



Volume 12,  
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*What's going on in  
the North Carolina  
Academy of Science:*

- Annual Meeting information
- Call for Moderators & Judges
- Call for Yarborough Grant Proposals

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## Letter: Annual Meeting Local Arrangements

*By Drs. John Merle and Lei Zhang, Winston Salem State University*

The North Carolina Academy of Science (NCAS) annual meeting is a beacon of intellectual exchange and collaboration, bringing together passionate minds from across the state. This year, for the first time, Winston Salem State University (WSSU) is honored to serve as the host for the 120th NCAS Annual meeting April 5-6, 2024. The Local Arrangements Committee for the 120th NCAS Annual Meeting has been working on creating an in-person annual meeting experience that benefits our members and all other participants. This year's event, held at the New Science Building on the WSSU campus, will showcase a diverse range of activities including undergraduate presentations, oral and poster sessions, workshops, keynote speaker, and panel discussions. The gathering will serve as a platform for scientists, researchers, and students to share their work, discuss cutting-edge discoveries, and explore the future of scientific endeavors.



A significant highlight of the event is the engaging undergraduate poster presentation session on Friday evening and oral presentations on Saturday. The young scholars have the opportunity to present their research findings to a knowledgeable audience, fostering an environment that nurtures curiosity and innovation. Topics range from biology, chemistry, environmental science to math/physics and engineering, reflecting the broad spectrum of scientific exploration. Students from institutions across the state are encouraged to submit abstracts for posters or oral presentations. Oral presentation attendees will be treated to insightful presentations where seasoned researchers delved into their work, sharing methodologies, results, and potential implications. Simultaneously, the poster sessions provide a visual feast, allowing researchers to interact one-on-one with attendees, receiving valuable feedback and establishing connections that could lead to future collaborations.

This year's theme, "Unleashing Energy," is explored through our distinguished keynote speaker – Professor Steven Cowley, a theoretical physicist and international authority on fusion energy. Dr. Cowley, Director of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL), will enhance the event by captivating the audience with insights into a groundbreaking area of nuclear fusion energy. The speaker's expertise and experience will serve as an inspiration to aspiring attendees, encouraging them to pursue their passions and make meaningful contributions to their respective fields.

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## Annual Meeting Local Arrangements-continued

A WSSU team will conduct this year's panel discussion and will share their successful experience of working under pandemic in the last four years. The diverse perspectives shared by panelists will spark stimulating conversations among attendees, fostering a sense of collective responsibility towards advancing scientific knowledge and addressing global issues.

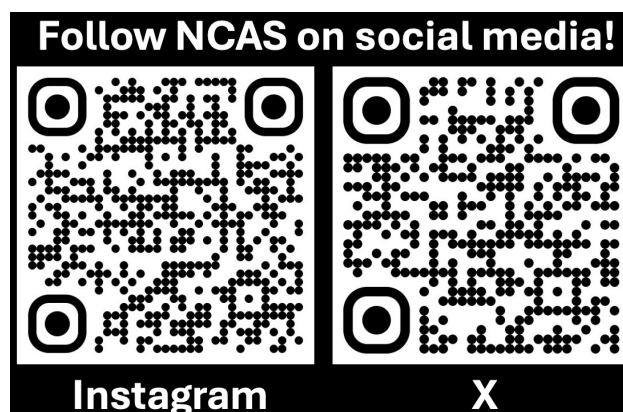
Hands-on workshops add a dynamic element to the meeting, providing participants with practical skills and knowledge. Workshops covering a variety of subjects, from Math teaching methodology to COVID. These sessions will not only enhance the skill set of attendees but also facilitate networking opportunities among like-minded professionals.

The event not only celebrates existing achievements but also paved the way for future collaborations and innovations. As we reflect on the diverse range of activities, from undergraduate presentations, keynote lecture, workshops to panel discussions, it becomes evident that these gatherings play a crucial role in shaping the future of science in North Carolina by fostering a culture of collaboration, curiosity, and continuous learning. I encourage your contributing an abstract, attending, and supporting.

### Follow NCAS!

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NCAcadOfSci>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ncacademyofscience/>



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS YARBROUGH RESEARCH GRANTS 2024/2025 Academic Year

*The Yarbrough Research Grants program provides funding to undergraduates who are members of the Collegiate Academy to engage in research activities. Approximately four grants are awarded annually and typically range from \$100 to \$500. Top awards may receive as much as \$500 or more. **The application deadline is April 12, 2024.** Accepted proposals may be funded as early as June for undergraduates to begin their research. Details are found on the Academy website at [www.ncacadsci.org](http://www.ncacadsci.org).*

## NCAS Annual Meeting, WSSU April 5-6, 2024

The Annual Meeting at Winston Salem State University is coming up fast. The meeting website will be ready soon, but in the meantime, here are a few dates for your calendar.

### Important dates to note:

- ⇒ Registration opens February 9
- ⇒ Abstracts are due by March 8 at 5pm
- ⇒ Late Registration March 8– 22

For more updates as they come in and a link to the meeting website when it is available, visit the [NCAS website](#).



## Upcoming Annual Meeting Sites

- **Winston-Salem State University. 2024**
- **Fayetteville State University 2025**
- **Elon University 2026**

## Astronomy Days 2024

*From Dr. Lisa Kelly, UNC Pembroke*

The Academy will be hosting a booth for Astronomy Days at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh in February. Please join Maria Pickering and me in the NCAS booth. Last year's booth was simply wonderful.

**What?** [Astronomy Days](#) – 2-day spectacular event featuring cool exhibits, presentations, crafts, and explorations of the universe

**Theme?** Asteroids and Meteorites!

**NCAS Booth Theme?** The Quest for Extraterrestrial Life

**Where?** NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh

**When?** Saturday and Sunday **February 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>**, from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**How can you help?** Join the NC Academy of Science (NCAS) in its annual booth featuring living animals (e.g., water bears) of extreme environments, living plants small enough to fit onto necklaces, games and crafts featuring extreme environments, and engaging the public in the excitement of science.

**Why should you help?** It's a lot of fun, an opportunity for community outreach, and you can volunteer for as little or as much as you want, leaving plenty of opportunity to visit other booths and events. No prior training is needed!

**Who volunteers for the NCAS booth?** University and high school students, faculty, and museum volunteers. Our spacious booth in the Curiosity Classroom is furnished with several tables and chairs.

**Free lunch for volunteers who work 2+ shifts:** Shifts will be 9:30-11:30 AM, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM and 2:30-5:30 PM on both days. Expect pizza or sandwiches for lunch.

**Who should you contact about volunteering?** Lisa Kelly ([lisa.kelly@uncp.edu](mailto:lisa.kelly@uncp.edu); office 910-521-6377, or cell 910-330-6297)

**Where can you park?** Free parking is available within walking distance of the museum.

# Updates from the CASCAS Director

*From Dr. Ryan Brandt, Elon University*

We sincerely apologize for the cancellation of the F23 CASCAS Undergraduate Research Workshop. We look forward to providing a fantastic workshop in Fall 2024.

What would you like to see at our future Fall Undergraduate Research and Professional Workshop? Watch for a QR code poll to help provide feedback for the event. Other suggestions can be sent to [rbrandt4@elon.edu](mailto:rbrandt4@elon.edu).

CASCAS is recruiting judges for the annual NCAS meeting research oral and poster session (April 5-6<sup>th</sup> at Winston-Salem State University). Please contact [rbrandt4@elon.edu](mailto:rbrandt4@elon.edu) if you are interested.

Please renew your CASCAS membership if your institution or individual membership has expired.

## CASCAS Group Members

Campbell University

Elon University

Lenoir-Rhyne University

Pfeiffer University

<Your Group Coming Soon?>

***Time to renew your Group's Membership!***





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“Like” us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@NCAcadofSci) to get the latest updates and information on what’s happening at your North Carolina Academy of Science!



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

