October 8, 2006

Dear CANCAS Members:

Hello from the Executive Committee of the Collegiate Academy of the North Carolina Academy of Science (CANCAS). I hope that this new academic year finds everyone in high spirits. On behalf of the Executive Committee I would like to cordially invite all current, as well as prospective members, to this year’s Fall Research Workshop. We are pleased to announce that this year’s Fall Undergraduate Research Workshop will be held at East Carolina University on Saturday, November 18, 2006. As always, the workshop will include sessions on a variety of topics relevant to undergraduate research such as:

- Researching scientific literature
- Data collection
- Data analysis
- Experimental Design/developing ideas about a research project
- Presenting research (writing a paper, oral, posters)
- Ethical issues/considerations in research
- Model systems
- Beginning the research process/finding a mentor
- Hypothesis testing
- Writing a Grant Proposal

These sessions will be run by faculty and students. The day will be broken into morning and afternoon sessions with the afternoon divided into two tracks. We are pleased to announce that, in addition to our usual undergraduate panel discussion to discuss current research involvement and answer general questions, we will also be offering a panel of graduate students to discuss getting into grad school, succeeding in graduate school and as well as answers to other questions. Following the presentations on Saturday, there will be a social with refreshments. CANCAS will also be holding our business meeting on Saturday and invite you all to participate.

In addition to the Saturday meeting, we encourage you to arrive in time for our Friday evening social event, which will include a softball game under the lights, introductions, pizza and soft drinks for everyone.

For more information about the workshop and related events including registration instructions, please consult the CANCAS homepage, which is included in the list of links below, and click on the link “Upcoming Events”.

Within the past year, the CANCAS Executive Committee has been busy working on ways to enrich and improve CANCAS by better serving the interests and needs of the members. Since CANCAS is a statewide organization, it is difficult to communicate with CANCAS members due to the distance separating the members. Dealing with this issue continues to be one of our goals. The Executive Committee, in conjunction with the senior and student academies, has been working towards a new website with a more user friendly format in order to better communicate with our members. In addition, the Executive Committee is continuing to work on increasing participation in CANCAS; 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 during their collegiate careers. As George Bernard Shaw once said "What we call education and culture is for the most part nothing but the substitution of reading for experience, of literature for life, of the obsolete fictitious for the contemporary real."

By participating in science research activities, a student is able to not only learn about science but to experience it through hands on experience. With this in mind, I encourage everyone to please share this information with your students and to encourage them to participate in this year’s Fall Undergraduate Research Workshop.

Sincerely,
Amanda Moore
President, CANCAS

Pertinent Dates:
CANCAS/NCAS Annual Meeting:
March 30-April 1, 2007

Web Links to Important Information:
CANCAS Corner Website:
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 information & form:

ECU Campus Map/Directions
http://www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/maps.cfm
http://www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/drivingdirections.cfm

Local Accommodations:
http://www.visitgreenvillenc.com/

Yarbrough Grant information:
http://www.ncacadsci.org/grants.htm

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