, will focus on an interdisciplinary project using optical tweezers to study the swimming force of the unicellular green algae, Chlamydomonas reinhardtii. After the presentations on Saturday, there will be a field trip to the Coker Arboretum in Chapel Hill, which will be free of charge.

In order to better serve the interests and needs of the members of CANCAS, the other members of the executive committee and I have met several times to discuss ways of improving CANCAS. Of the suggestions mentioned, some key initiatives for this year are to continue to improve opportunities available through CANCAS membership, and to increase participation in CANCAS. We hope to increase participation by improving our communication, by increasing awareness of CANCAS activities, by providing institutions with the new CANCAS News Notes, and through an updated contact information list. With the creation of the new CANCAS Corner website, we hope to keep members informed of upcoming events, too. Additionally, we are currently revising the CANCAS Handbook and constitution to improve its readability, ensure that most of the mentioned activities continue, enact stated goals and reduce overlap in the two documents.

For more information about the workshop and related events (e.g. directions to the Sigma Xi Center, the Coker Arboretum, and the Crabtree Valley Mall), see the links below. For your convenience a pre-registration form and CANCAS membership form are attached.
As scientists, we know how important research is to a student’s education. Learning material from a textbook is completely different from actually experiencing science through research. By participating in research activities, a student is able to experience real life situations and learn hands on experience, both of which are not taught in the classroom. Therefore, I encourage everyone to please share this information with your students and persuade them to participate in this year’s Fall Research Undergraduate Workshop and research related workshops in general in order to further their education. This year we will have some very interesting lectures and activities planned, and we would like everyone to be able to take advantage of this opportunity and take part in this year’s workshop. Thank you for your time and interest in science.

Sincerely,
Lance R. Lucas
President, CANCAS

Web Links to Important Information:
Fall Undergraduate Research Workshop Announcement/Flyer:
http://www.campbell.edu/faculty/guzman/WalkerBiol_page/Activities/CANCAS/Information/UpcomingEvents.html

CANCAS Corner Website:
http://members.aol.com/cancas1/

Directions to the Crabtree Valley-Mall:
http://www.crabtree-valley-mall.com/location/location.html

Directions to the Sigma Xi Center:
http://www.sigmaxi.org/about/center/directions.shtml

Directions to the Coker Arboretum:
http://www.ncbg.unc.edu/info.htm

Yahoo Maps list of area hotels:
http://maps.yahoo.com/maps_result?zoomin=yes&name=&bed=95G0B.p._0ToNYYkJO0hv.vzbanLPHM8xNER.AZQELlBvSWB_ztCTTSi6JAAm5t
ylHqBz4e19i9r9.WMD26i25y2k3rzol5zOvqg.XI8ay4oNhWb1Ra6dstate=NCbcsz=Durham%2C+NC+27709&ds=g&uzip=27709&mag=6&desc=
Bcountry=US&dma=560&cat=trav&resize=s&bzoom=1&.intl=us&compass=&pan_x=0&pan_y=0&BFkey=ho

Pertinent Dates:
Pre-registration forms are due for the Fall Research Workshop:
November 1, 2004

Fall Undergraduate Research Workshop:
November 5-6, 2004 at the Sigma Xi Center in Research Triangle Park

CANCAS/NCAS Membership Form Deadline:
November 15, 2004

CANCAS/NCAS Annual Meeting:
March 18-20, 2005 at Meredith College in Raleigh

Yarbrough Grant Deadline:
April 10, 2005
http://www.campbell.edu/faculty/guzman/WalkerBiol_page/Activities/CANCAS/Information/YarbroughGrantPg.html