

238	14	12	31
U	N	C	P
92	7	6	15

NEWSLETTER

January
February
2022

Chemistry and Physics Department, Oxendine Science Building – Room 3101, Pembroke, NC 28372
chem_phy@uncp.edu 910/521-6247

UNCP Rocket Team

The UNCP Student News in the local *Pine Needle* newspaper dated January 27, 2022.

UNCP's Rocket Science Takes Off to Compete

by Ester Sanchez, Web Editor

The Rocket Team is an exciting experience that students from any major can participate in. They will be competing in the First Nations Launch National Rocket Competition.

The UNCP page for the newsroom said that the Rocket Team was awarded \$5,000 from North Carolina Space Grant and \$4,000 from Wisconsin Space Grant to cover travel and other expenses.

The team members Sydney Allen, Alexis Velarde, Mace Velarde, Benjamin Savage, Caleb Locklear, Eric Schwartz, Chynna Eubanks and Micah Ferguson will be traveling to Kansasville, Wisconsin for the competition from April 22-24.

The judges at the FNL competition are people in the industry. Most of the judges for the upcoming event are aerospace engineers; some work Boeing, Spirit AeroSystems and NASA. For the competition, the team has to put together rocket design reports that are to industry specifications.

"Being judged to the same standards as the industry- they're getting hands-on practice designing and engineering to prepare them for future careers," Dr. Steven Singletary said.

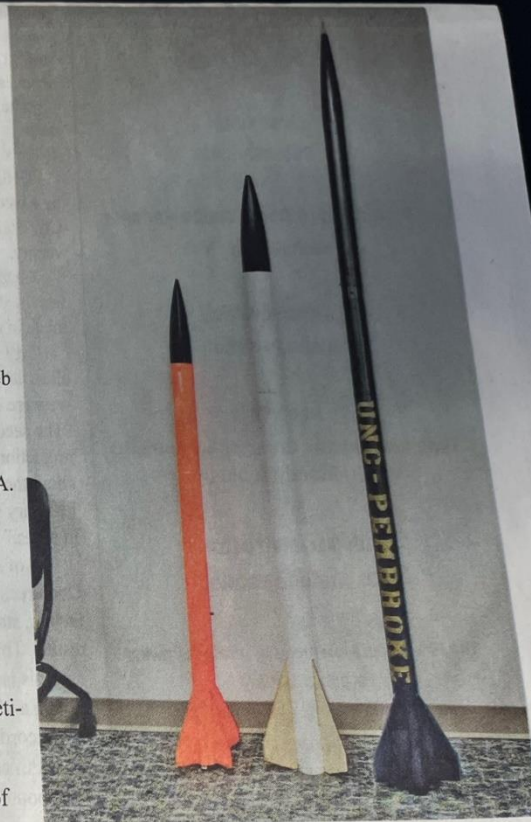
The Rocket Team is open for anyone regardless of their major. Joining the team can "teach you to work as part of a group and gain hands-on experience with making designs," Caleb Locklear said.

Alexis Velarde was approached by Singletary when he started looking up rocket competitions as a way to "shoot mini-missiles legally without getting in trouble."

The rocket team can also be a way to expand your career path.

"There's a lot going on with NASA right now, it's a field that's opening up with a lot of job opportunities. I want to get more people interested in it," Singletary said.

Anyone that's interested can email here at steven.singletary@uncp.edu or on Instagram @uncprockets.

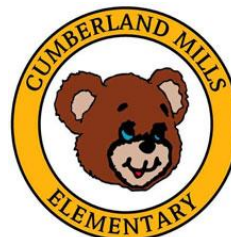


The orange and white rocket in the photo were used for testing. The black rocket was used in the last competition. PN Photo/ Ester Sanchez

STARward Program



Dr. Meredith Storms, Ph.D.
Professor of Chemistry



On February 16, Dr. Meredith Storms served as a guest panelist for a group of 4th graders (5 classes) at Cumberland Mills Elementary School in Fayetteville, NC. The STEM Career Panel was organized as part of the STARward program which is a "3-year program funded by the Department of Defense (DoD) to support equitable access to high-quality STEM education opportunities for youth in Cumberland County Schools." During the panel discussion, Dr. Storms shared information about careers in chemistry with students. Since the students are currently working on a project related to space, they had lots of fun questions about the planets and more during the Q&A session.

We appreciate all you do for both the University and the Department.

THE NORTH CAROLINA REGION IV SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

The 2022 North Carolina Region IV Science & Engineering Fair was held virtually on Saturday, February 19, 2022. In the interest of public health and safety, the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and the North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair (NCSEF) directors and board members have again requested that all fairs be virtual this year. This means that all projects will be presented and judged in an online format. The preferred video conferencing is Zoom as many students are now comfortable with its features.

This year's science fair was the 42nd year that UNCP has hosted the regional fair. There were over 30 projects entered from thirteen different counties in the surrounding area. There will be several projects going on to the state level competition. Due to the generous support from a wide variety of sponsors, we were able to award an additional five special recognition awards, many with monetary prizes.



Dr. Quinton Rice, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
of Physics

The department would like to give a special “thank you” to Dr. Quinton Rice for his remarkable work on our Region IV Science Fair. It was a grand success under the leadership of Dr. Rice as the Director. He did a great job for his organization and executing the work nicely with Elementary, Middle, and High School students. Congratulations, Dr. Rice. You did a great job. Also, thank you to the following faculty members for their dedication and the time they took to judge the Science Fair Projects. The faculty members judging the projects were Dr. Rachel Smith, Ms. Sally Vallabha, Dr. Benjamin Killian, Dr. Tikaram Neupane, Dr. Siva Mandjiny, and Ms. Terry Chaves (student). Thanks to all of you and without your support, this would not have happened. We appreciate everything you do. We need this kind of Community based events to encourage the future scientists.

*And the
Winners
are...*

Elementary Winners

Lexie Spannhake - Baby It's Cold Outside
Chase Tomala - What Weakens Your WiFi?
Jackson Freeman – UP, UP and AWAY
Garrett Mullennix - Keepin' It Cool...Or Hot!
Joshua Culbreth - Bad Hair Day? It might be the humidity!
Adaleigh Hart - Battle of the Masks
Connor Price - How do toys float

Elementary Honorable Mentions

Justin Alexander - CLOUD IN A BOTTLE
Alexis Saunders & Nariyah Massey - How Long Until it Fades
Gracie Hall – Ice, Ice Baby

Junior/Senior Winners

Leah Mullennix - Hydration Filtration
Peyton Atkins - Skittles: Which color disappears the fastest?

Special Award Winners

Lumbee River EMC

Gwendolyn Pollard - Can You Replicate the Water Cycle

Biotechnology Award

Nathan Put - Light Outcome

Dr. Dalton Brooks Award

Gracie Hall – Ice, Ice Baby

UNCP Chemistry and Physics Award

Chase Tomala - What Weakens Your WiFi?

Grand Prize Winner

Peyton Atkins - Skittles: Which color disappears the fastest?



Chemistry Seminar and Graduate Recruiting Visit

"Exploring Chemistry Through Artificial Intelligence"

Special Guest: Professor Konstantinos Vogiatzis – University of Tennessee Knoxville

Monday afternoon, February 28th, at 1:30 pm in SCI 3256

UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
PEMBROKE

Chemistry Seminar and Graduate Recruiting Visit

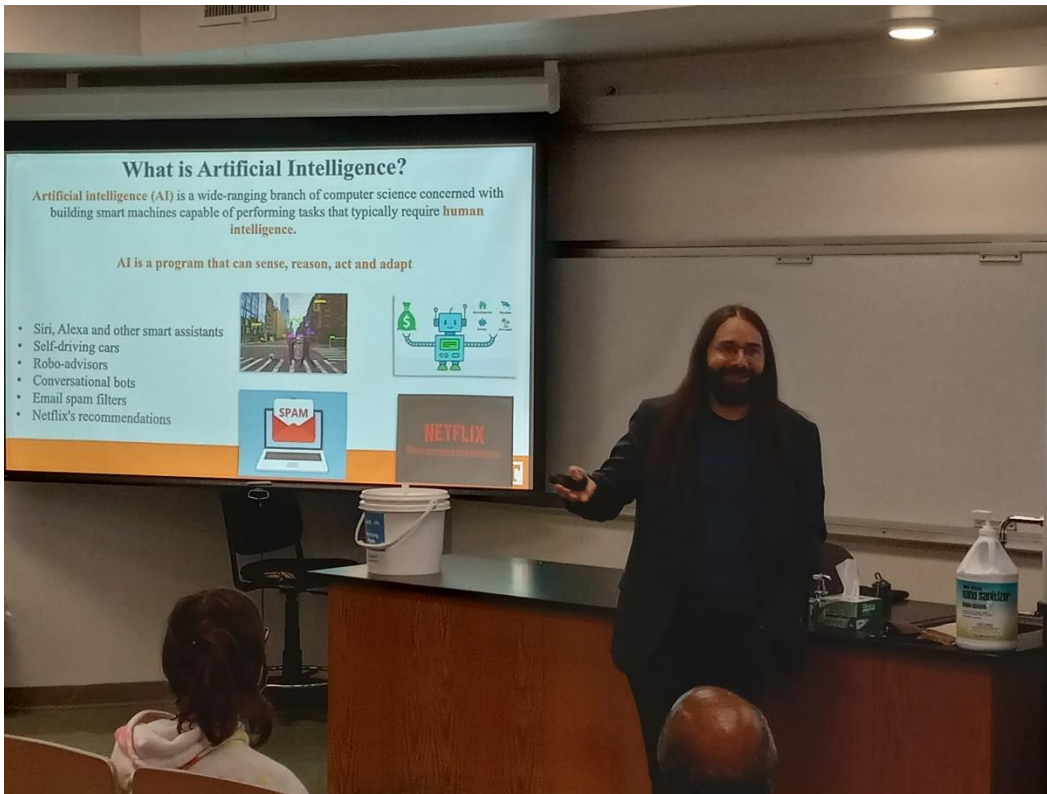
**"Exploring Chemistry
Through Artificial Intelligence"**

Prof. Konstantinos Vogiatzis
Department of Chemistry
University of Tennessee Knoxville

1:30 PM
Monday, 28 February 2022
SCI 3256

Student Q&A Session to Follow
Come explore chemistry graduate opportunities at UT
Knoxville

UNCP
Chemistry & Physics





Dr. Benjamin J. Killian, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Special “thank you”, Dr. Killian, for organizing and leading this initiative.