The Dwight Camper Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

The Dwight Camper Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award honors an undergraduate student or team that has performed outstanding research as an undergraduate student in any of the scientific fields supported by the SC Academy of Science. This award consists of an honorarium of $300 and a handsomely framed certificate that is presented in a special ceremony at the South Carolina Academy of Sciences annual meeting.

The award is named in memory of the late Dr. Dwight Camper, Professor Emeritus in Plant Physiology at Clemson University. Dr. Camper was very active in the Academy serving in various capacities. He taught many graduate level plant physiology courses as well as a popular undergraduate class called Plant Medicine, Magic and Murder. This was the first exposure most students had to Plant Medicine and led many to pursue research projects in his laboratory. These students benefited from his rigorous guidance while learning to use the scientific method to arrive at meaningful conclusions. He appreciated students who demonstrated a passion for research and approached it with an inquisitive mine, creativity and perseverance. His encouragement and can-do attitude enabled his students to become successful researchers. Dr. Camper felt deeply that research findings should be enthusiastically shared with others and encouraged his students to participate in the South Carolina Academy of Sciences as an avenue to share their discoveries. The Dwight Camper Award was presented for the first time in 2011 to a team of three students from Clemson University conducting research with medicinal plants.

CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

This prestigious award honors undergraduates with a GPA of 3.0 or better who have engaged in research for at least one year and whose research has or will contribute to the generation of a science publication. The nomination form is available at the Academy's website at www.scacademysci.org (click on awards).

A complete application consists of the nomination form, a letter of recommendation from a professor familiar with the student’s research, an abstract of their research and a copy of the student’s university transcript. To be considered for this award – the nominee must have submitted an abstract to the SCAS Annual Meeting (held annually in April) and have made plans to give an oral presentation of their research at the meeting.