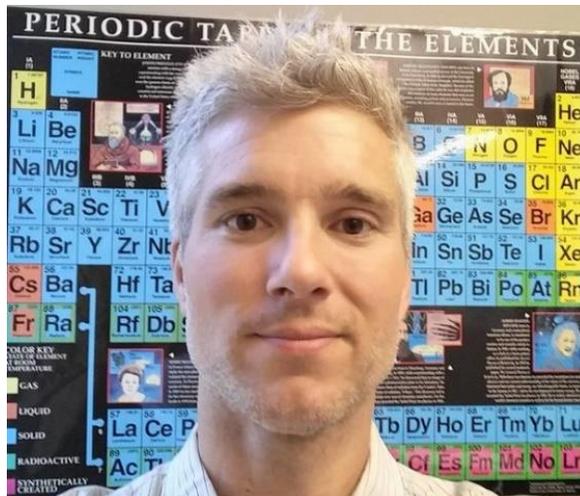


Welcome to the South Carolina Academy of Science 2017 Annual Meeting

Dear Students, Teachers, Scientists, and Colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome you to the 90th annual meeting of the South Carolina Academy of Science (SCAS). It is an honor to have you all at Coastal Carolina University, and I hope you enjoy yourselves while on our campus today.

The SCAS is a state-wide, interdisciplinary science organization established in 1924. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in science and includes undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, administrators, and related professionals. The Academy also sponsors the South Carolina Junior Academy of Science (SCJAS), which includes high school students and teachers and provides an opportunity for students throughout the state to present original research at the annual meeting. Our mission is to promote the creation of scientific knowledge; to improve the quality of science education in our state; to foster the interaction of business, industry, government and education in the academic scientific community; to improve public understanding and appreciation of science; and to encourage young people to become involved in science.



Today, nearly 500 students will be presenting their research across a multitude of STEM-related fields including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Medicine, and many others. Dissemination of knowledge is paramount to the advancement of science, and we therefore hope you take the time to visit different oral sessions as well as the SCAS poster session to see the exciting and unique work our presenters will be talking about. We are also excited to have our plenary speaker, Dr. Ken Shimizu from the University of South Carolina, with us today. He will be talking about the development of molecular machines, and their current and future uses. We are also excited and honored to present the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Scientific Research and Scientific Awareness to the 2017 recipients.

These events, like the majority of scientific research, do not occur without a significant amount of teamwork. I would like to thank all of our sponsors and donors for their generous support of this important event. I would like to thank the Dean of the College of Science, Dr. Michael Roberts, for his support and efforts behind the scenes to make this event happen as well as Coastal Carolina University for allowing us time and space on campus today. The SCAS has persisted and succeeded over its 90 years on the literal and figurative backs of volunteer work, most notably the SCAS councilors who toil throughout the year in order to deliver a successful spring meeting. A big thanks to all of you. I would like to especially thank our current and past presidents (Dr. Heather Evans-Anderson and Dr. John Kaup) for all their help this past year in preparing for this meeting and for securing judges for the SCAS and SCJAS sessions; Dr. David Ferris for his consummate work in preparing our online and printed programs; and Dr. Edna Steele for her thankless job as Treasurer for both the SCAS and SCJAS. Lastly, I'd like to thank all of the students, teachers, mentors, advisors, councilors, scientists, parents, and volunteers who have worked to make today's meeting a success.

I hope you enjoy the meeting today, and I look forward to working with you all over the next few years as we continue to strengthen and expand our efforts in order to push the goals of the South Carolina Academy of Science forward.



Kevin M. McWilliams
President-Elect, South Carolina Academy of Science
Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Coastal Carolina University

