



Featured Scientist: Dr. Palladino

By: Dr. Casey Davenport, UNC Charlotte

In this issue, we are featuring Dr. Michael Palladino, the keynote speaker for the NCAS Annual Meeting in March 2018. Dr. Palladino is Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Professor of Biology at Monmouth University.



Dr. Michael Palladino

Throughout Dr. Palladino's career as a scientist, he credits mentors and role models who helped to foster and encourage his natural curiosity about the world from a young age. As a child, Dr. Palladino saw firsthand the positive impact of science in solving problems; his aunt worked as a biologist doing cancer research and his uncle was an organic chemist at a perfumery and flavor company: "They were both great role models because I saw their passion for science and heard their stories about applications of science that I thought were very interesting. I could see how they were making a difference and enjoying their careers as scientists." Dr. Palladino also credits working as an undergraduate student with Dr. Al Eble at Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) as a catalyst for fostering his interest in research—and looking at clam chowder in a new way. He explains, "We were doing hard clam research on effects of heavy metals...We would dose clams with cadmium, chromium then study kinetics of purging heavy metals. We would dissect their organs and measure where metals accumulated. I always enjoyed clam chowder, and now suddenly when I ate chowder, on my spoon I could identify all the parts of the clam the gills, mantle...[It] gave me a very different perspective on clam chowder that remains with me today!"

After completing his undergraduate degree, Dr. Palladino was encouraged by Jacques Fresco, with whom he worked as a lab technician at Princeton University, to apply to the University of Virginia School of Medicine. After some rotations with different groups, Dr. Palladino landed with Dr. Barry Hinton, a reproductive physiologist. Not only was the science he worked on fascinating, but Dr. Palladino's relationship with Dr. Hinton was very formative: "Working with Barry as a mentor and role model was a great experience. Barry cared about his students and cared as much about his teaching as he did his research...[he] continues to be a friend and mentor to this day."

While Dr. Palladino originally thought this career would take him into industry to help cure cancer, as he gained teaching experience as a graduate student, he recalled the impact of a former mentor on his life: "Working closely with students and trying to stimulate that interest the way Al [Eble] did with me increasingly became very appealing – I wanted to have the same impact on students that I experienced, ask good scientific questions, teach students in small class sizes where I get to know each student personally, and seek work-life balance." After working at Brookdale Community College for 5 years, Dr. Palladino was offered an opportunity to become faculty at Monmouth University, where he could grow as a teacher-scholar. His significant influence on students over the years has been impressive: "I secured the first NIH grant in university history, worked with more than 75 undergraduate research students from MU and other schools, high school students and graduate students supported by external funding for more than 15 years." Dr. Palladino continues to facilitate student success, spending 7 years as the Dean of the School of Science, and currently working as the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, developing strategies for new graduate programs.

When it comes to giving advice for current students, Dr. Palladino encourages them to embrace their inner "geek," seek out research experiences, and develop communication skills to "tell your story about why your science is important." We look forward to hearing more wisdom from your keynote in March 2018, Dr. Palladino!

Volume 6,
Issue 2

November 2017

*What's going on in
the North Carolina
Academy of Science:*

- Featured Scientist
- CANCAS Updates
- Call for Grant Proposals

*Inside this
issue:*

Featured Scientist 1

Annual Meeting Update 2

CANCAS Workshop Report 2

Calls for NCAS Service & Grant Submissions 3

NCAS News & Reports!

2018 NCAS Annual Meeting Update

Report by: Dr. Brandie Littlefield & Scott Johnson, Wake Technical Community College

Wake Technical Community College is privileged to host the 115th annual NCAS Conference on March 23-24, 2018. Our conference theme this year is: **Collaborate, Communicate, Contribute - Connecting Scientists with the Public**. Since this is the first time a community college is hosting this event, our theme focuses on the importance of scientific communication outside of traditional academia. Our goal is to encourage collaborative research within the scientific profession that is translated in a meaningful and relevant way to the general public, allowing scientists and laymen to actively contribute to the communities in which they live. There is an ever increasing need to bridge the wide gap between the scientific community and the general public, and as scientists we need to take responsibility for how information is disseminated. Our challenge is to transcend the boundaries of academia and actively pursue ways that our research can contribute to and engage with local communities.

Dr. Brandie Littlefield, Assistant Professor of Biology, and Scott Johnson, Associate Professor of Biology, are serving as chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee. Please stay tuned for updates regarding the website, registration, and abstract submissions. We are looking forward to an educational, collaborative, and engaging meeting!

Update on the 2017 CASCAS Workshop

Report by: Dr. Dan Stovall, NC Wesleyan College

Students from across the state attended the CASCAS Annual Undergraduate Research Workshop on Saturday, November 4th at Campbell University. Our workshop was held in conjunction with SNCURCS, and it was a great success! In addition to hearing about exciting undergraduate through SNCURCS presentations, approximately 80 CASCAS students got to tour Campbell University's School of Osteopathic Medicine & other health science programs. Another 50 CASCAS attendees also participated in various workshops.

Justin Perkins, an English major at Campbell University and career services intern, helped students assess their unique experiences to examine how they are developing top employer-sought skills. Betsy Dunn-Williams, Director of Academic Support and Career Development at Campbell, led a workshop in which attendees learned how to build a professional social media presence and utilize best practices in resume and CV development. Dr. Karen Guzman, Professor of Biology at Campbell University, headed up a session on how to communicate effectively in oral and poster presentations – critical skills for any budding scientist. Kayla Taylor, Director of the Career & Professional Development Center at Campbell's law school, taught students how to design a meaningful work statement and navigate the pursuit of a purposeful career. Finally, Dr. Michele Malotky, Professor of Biology at Guilford College, presented students with opportunities for study abroad and the impact they can have on a college experience. CASCAS thanks Campbell University for hosting our fall workshop series!

Dues Notice

Our adjusted membership year, March 1st-February 28th is designed to better align with the annual meeting timing in the early spring. Your member contributions help support programs and maintain the viability of the Academy. Please renew your membership! Visit the membership tab on www.ncacadsci.org to pay your dues today!

CASCAS Calls for Judges & Moderators

Judges & Moderators are needed for the 2018 Annual NCAS Meeting! We are seeking judges to score Friday evening posters & Saturday oral presentations. You'll be asked to judge either the poster session or oral presentation session, and then collaboratively with your group you will select Derieux winners in your area. This is a wonderful way to help foster and grow our undergraduate researchers, and participate in the Annual Meeting! We also invite volunteers for moderators. Moderators will preside over oral presentations on Saturday at the Annual Meeting. Moderators can be graduate students, undergraduate students, or faculty from any content area.

If you're interested, please email Dr. Beth Cauley (at cauley@campbell.edu) or indicate your interest on your Annual Meeting registration form. Thank you for your commitment to mentoring & facilitating undergraduate research!

NCAS News & Reports!

Call for NCAS Board Nominations

Report by: Dr. Francie Cuffney, Meredith College

In preparation for the NCAS Annual Meeting in March 2018 please consider being part of the NCAS Board or recommending others who might be a good fit for our Board. We will be voting on these positions at the 2018 NCAS Membership meeting held during the annual meeting in March. The following positions expire in 2018:

- Vice President term: 2018—2019
- President-Elect term: 2018—2019 (President 2019—2020)
- Elected Member term: 2018—2021
- CASCAS Co-Director term: 2018—2023
- Yarbrough Research Grant Committee Chair term: 2018—2021

If you are currently in a position and wish to continue please let us know. If you would like to be considered for one of these positions please let us know. And – finally – if you know of someone you believe would be a good fit for a position on the Board please let us know. You can send any nominations to Dr. Francie Cuffney at cuffneyf@meredith.edu.

Join the Academy's Galactic Mission during Astronomy Days!

Report by: Dr. Lisa Kelly, UNC-Pembroke & Dr. Maria Pickering, Meredith College

If you have stardust in your eyes, if you love gazing up at the heavens, or if you enjoy small children and the excitement of discovery, consider volunteering a few hours of your time this coming January. The North Carolina Academy of Science will be hosting an exhibit for Astronomy Days on 27-28 January 2018. This year's theme is "Space Telescopes and Missions!" The Academy is looking for energetic volunteers who can contribute one or more two- or three-hour shifts from 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM on Saturday (January 27) and from 11:30 AM until 5:30 PM on Sunday (January 28). If you would like to volunteer or have ideas for simple, inexpensive hands-on science activities, please contact the Academy's exhibit co-coordinators: Lisa Kelly (lisa.kelly@uncp.edu or 910-521-6377) or Maria Pickering (mpickering@meredith.edu or 919-760-8437). This would be a great opportunity for Student Academy and Collegiate Academy students and their mentors. No special skills are required, and ideally four or more volunteers will be available during each time slot. The Academy's exhibit at the museum last January was a big hit, drawing crowds of excited children and their parents.



Call for Yarbrough Grant Applications

Yarbrough Grants fund undergraduate research conducted by freshmen, sophomores, and juniors across the state. Students must be a Collegiate Academy member and have a research advisor who is a member of the Senior Academy. Applications are due by **April 15, 2018**. For more information, see the application form attached or contact Dr. Scott Robertson (srobertson@methodist.edu) or Dr. Jordan Womick (womickj@campbell.edu)

Call for Bryden Grant Applications

One Bryden Grant is in the NCAS budget for the 2017-18 academic year! Applications are invited from members of NCAS. Deadline for receipt of all application materials is **February 28, 2018**. Award monies cover research equipment and/or expenses related to attending scientific conferences. Additional information is attached. Please send all materials to Dr. Lei Zhang (zhang1@wssu.edu) and Dr. Mark McCallum (mark.mccallum@pfeiffer.edu).



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Check us out on the web!
<http://www.ncacadsci.org/home.html>

The **objective** of the North Carolina Academy of Science is to "encourage the advancement of science within the state of North Carolina by promotion of scientific research and by the fostering of education in the sciences". The North Carolina Academy of Science meets these objectives by...

- Publishing a peer reviewed scholarly journal, the *Journal of the North Carolina Academy of Science*.
- Fostering and encouraging student involvement in the sciences through support of the Collegiate (CANCAS) and Student Academies (NCSAS).
- Promoting interactions among scientists and students throughout North Carolina.
- Providing a forum for exchange of ideas for solving issues important to North Carolina.

The Academy members include individuals from academia, industry, government, and all others who support the objectives and goals of the Academy.

North Carolina Academy of Science

Our Mission

The North Carolina Academy of Science promotes public appreciation of science, science education, scientific research and a meaningful role for science in public policy.

Our Goals:

Promote public appreciation of science

- Partnership with Science Centers
- Public Lecture Series
- Newsletter

Promote science education

- NCAS Webpage
- Academic Lecture Series
- NCAS Publications: Journal, Educational Publications
- Student Academy - Middle & High School

Promote scientific research

- Yarbrough and Bryden Research Grants
- CANCAS Undergraduate Research Workshop
- Presentation Opportunities at Annual Meetings
- Journal of the North Carolina Academy of Science

Promote science in public policy

- Symposia
- News Releases
- Position Statements
- Interactions with Public Officials

