What are the goals of the Academy and how are we meeting them?

On 8 May, 1914, 25 scientists met at the "State University" in Lexington to found the Academy. Chemist Joseph H. Kastle, Director of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, was elected as first President; and 5 papers were delivered on such subjects as bone ossification, theories of thermal and electrical conductivity, and the significance of the work of the Experiment Station to the agricultural prosperity of the state. The Constitution unanimously adopted at that meeting stated the object of the Academy to be: "to encourage scientific research, to promote the diffusion of useful scientific knowledge, and to unify the scientific interests of the state." The first Transactions were published in 1924, detailing activities of the first decade of the Academy's existence. By reading this and subsequent volumes of the Transactions one can trace the interests and activities of Kentucky's scientific community over the decades. Today, more than 72 years later, the goals of the Academy remain the same. In 1986, how have we adhered to them, and what have we accomplished during the past year?

I cannot imagine any year in which there has been more "encouragement of scientific research" in Kentucky. The successful efforts of the Kentucky EPSCoR Committee in stimulating the writing of 146 grant proposals, many of which have received or will receive funding outside the EPSCoR grant of $15.5 million, is the greatest achievement along these lines in the history of Kentucky science. If you have not done so, please read the "EPSCoR Summary" sent with your latest KAS Newsletter. Along with Chuck Kupchella (the "Father of the Kentucky EPSCoR Project"), Gary Boggess and many other KAS members have worked hard toward the ultimate victory in obtaining the $3 million from NSF, $3 million from state government, $600,000 from industry, and the rest from the institutions involved. This achievement represents not only hard work of high quality by many individuals, but also the fruition of increased cooperation among
academia, state government and the private sector during the past 3-4 years—a deliberate focus of the Academy’s leadership during this period.

In addition to the direct and indirect encouragement of research through the EPSCoR Program, the Academy itself has been able to provide tangible assistance as never before. Besides recognizing the Scientist, High School Teacher, and College Teacher of the Year, and 10 JKAS student prize winners and their mentors, we have been able to grant $8,500 in research funds under the Marcia Athey Fund to two investigators—the largest dollar amount support ever possible for the Academy to grant. For this we are greatly indebted to Raymond Athey for providing the Fund; and to Paul Freytag and the Marcia Athey Fund Committee members for administering it.

In the area of “promoting the diffusion of useful scientific knowledge” we continue to publish our Transactions in 2 annual issues. This year financial and printing-house problems resulted in a double setback: our Volume 46(3/4) was released late and with an unacceptable number of errors; and our Volume 47 has been delayed as well. However, the former is being reprinted, and we hope to get back on schedule in 1987 after returning our printing operation back to Allen Press, a specialized and efficient, although more expensive, company. Our Secretary publishes 2 newsletters a year; and the Junior Academy also diffuses information via its own newsletter.

Press coverage of Academy activities has been poor in the past, but we expect improvement in the future. Also in the area of diffusing scientific information is the creation of a speaker’s bureau list, which should be published soon with over 50 of our members listed as available to speak to school and other groups on a wide range of topics. Finally, the record participation by KAS members in this annual meeting, with 252 papers presented (86 more than last year) attests to the strength of this aspect of our mission. Besides quantity, I have noted a steady increase in the quality of papers presented in recent years. Thanks to all of you who have contributed this year; it has been a most stimulating meeting!

The most difficult aspect of the Academy’s mission, I feel, is to “unify the scientific interests in the state.” To some extent, this is accomplished as members from our various sections agree to serve the Academy in various committees and offices. Yet there are segments of Kentucky’s scientific community in the private sector and in some areas of education that we have not yet reached. We hope to make contact with them and feel we have had an excellent chance to do so at this combined meeting. Others have yet to be convinced that membership in the Academy is beneficial to them, and have either dropped their memberships or never have joined. You can help us here by bringing in at least one new or reinstated member in 1987. Selling points can include the fact that communication among scientists in the state is important, and sharing research results by presenting papers and publication in the Transactions is worthwhile, and is also a “good place to start” for student scientists trying their wings.

As to affecting the course of science in Kentucky, we seem to be having an increasing effect as our numbers grow, and as we increase the involvement of our colleges and universities and our science-related businesses and industries. Last year’s President Joe Winstead began a major effort to enlist these as Institutional and Corporate Affiliates in the Academy, and we have continued that effort this year. Affiliates have provided vital additional income of over $6,000 last year, and $5,550 so far this year from 19 institutions and 2 corporations. The campaign is still underway with our appeal to corporations (and for individual memberships from the private sector as well). Letters are going out to over 300 companies in the Commonwealth, thanks to our Membership Committee, chaired by Doug Dahlman, and President-elect Hettinger.

Some unification of science interests surely accrues from the activity of the Kentucky Tomorrow Commission, led by Lt. Governor Steve Beshear, and the membership of KAS members on the Commission’s Science and Technology Committee. And of course the monumental EPSCoR effort cited above has done much toward attaining that objective.

These are some of the ways the Academy is meeting the goals established in 1914. Other aspects of our activity include constitutional revision, which has progressed from initial rec-
ommendations presented in September by our *ad hoc* revision committee consisting of Ted George, Gary Boggess, and J. G. Rodriguez (Chairman). Your Executive Committee and Board of Trustees hope to have these revisions ready for your approval in the coming year. A new officer, that of Executive Secretary, may be established through this revision. For now President-elect Giesmann and I have jointly appointed Dr. Rodriguez as a Special Assistant to the President for 1 year. His duties are yet to be fully defined; but he will assist in public relations and other functions to carry out the goals of the Academy. To develop financial recommendations to guide our Treasurer, an *ad hoc* Committee on Financial Policy has just been appointed, made up of Paul Freytag (Chairman), Manuel Schwartz, and Alan Reed. A further activity pertaining to strengthening the Academy is the exploration of a possible “home office” by our *ad hoc* Committee for Long Range Planning (Bill Hettinger, Chair). Such an office will be selected after our constitutional revisions have been completed.

During the past year Academy members participated in the successful drive for improved funding of higher education by the Legislature. Several Academy members formed a small contingent at the “Capital Caravan” rally held in Frankfort on 5 February. We have initiated the development of a Collegiate Academy branch to bring undergraduate college students into Academy activities. Herb Leopold is heading that effort. I explored the possibility of establishing a summer Nature Camp at Pine Mountain Settlement School in conjunction with the Kentucky Federation of Garden Clubs. However, that organization did not elect to pursue this idea, despite the support of its President. In 1986 we signed a document by which we joined 16 other state academies of science and 72 Nobel laureates as *amicus curiae* in a brief filed in the case of Edwards *vs*. Aguillard *et al.* pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. This case seeks to overturn a Louisiana law requiring public school teachers to give “balanced treatment” in class to evolution and “creation science.”

This has been an exciting and stimulating Annual Meeting, capping an equally exciting and stimulating year. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have been your President, and wish to express this gratitude to all of you who have done so much this past year to further the goals of the Academy. I particularly wish to single out Bob Creek and Joe Winstead for their help in many ways as I pursued this job, and also who had the most to do in arranging the Academy’s participation in this joint conference. Thanks to all you committee chairs and members for your good service. I want to encourage all of you to continue sharing your scientific interests and achievements with the rest of us through publication and presentation of papers in the years ahead. Also, we want to broaden the participation of our members in the governance of Academy affairs; so let us know your ideas, and indicate your desire to participate.

Now, as is our tradition, I will turn the gavel of the Academy over to your new President, Larry Giesmann of Northern Kentucky University. Good luck to you, Larry, and to all Academy officers, for continuing success in 1987.

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