November 13, 2005

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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. We are very excited to announce that this year’s Fall Undergraduate Research Workshop will be held in the McMichael Science Center at Elon University on Saturday, November 5, 2005.

At the workshop, there will be some very informative presentations which will include: “Beginning the Research Process,” “Ethical Issues in Scientific Research,” “Literature Searching in the Sciences,” “Asking Questions with Bioinformatics,” “Data Collection,” “Research Process in Organic Chemistry,” “Data Analysis,” “Answering Questions Using Model Systems,” “Dissemination of Research,” “Hypothesis Testing in Astrophysics” and a Student Panel Discussion on internship and research experiences. These sessions will be run by faculty and students from nine different institutions across North Carolina and will represent all major scientific disciplines. The sessions are divided into two tracks. The first track, moderated by Dr. Linda Niedziela, will take students through a chronological progression of the research process from getting involved in research all the way through presenting results. The second track, moderated by Dr. Matthew Clark, is a diverse selection of other topics which will enrich and inform student research experiences. Of course, it will be possible to go back and forth between tracks. After the presentations on Saturday, there will be the CANCAS business meeting followed by a social with refreshments.

For more information about the workshop and related events (e.g. directions to Elon University), see the links below. For your convenience a pre-registration form, a CANCAS membership form, and an advertisement flyer are attached.

Within the past year, the CANCAS Executive Committee has accomplished several goals, which we think will improve CANCAS by better serving the interests and needs of the members. One of the major tasks that the Executive Committee tackled recently was revising the CANCAS Handbook and Constitution. It was necessary to update the constitution and handbook to improve its readability, enact stated goals, reduce overlap in the two documents, and ensure that most of the mentioned activities would continue in the future. Since the handbook and constitution were last revised in 1998, a great deal of time was spent in revising and updating them. Additionally, both documents were put into an electronic format for the first time and are now available on the CANCAS website.

The Executive Committee has also revised the CANCAS membership form and the guidelines for the Yarbrough Grant. We have simplified the CANCAS membership form by making it more inclusive to accommodate numerous individuals and groups/clubs. We also modified the Yarbrough
Grant guidelines allowing funds to be disbursed to individuals for a summer research project rather than just for projects during the following academic school year.

Another major change that has occurred in CANCAS in the past year is the improvement of CANCAS communication. Since CANCAS is a state-wide organization, it is difficult to communicate with CANCAS members due to the distance separating the members. Some of the projects the Executive Committee has completed in order to enhance communication are the CANCAS website, and the CANCAS “NewsNotes,” a monthly newsletter sent to CANCAS members via email. These creative ideas have improved communication by keeping members up to date on current issues and activities of CANCAS.

One of the initiatives on which the Executive Committee is currently working is increasing participation in CANCAS. We hope to increase participation by updating and expanding our contact information list at the Fall Workshop and Annual North Carolina Academy of Science (NCAS) Meeting, and by inviting other academic institutions to become new members. Also, the Executive Committee hopes to invite the High School State Science Fair winners to present their work at the annual NCAS meeting as a way of encouraging them to become CANCAS members if they continue their education in North Carolina.

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 through 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 in order to further their education. This year we 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

**Pertinent Dates:**
Pre-registration forms are due for the Fall Research Workshop by **October 31, 2005** if you wish to pay $10. Individuals who do not mail a pre-registration form before this date can still register onsite at Elon on the day of the workshop; however, the cost will be $12.

CANCAS/NCAS Membership Form Deadline:
**November 15, 2005**
*Past due after January 15, 2006*

CANCAS/NCAS Annual Meeting:
**March 24-26, 2005** at Bennett College in Greensboro

Yarbrough Grant Deadline:
**April 10, 2006**

**Web Links to Important Information:**
CANCAS Corner Website:
[http://www.ncacadsci.org/cancas-web.htm](http://www.ncacadsci.org/cancas-web.htm)
Flyer, pre-registration form, and workshop program:
http://www.campbell.edu/faculty/guzman/WalkerBiol_page/Activities/CANCAS/Information/UpcomingEvents.html

Membership form:

Yarbrough Grant Information:
http://www.campbell.edu/faculty/guzman/WalkerBiol_page/Activities/CANCAS/Information/YarbroughGratnPg.html

Elon Campus Map/Directions to Elon:
http://www.elon.edu/e-net/map.asp
* The workshop will be held in the McMichael Science Center (#39 on the campus map). You may park in the parking lot directly behind McMichael.

Local Accommodations:
http://www.burlington-area-nc.org/