Meetings

Collegiate Academy of Science

Developments during the past few years have aroused an interest in science and scientists which has become national in scope. Many people believe that our country fails to secure the full benefit of many of its gifted young people because these superior students do not obtain the education requisite to reach the level for which they are qualified.

Only about six out of ten of the top five percent of high school graduates ever earn college degrees. Why is this true? The decision to continue in college depends upon several factors, one of which is motivation. Talented students do not want to do just what everyone else is doing—they want an opportunity to do something creative. Are our college science students being properly motivated? Are there opportunities for a talented college student who is a potential scientist to act like one? One organization formed to stimulate superior undergraduate students to do independent scientific research is the Collegiate Academy of Science. The collegiate academy not only offers a stimulus to increase interest in science, but also provides for the undergraduate a medium through which he can publish his results. Through its annual meeting, the organization also offers students an opportunity to prepare and read scientific papers.

The members of the Academy Conference Committee on Collegiate Academies of Science believe that such an organization is a distinct need. Students sometimes come from high schools that have active junior academies or science clubs to colleges that have no agency for encouraging and promoting their interest in science. The Collegiate Academy of Science stimulates continued interest in science and prevents much scientific talent from being lost. Therefore, the committee is of the opinion that the absence of collegiate academies in most of the state academies of science is a serious matter. It is hoped that the following information on the purposes, organization, and procedures of a collegiate academy will stimulate interest in this important group.

The purpose of a collegiate academy is to stimulate scholarship and research among the undergraduate students in the colleges and universities of the state who are interested in the sciences; to cooperate with the state academy of science and to aid in accomplishing the objectives of that organization; and to encourage and facilitate the exchange of information and ideas among students interested in the sciences.

Active members are usually members of clubs affiliated with the collegiate academy. However, undergraduate students in colleges and universities of a state where there is no affiliated club may also become members. Any undergraduate science club or society of a college or university of a state may affiliate with the collegiate academy by sending an application to the executive committee (or to some designated person). Annual dues for individual members should be about $1.00. These may be the only dues collected or there may also be dues for each affiliated club. In the past, some collegiate academy groups were supported by the state academy of science, but experience has proved that self-support, made possible by annual dues, is preferable.

The officers should include a president, a vice president, and a secretary. A treasurer and an editor could also be included. In some instances, a faculty member serves as treasurer. If there is a large number of affiliated clubs, it might be useful to divide the state into regions (as northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest) with a director for each region. The officers should be elected at the annual meeting from students who will be in college for one more year and should hold office for one year. The faculty sponsor (or counselor) may be appointed by the state academy of science, or he may be elected by the collegiate academy and be approved by the state academy. A collegiate academy committee composed of faculty members from several colleges may be appointed by the executive committee of the state academy of science to assist and advise the counselor. The executive committee should consist of the officers, the regional directors (if any), the faculty sponsor, and the collegiate committee (if any). The immediate past president might also be a member of the committee.

The annual meeting, which is the principal activity of the collegiate academy, should be held in conjunction with that of the state academy of science. Members should be encouraged to attend the general meetings of the senior academy. Regional meetings or other special meetings might be held at times and places determined by the executive committee. At the annual meeting, the most important part of the program is the presentation of scientific papers by student members. Interest may be stimulated by offering a small prize for the best paper. This may simply consist in having the prize-winning paper published in the senior academy journal. In some cases, certificates of merit are awarded to authors of outstanding papers, while in other instances cash prizes are given. In any case, the greatest benefit to the student comes from the experience of preparing and delivering a scientific paper.

Other suggested activities for the an-

nual meeting are as follows: (i) a discussion of opportunities in the different fields of science, followed by a question period (one or more members of the senior academy may indicate the types of positions available, salaries, opportunities for graduate study, and other related points); (ii) scientific exhibits (both commercial exhibits and exhibits prepared by students); (iii) scientific films; (iv) field trips to local places of scientific interest; (v) a collegiate academy banquet at which the president gives an address; (vi) a social hour or cafeteria lunch together to give students from the various colleges an opportunity to become acquainted; and (vii) a business meeting for committee reports, election of officers, and so forth.

A collegiate academy publication is, next to the annual meeting, the best means for maintaining interest. This journal should be devoted largely to the publication of papers written by the collegiates. The publication may also include a column by the president, the faculty counselor, or both, in which they discuss items of interest to all of the collegiates. News from the various chapters may also be included.

The following are additional activities which have proved successful in some of the collegiate academies now in existence: (i) local meetings; (ii) regional meetings, similar to the annual meeting but on a smaller scale; (iii) meetings of the executive committee (including one such meeting held several weeks in advance of the annual convention and another at the time of the annual convention); (iv) circular letters sent occasionally to each chapter by the president or the faculty sponsor to help maintain interest; (v) requests by the faculty sponsor for senior academy members to serve as speakers for local chapter meetings during the year (several chapters in the same city or within a few miles of one another may hold occasional joint "academy night" programs at which a senior-academy member gives a talk); and (vi) field trips sponsored by the collegiate academy.

It is the hope of the committee members that this statement of ideas concerning the purpose of and suggested activities for a collegiate academy will prove helpful to many who may wish to develop such an organization.

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Forthcoming Events

March

11–14. American Cong. on Surveying and Mapping, Washington, D.C. (J. H. Wickham, Jr., 1959 ASP–ACSM Consecutive Meetings, 610 Montgomery St., Alexandria, Va.)

13–14. American Otological Soc., Hot Springs, Va. (L. R. Boies, University Hospital, Minneapolis 14, Minn.)

13–15. Alabama Acad. of Sciences, Auburn. (H. M. Kaylor, Dept. of Physics, Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Ala.)

14–15. Southwestern Soc. of Nuclear Medicine, 4th annual, New Orleans, La. (S. B. Nadler, SSNM, 1520 Louisiana Ave., New Orleans 15, La.)

15–20. American College of Allergists, San Francisco, Calif. (M. C. Harris, 450 Sutter St., San Francisco.)

16–19. American Assoc. of Petroleum Geologists, Soc. of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, 44th annual, Dallas, Tex. (W. A. Waldschmidt, AAPG, 311 Leggett Building, Midland, Tex.)

16–20. American Inst. of Chemical Engineers, Atlantic City, N.J. (F. J. Van Antwerpen, American Inst. of Chemical Engineers, 25 W. 45 St., New York 36.)

16–20. National Assoc. of Corrosion Engineers, 15th annual conf., Chicago,

Ill. (NACE, Southern Standard Bldg., Houston, Tex.)

16–20. Western Metal Exposition and Cong., 11th, Los Angeles, Calif. (R. T. Bayless, 7301 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 3, Ohio)

17–19. National Health Council, Chicago, Ill. (P. E. Ryan, 1790 Broadway, New York, 19.)

17–20. Organization of Research, 4th intern, symp., Milan, Italy. (I. Svergie, Produktivitetsnamnden, Linnegatan 87, Stockholm Ö, Sweden.)

18–25. International Social Science Council, 4th general assembly (by invitation), Paris, France. (C. Levi-Strauss, Secretary-General, International Social Science Council, 19, avenue Kleber, Paris.)

19–21. Society for Research in Child Development, NIH, Bethesda, Md. (Miss N. Bayley, Laboratory of Psychology, National Inst. of Mental Health, Bethesda 14, Md.)

19–22. International Assoc. for Dental Research, 37th general, San Francisco, Calif. (D. Y. Burrill, Northwestern Univ., 311 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.)

20. New Jersey Acad. of Science, annual, New Brunswick. (H. L. Silverman, 361 Highland Ave., Newark 4, N.J.)

23–24. Theory of Fluid Flow through Porous Media, 2nd conf., Norman, Okla. (C. G. Dodd, School of Petroleum Engineering, Univ. of Oklahoma, Norman.)

23–26. Institute of Radio Engineers, natl. conv., New York, N.Y. (G. L. Haller, IRE, 1 E. 79 St., New York 21.)

24–27. American Meteorological Soc., general, Chicago, Ill. (K. C. Spengler, AMS, 3 Joy Street, Boston, Mass.)

27–28. Michigan Acad. of Sciences, East Lansing. (D. A. Rings, Univ. of Michigan, Dept. of Engineering, Ann Arbor.)

27–28. Pennsylvania Acad. of Sciences, Gettysburg. (K. Dearolf, Public Museum and Art Gallery, Reading, Pa.)

28. South Carolina Acad. of Sciences, Columbia. (H. W. Freeman, Dept. of Biology, Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C.)

29–3. Latin American Congress of Chemistry, 7th, Mexico D.F., Mexico. (R I. Frisbie, Calle Ciprès No. 176, Zone 4 Mexico, D.F.)

30–31. Third Teratology Conf., Portland, Ore. (D. L. Gunberg, Dept. of Anatomy, Univ. of Oregon Medical School, Portland.)

30–1. American Orthopsychiatric Assoc., San Francisco, Calif. (M. F. Langer, 1790 Broadway, New York 19.)

30–12. Bahamas Medical Conf., 7th, Nassau. (B. L. Frank, 1290 Pine Ave., W. Montreal, Canada.)

31–2. American Power Conf., 21st annual, Chicago, Ill. (N. S. Hibshman, AIEE, 33 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

31–2. Symposium on Millimeter Waves, 9th, New York, N.Y. (H. J. Carlin, Microwave Research Inst., 55 Johnson St., Brooklyn 1, N.Y.)

31–5. International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, 21st session. Paris, France. (Comité International de Médecine et de Pharmacie Militaires, Hôpital Militaire, 79, rue Saint Laurent. Liège, Belgium.)

(See issue of 16 January for comprehensive list)