



Volume 9,
Issue 2

January 2021

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

- Upcoming Annual Meeting
- CANCAS Workshop Reflection
- Astronomy Days
- Opportunities to serve
- New journal hosting!

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117th Meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Science

By Dr. Judy Moore, Lenoir-Rhyne University

- Location: Via Zoom from **Lenoir-Rhyne University**
- Date: **March 12-13, 2021**
- Conference Theme: **Vision 20-21: Seeing Connections – Solving Problems**

Lenoir-Rhyne University's School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics is honored to serve as virtual host for the 117th NCAS Annual Conference, to be coordinated virtually from our Hickory campus March 12th- 13th, 2021. This is a collegial meeting of North Carolina scientists, science faculty members and students from institutions across the state, excited to promote public appreciation of science, science education, scientific research and a meaningful role for science in public policy.

Students are encouraged to submit abstracts for 3-minute lightning talks (in lieu of posters) and oral presentations. Faculty, graduate students and other scientists are encouraged to attend the meeting to present their own work and support student presenters. Anyone who had planned to present last year is encouraged to register and take advantage of this opportunity to share your work with us. All are encouraged to attend the keynote address and participate in Saturday afternoon workshops.

We hope you are planning to join in this inspiring opportunity to share your research, discover new possibilities and interact with fellow attendees.

Conference Registration

If you would like to attend this conference, you must be a current member of NCAS (click on the membership tab on NCAS's homepage for information – current memberships have been extended through 2021). Early registration for the conference is available through February 24, 2021. A late fee of \$10 will be applied to registrations submitted February 25th-March 13th. Online registration will close at 11:00AM on Saturday, March 13th.

We welcome presentations of recent scientific research. Abstract submissions close on February 24th. Go to the **Abstract Submission** pull-down menu on Lenoir Rhyne's [Annual Meeting page](#) to learn more about presentation guidelines.

Please visit the **Conference Schedule** in the pull-down menu on our [Annual Meeting page](#) to see a complete listing of conference activities and events.

Questions? Contact judy.moore@lr.edu.



Local Arrangements Committee,
Lenoir-Rhyne University

Academy Journal Update

Report By Dr. David Judge

North Carolina Academy of Science is pleased to announce that the digital access to our journal has moved to a new, advanced web platform called Meridian, hosted by Silverchair.

The new Meridian platform comes with a host of new features to enhance your reading experience, including:

- Mobile responsive website design
- Optional split-screen reading experience
- Suggested articles based on browser history
- Saved searches, alerts and notifications
- Ability to display graphic advertisements or announcements

NCAS members need to update the journal password with this new platform. Please go to the Journal login page and choose “Reset Password. <https://meridian.allenpress.com/jncas>.

The screenshot shows the journal's homepage. At the top, there is a search bar and a 'Register Sign In' dropdown menu. A yellow arrow points to the 'Sign In' link. Below the navigation menu, the main banner features the journal cover and the text: 'About this Journal: The Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society, first published in 1884, was the official organ of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society. After the founding of the North Carolina Academy of Science in 1902, both the society and the academy considered the journal their official publication. [Read More About the Journal...](#)' There are buttons for 'Submit an Article', 'Subscribe', and 'Free Trial'. Below the banner, there are sections for 'Latest' articles, 'Open Access Articles' (with a message 'No matches found for configured query.'), and an 'AD PLACEHOLDER'.

Volunteer to Judge at the Annual Meeting

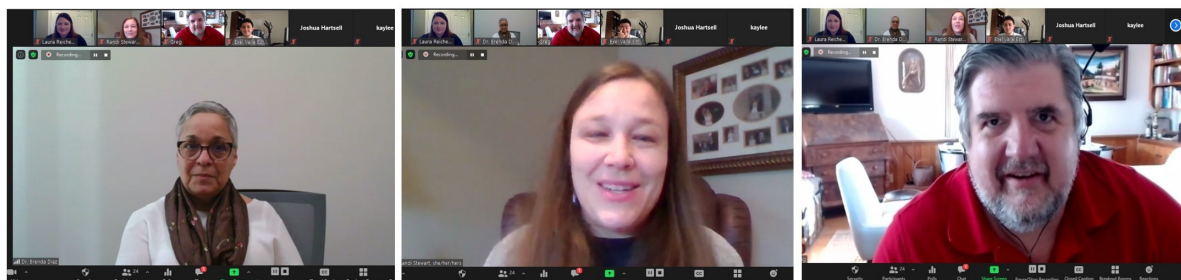
From Dr. Laura Reichenberg, Pfeiffer University

Judges are needed for virtual presentations. Many of the biological science disciplines are represented at the meeting and, ideally, judges will be paired with presentations that match their area of expertise. You will be asked to judge presentation session, followed by a collaborative selection of Derieux winners in your area. Volunteering your time as a judge is a great way to help encourage our undergraduate researchers, while participating in the Annual Meeting! If you are interested, please email Dr. Laura Reichenberg at laura.reichenberg@pfeiffer.edu or indicate your interest on your Annual Meeting registration form.

CANCAS Annual Research Workshop: Overview

From Dr. Laura Reichenberg, Pfeiffer University

The CANCAS Undergraduate Research Workshop was held virtually on Saturday, January 16th hosted by Pfeiffer University. There were 26 students in attendance representing five North Carolina Colleges. The event began with a panel discussion with our three panelists Brenda Diaz Ph.D., MS, PA-C (Director of the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, Pfeiffer University), Randi Stewart, M.S., C.G.C. (Assistant Program Director, Genetics Counseling Program, UNC Greensboro) and Greg Buhrman, Ph.D, (Program Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Biochemistry Master's Program, NCSU). During this virtual discussion, students enquired about a valuable range of topics including practical applications of specific degree types, the application process, standardized test requirements, and insight into the rigors of graduate school.



CANCAS Workshop Panel Members (From Left to Right). Dr. Brenda Diaz Ph.D., MS, PA-C (Director of the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, Pfeiffer University), Randi Stewart, M.S., C.G.C. (Assistant Program Director, Genetics Counseling Program, UNC Greensboro) and Dr. Greg Buhrman, Ph.D, (Program Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Biochemistry Master's Program, NCSU).

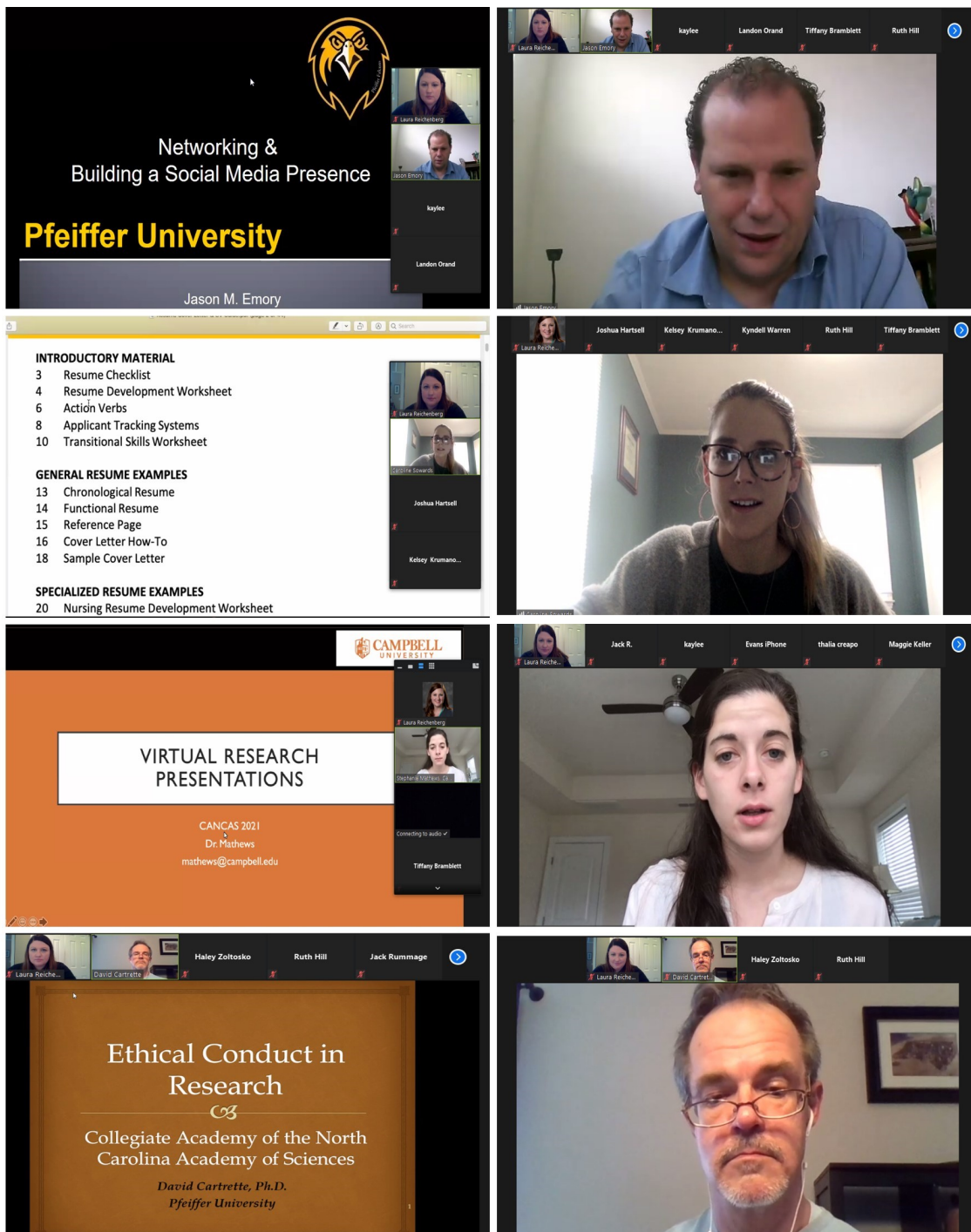
The panel discussion was followed by several workshops. Dr. Jason Emory, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Pfeiffer University, worked with students on professionalizing their social media in preparation for professional school admissions and employment, and Carolina Sowards, Director of Internships and Career Development at Pfeiffer, led a workshop on resume preparation for science majors. These were followed by a workshop focused on preparations of virtual presentations lead by Dr. Stephanie Mathews, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at Campbell University. The meeting ended with an interactive workshop focused on professional ethical practices by Dr. David Cartrette (Associate Professor of Chemistry, Pfeiffer University). *See more about the workshops on the next page.*

The feedback from student attendees showed that they had a positive experience and enjoyed the event. Many commented that they left the event excited, and with resources to help them prepare for their particular life path with answers to many questions about their future. Kara Robertson, a sophomore biology major said “As a student that is totally new to the science community, I found CANCAS incredibly helpful and encouraging”.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Pfeiffer University for hosting this event. We would also like to thank all of the student attendees as well as individuals who served as panel members or workshop leaders. Your willingness to share your time was critical to the success of this event. Thank you for making this unprecedented CANCAS Undergraduate Workshop a success.

CANCAS Annual Research Workshop: Workshop Presenters

Report by Dr. Laura Reichenberg, Pfeiffer University



CANCAS Workshops and Leaders (From top to Bottom): Professionalizing Your Social Media Presence by Dr. Jason Emory, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Pfeiffer University; Resume Basics for Science Majors by Carolina Sowards, Director of Internships and Career Development at Pfeiffer; Research Presentations: Virtual Storytelling by Dr. Stephanie Mathews, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at Campbell University. Ethical Considerations in Research Activity by Dr. David Cartrette (Associate Professor of Chemistry, Pfeiffer University).

Microbiology Instructor Position at Methodist University Open for Spring 2021

Report by: Dr. Rob McCandless, Methodist University

The Biology Department at Methodist University has an immediate opening for a microbiology instructor for the spring 2021 semester. While this will be a part-time position for the spring semester, a full-time, tenure track position for fall 2021 is anticipated. Any part-time instructor in the position this spring would be considered for the full-time position for the 2021-22 academic year should they apply.

If interested, contact:

Dr. Rob McCandless, Professor & Chair

910.630.7247

jmccandless@methodist.edu

A Pause in Yarbrough Grants for 2021-2022

A note from the Yarbrough Grants Committee:

Due to complications with funding logistics we regret that the Yarbrough Grant will be inactive for the 2021 – 2022 cycle.

FUTURE NCAS ANNUAL MEETINGS

2022 Campbell University

2023 East Carolina Univ.

2024 Winston Salem State U.

2025 *Could be your institution!*

Contact us today!

Dr. Marisol Santisteban
maria.santisteban@uncp.edu

Renew Your CASCAS Membership Today!

Membership costs have been reduced this year to \$5 for individuals and \$50 for a group membership. CASCAS individual membership is required for workshop attendance.

Go to <https://www.ncacadsci.org/cancas/> for instructions on creating CASCAS group memberships.

CASCAS membership can be renewed at the following link: <https://www.joinit.org/o/north-carolina-academy-of-science>.

Please reach out to Dr. Laura Reichenberg at laura.reichenberg@pfeiffer.edu with any questions.

Slate for Upcoming Elected Positions

Report by Dr. Jean-Luc Scemama, East Carolina University

Opportunities for Service: Volunteer to Serve on the Board

The following positions are available:

President Elect for 2021-2022

Vice President

Elected Member

Treasurer

If interested, please contact Dr. Jean-Luc Scemama: scemamaj@ecu.edu



Virtual Astronomy Days

January 25-31

Planet Building 101

Chat with Astronomy Students

Moon Zoom

Stars, Lights & Birds

Astro Trivia

Constellation Yoga: The Orion Story

Galaxies Everywhere: The Hubble Deep Field

And Much More!!!

Visit <https://naturalsciences.org/calendar/astronomy-days>
to find out more information.



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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.

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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
- CASCAS 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

