Welcome to the South Carolina Academy of Science
2015 Annual Meeting

Dear Students, Teachers, Scientists, and Colleagues,

Good morning and welcome to the South Carolina Academy of Science Annual Meeting. I am Dr. John Kaup, President-Elect of the South Carolina Academy of Sciences (SCAS). I am the Coordinator of Science Education here at Furman University. On behalf of the Academy it is my pleasure to welcome you to Furman University and I hope you will have the opportunity to spend sometime both on our campus as well as in downtown Greenville. For those of you who are new to the Academy, SCAS is a state-wide, interdisciplinary science organization established in 1924. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in science and includes students, faculty, administrators, and related professionals.

The Academy also sponsors the South Carolina Junior Academy of Science and in addition to my role with SCAS, I am also proud to serve as the Executive Director of the SC Junior Academy of Science (SCJAS). SCJAS provides an for HS students throughout the state to the excitement of the scientific community by giving them an opportunity to present original research. Our mission (SCAS and SCJAS combined) 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.

We are thrilled that nearly 500 students, faculty, teachers, and scientists in biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, engineering, mathematics, health sciences and more are participating in this year’s meeting and sharing their discoveries through oral presentations and poster sessions. We are also excited to present the Governor’s Awards for Excellence in Scientific Research and Scientific Awareness. We are thrilled and honored to have as our plenary speaker Dr. Marek Urban from Clemson University. Dr Urban is a world renowned materials scientist and we look forward to learning about his most recent work in self-healing polymers.

These events do not happen without significant teamwork. I would like to sincerely thank all of our sponsors and donors for their generous support of this important event. We are so grateful to Furman University and its faculty and students and especially for Dr. John Beckford’s generous hospitality and support for this meeting. While all of the SCAS councilors participate in one way or another in supporting the delivery of our spring meeting I would like to recognize a few individuals specifically. Thanks to our current and past presidents (Dr Laurie Fladd and Dr. Pearl Fernandez) for guiding me throughout the past year. For Dr. Bill Pirkle and Dr. James Privett for their outstanding service as judging
coordinators for the SCAS and SCJAS respectively. Dr. David Ferris for his annual delivery of an outstanding program and Dr. Edna Steele for her countless hours serving as Treasurer for the SCAS and SCJAS (and keeping us in line with our bidgets).

A very special thank you to all of the students, their teachers, mentors, parents, scientists, and volunteers who have worked so hard to bring us their outstanding work today. I wish you an outstanding meeting and look forward to working with you over the next several years as we continue to strengthen and expand our effort as The South carolina Academy of Science.

Enjoy your day,

John G. Kaup

John G. Kaup, PhD
    President–Elect; South Carolina Academy of Science
    Executive Director; South Carolina Junior Academy of science