Letter from the President, Dr. Gregory P. Copenhaver

What is an Academy? The word originally comes from the Greek “Akademeia” meaning “grove of Akademos”. Akademos was a minor god and the patron of the place where Plato taught. By the 16th century, the word was used to describe any place of learning. Since then the meaning has broadened to encompass not only physical places of learning but also groups of people who form communities of scholarship. Together, we are the membership of the North Carolina Academy of Science (NCAS), make up a community of scholarship and we can trace our intellectual heritage back to those students of Plato gathered in the grove of Akademos. What can we learn from that heritage, and how can we use that knowledge to shape our future?

The NCAS, which grew out of the Eliza Mitchell Scientific Society, was founded in 1902 and is one of the oldest state Academies. During that time, we have promoted the advancement of science by providing grants and hosting meetings; we have advised governments on scientific matters; we have published original scientific findings in the Journal of the North Carolina Academy of Science; and we supported education in science by fostering the collegiate and student branches of the NCAS.

Our plans for the future are equally ambitious. We will continue to bring together scientists from a broad array of disciplines and settings (academic, industrial, and not-for-profit) to exchange ideas at our annual meeting. We will also continue to promote education by providing students a forum to hear professional scientists present their work and to learn about self-governance.

In addition, we will embark on several new initiatives. The Academy journal is a document of international historical significance, yet far too few people have access to its contents. Over the next year, we will begin efforts to digitize the entire run of the journal and make it available for public access.

In the past, the Academy helped organize and publish symposia on various topics. This year we will work to revive this tradition by exploring plans to publish symposia on conservation biology.

In 1997, the Academy issued an educational statement on evolution. In the coming year we will continue our efforts to assert leadership in education by publishing a white-paper on ‘Science in North Carolina: How Science Helps Our State’.

Lastly, it is difficult to read the newspapers, listen to the radio or watch the news without encountering a story that involves scientific ethics. This issue is broad, ranging from discussions about the ethical impact of various technologies to debates on standards of conduct among professional scientists, and these conversations affect every member of our Academy.

Therefore, over the next year, we will work to raise awareness about scientific ethics among our membership, particularly our pre-professional members.

Our plans for the next year are aggressive and will provide for the growth and maintenance of a robust Academy. However, like those scholars gathered in the grove of Akademos, we face a challenge. How do we raise awareness of our good works outside our own group?

In order to serve our members and society at large, we must improve our ability to facilitate scientific learning and discovery, and we must also grow. This responsibility rests not with a small group of directors and officers but with every member of our community.

So what can you do? Brainstorm about how NCAS can better serve you as a scientist and as a citizen of North Carolina, and then communicate those ideas to the Academy. Participate in the Academy by running for office, sitting on a committee or helping to organize a meeting. Recruit new members. If you are a professional scientist tell your colleagues about the Academy. Tell them why you are a member, and encourage your friends and colleagues to join. If you are a student, tell your fellow students about us; let them know that membership in the Academy is a great way to build an impressive CV and begin a professional network. This is your Akademeia. We need your active participation to make it strong.

It has been a genuine pleasure to serve the Academy as President over the past year. I began the year with some trepidation about what I might be able to accomplish and wondering if I could make a difference. I finished the year with a feeling of euphoria, not only because the year was over, but, more so, because I could sense a resurgence of energy and excitement about good things happening in the Academy.

Hard-working officers are keeping things organized and moving forward. The financial health of the Academy is the best it has been in years. The Journal is on schedule and receiving manuscripts, but submissions are always needed. I am happy to report that the Collegiate Academy and the Student Academy have been revitalized and are moving in new directions.

Through the course of the past year, a number of things have been set in motion that should yield positive results in coming months and years. Active and committed directors, officers, and committee members have taken the leadership in developing these efforts. There is a keen awareness of the need for active membership recruitment, and several initiatives underway should eventually help us build membership, particularly by increasing the visibility of NCAS in the state and to potential members. I will mention some of the new things that are happening. Bryden Grants in the amount of $1000 have been reinstated and are again being offered to graduate students. The Education Committee is launching an effort to develop a publication on the contributions of science in North Carolina. The Symposium Committee is developing a plan to feature and update publications on rare and protected species in North Carolina. The Planning Committee is working on a program that will discuss science integrity issues.

We ended the year with a great meeting hosted by Meredith College. There was definitely an air of excitement and collegiality at this year’s meeting. It is clear that our meetings serve an important purpose in North Carolina, providing a venue to showcase undergraduate research, in particular, and creating the opportunity for networking and “community-building” among North Carolina scientists. Our “Celebration of Biodiversity-A Tribute to Dr. Robert P. Higgins,” held at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, was an astounding success. We must continue to promote the annual meeting to non-members, because every scientist in North Carolina should be a member of, and feel allegiance to, his/her state academy.

This is a good time to feel upbeat about the NCAS. I am confident that Gregory Copenhaver, the new President, will sustain the efforts that were started this year. Thank you for letting me serve you.

Michael J. Baranski
Immediate Past-President

Bryden Award

This year the Bryden Award was given to Jackie D. Metheny of UNC-Greensboro for her proposal entitled “A genetic analysis of a fission-fusion society of a tree-roosting maternity colony of big brown bats (Eptesicus fuscus)” This project will be conducted under the supervision of her advisor, Dr. Matina Kalcounis-Rüppell.
An evening to Remember at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

Dr. Charles F. Lytle introduced the guest of honor: Dr. Robert P. Higgins

Dr. Lynn Margulis (right) with Dr. Karlene Lowell Schwartz during her lecture “Animals from a Microbial Perspective: Homage to Robert P. Higgins”

Dr. Mike Baranski, 2004-2005 President, honoring Dr. Robert P. Higgins with a plaque and a Life Membership in the Academy

A Glass Model of the first loriciferan to be seen. The delicate computer-generated, laser-fabricated model was created in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of Dr. Higgins’ publication on the new phylum Loricifera. The computer model was burned into optical glass with two laser cannons.

Only five copies were created; one is on exhibit in the Zoology Museum of the University of Copenhagen, one was given to Dr. Higgins, one is in the possession of Henrik, Prince of Denmark, and this copy was given to the NCAS to honor Dr. Higgins.

This copy is located outside of the NCAS office at Meredith College. Future plans are to permanently display it at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.
MEREDITH COLLEGE 2005
Scientists and Students Viewing Research Posters

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American Chemical Society-NC Chapter
Meredith College
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North Carolina Biotechnology Center
Sigma-Xi, UNC-Chapel Hill Chapter
Sigma-Xi, UNC-Greensboro Chapter
Zoology Department—NC State
## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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<th>Student’s Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Kendall Prescott</td>
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## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

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<td>2nd tie</td>
<td>Clayton Wilburn</td>
<td>Chemistry II</td>
<td>Warren-Wilson</td>
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A Resolution, prepared by Dr. Anthony Capehart (Elected Member of the Board 2007), recognizing the Local Arrangements Committee was unanimously accepted at the Business Meeting.

"Recognizing that the 2005 Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Science hosted by Meredith College has been an overwhelming success;

And noting with great approval that the oral and poster research presentations, keynote addresses, and social events have provided scientists, graduate students, and undergraduate students from across North Carolina the opportunity to join together in the amiable and energetic exchange of knowledge;

Be it resolved that the North Carolina Academy of Science expresses its most sincere appreciation to Meredith College for hosting the 2005 meeting and to the persons responsible for the Local Arrangements: Dr. Janice Swab, Chair, Dr. Romita Sen, Dr. Elizabeth Wolfinger, Dr. Francie Cuffney, Dr. Virginia Knight, Dr. Larry Grimes, Dr. William Schmidt, Dr. Reg Shiflett, Dr. John Mecham, Dr. Robert Reid, Dr. Walda Powell, and Dr. Carol Hazard for their diligent efforts that resulted in such an exceptional meeting."

Election Results.

**President-Elect**: Karen Katula, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, UNC-Greensboro.

**Vice-President**: Parke Rublee, Professor, Department of Biology, UNC-Greensboro.

**Treasurer**: Alan Goble, Associate Professor and Chairperson, Department of Psychology, Bennett College.

**Elected Member, Board of Directors (2005-2008)**: Thomas Jones, Professor of Biology and Director of the University Honors Program, Gardner-Webb University.
President
Dr. Gregory P Copenhaver
UNC-Chapel Hill
3280 Biology
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3280
Ph: 919-843-4026 Fx: 919-962-1625
Email: gcopenhaver@bio.unc.edu

Vice President
Dr. Parke A Rublee
UNCG Dept Biology
PO Box 26170
Greensboro NC 27602-6170
Ph: 336-256-0067 Fx: 336-334-5839
Email: rublee@uncg.edu

President-Elect
Dr. Karen S Katula
UNCG Dept Biology
PO Box 26170
Greensboro NC 27402-6170
Ph: 336-334-4951 Fx: 336-334-5839
kskatula@uncg.edu

Immediate Past-President
Dr. Michael J Baranski
Catawba College Dept Biology
2300 W Innes St
Salisbury NC 28144-2488
Ph:704-637-4442 Fx: 704-637-4221
Email: mbaranski@catawba.edu

Executive Secretary
Dr. Gerhard W Kalmus
East Carolina Univ Dept Biology
1000 E 5th St
Greenville NC 27858-4353
Ph: 252-328-6306 Fx: 252-328-4178
Email: kalmusg@mail.ecu.edu

Secretary
Dr. Lisa Kelly
UNC-Pembroke Dept Biology
PO Box 1510
Pembroke NC 22372-1510
Ph: 910-521-6377 Fx: 910-521-6649
Email: lisa.kelly@uncp.edu

Treasurer
Dr. Alan Goble
Bennett College Dept Psychology
900 E Washington St Box 23
Greensboro NC 27401-2291
Ph: 336-517-2283 Fx: 336-521-6638
Email: goble@bennett.edu

Planning Committee Chairperson
Dr. Larry B Cahoon
UNC-Wilmington Dept Biological Sciences
601 S College Rd
Wilmington NC 28403-5915
Ph: 910-962-3706 Fx: 910-962-4366
Email: cahoon@uncw.edu

Grants & Endowment Committee Chairperson
Vacant

Collegiate Academy Executive Director
Dr. Karen Guzman
Campbell Univ Dept Biology
PO Box 308
Buies Creek NC 27506-0309
Ph: 919-814-4365 Fx: 919-893-1887
Email: guzman@campbell.edu

Executive Editor of Journal
Dr. Frank J Schwartz
UNC Institute Marine Sciences
3431 Arendell St
Morehead City NC 28557-3209
Ph: 252-726-6841 ext 139 Fx: 252-726-2426

Elected Member 2006
Dr. Karen M McDougal
Lenoir-Rhyne College Dept Biology
Box 7406
Hickory NC 28603-7406
Ph: 828-328-7269 Fx: 828-328-7338
Email: mcdougal@lrcc.edu

Elected Member 2007
Dr. Anthony A Capehart
East Carolina Univ Dept Biology
1000 E 5th St
Greenville NC 27858-4353
Ph: 252-328-6296 Fx: 252-328-4077
Email: capehartt@mail.ecu.edu

Elected Member 2008
Dr. Tom Jones
Gardner-Webb Univ Dept Natural Sciences
Box 7264
Boiling Springs NC 28017-7264
Ph: 704-406-4369 Fx: 704-406-3917
tjones@gardner-webb.edu

Membership Committee Chairperson
Dr. John C Clamp
NCCU Dept Biology
601 Fayetteville St
Durham NC 27707-3198
Ph: 919-530-6395 Fx: 919-530-7773
jclamp@nccu.edu

Publications Committee Chairperson
Dr. Jean-Luc Scemama
East Carolina Univ Dept Biology
1000 E 5th St
Greenville NC 27858-4353
Ph 252-328-1838 Fx: 252-328-4178
Email: scemamaj@mail.ecu.edu

Finance Committee Chairperson
Dr. David Webster
UNC-Wilmington Dept Biological Sciences
601 S College Rd
Wilmington NC 28403-3297
Ph: 910-962-3756 Fx: 910-962-4066
Email: webste@uncwil.edu

Education Committee Chairperson
Dr. Jeffrey S Coker
Elon Univ Dept Biology
2625 Campus Box
Elon NC 27244-2010
Ph: 336-278-6206 Fx: 336-278-6258
Email: jcoker@elon.edu
EX OFFICIO MEMBERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS

Office Manager
Dr. Susan Stephenson, NCAS
Meredith College Dept Biology/Health Sciences
3800 Hillsborough St
Raleigh NC 27607-5298
Ph: 919-760-8189 Fx: 919-788-0956
Email: ncacadsci@meredith.edu

Robert R Bryan Research Grants Committee Chairperson
Dr. Gerhard W Kalmus

Yarbrough Research Grants Committee Chairperson
Dr. Kazi Rahman
Mount Olive College Dept Science & Mathematics
634 Henderson St
Mount Olive NC 28365-1263
Ph: 919-658-2502 Fx: 919-658-7179
rrahman@moc.edu

Government Advisory Committee Chairperson
Vacant

Graduate Counselor
Vacant

Section Chairs Advisory Committee Chairperson
Dr. Michael J Baranski

Section Chairs Advisory Committee Representative
Dr. Erica Kosal
North Carolina Wesleyan College Dept Biology
3400 N Wesleyan Blvd
Rocky Mount NC 27804-8699
Ph 252-985-5756 Fx 252-985-5319
Email: ekosal@ncwc.edu

Nominating Committee Chairperson
Dr. Michael J Baranski

Annual Meeting Committee Chairperson
Dr. Karen McDougal

Local Arrangements Committee Chairperson
Dr. Alan Goble