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NEWSLETTER

February
2020

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

Angel de la Cruz Landrau, Ph.D.

The RISE Program and Dr. Rachel Smith hosted guest speaker, Dr. Angel de la Cruz Landrau from National Institution of Health to the department on February 6th. He joined Dr. Mandjiny's Biochemistry class at 12:30 p.m. to talk to the students about his current research and research opportunities at NIH. Everyone was welcome to come to the seminar and meet Dr. Landrau.

The screenshot shows the NIH website profile for Angel de la Cruz Landrau, Ph.D., Summer, Diversity and Postbac Program Coordinator. The page includes a navigation menu with options like Disorders, Funding, Current Research, News & Events, and About NINDS. A sidebar on the left lists 'WHO WE ARE' with links to Mission, NINDS Staff Directory, Program Directors, Advisory Council, Director's Corner, Nonprofit Forum, Board of Scientific Counselors, and Donate to NINDS. The main content area features a portrait of Dr. Landrau, his contact information (angel.delacruzlandrau@nih.gov, 301-496-0899), and a detailed biography. The biography states he was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, attended the University of Puerto Rico, Bayamón Campus, and graduated with a B.S. in Biology with a concentration in Human Biology and a minor in General Sciences and Biology Teaching. He then enrolled in the Universidad Central del Caribe to obtain his PhD in Molecular and Cell Biology. During the second year of his PhD program, he became a NINDS summer graduate student and eventually a member of the Graduate Partnership Program and an IRTA in Dr. Miguel Holmgren's lab, where he worked on his dissertation research entitled "Insights on the Gating Mechanism of a Voltage-Gated Potassium Channel using Metal Bridges and Methanethiosulfonate Crosslinkers." After obtaining his PhD, he held dual postdoc appointments within the Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) under Dr. Sharon Milgram while continuing his research with Dr. Holmgren. While at OITE, he acted as a program coordinator for the High School Scientific Training and Enrichment Program (HISTEP). His duties with HISTEP afforded him in-depth knowledge of NIH-sponsored training programs and career paths. Over the years, Dr. de la Cruz has developed an interest in helping scientific trainees at every level. He joined the leadership of the NIH Society for the Advancement of Chicanos, Hispanos and Native Americans in Science to provide opportunities in career development and mentoring to the NIH community. Additionally, he served on multiple NINDS committees with the goal of disseminating the NINDS mission.

THE NORTH CAROLINA REGION IV SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR



Dr. Quinton Rice



Dr. Roland Stout

The 2020 North Carolina Region IV Science & Engineering Fair was held on Saturday, February 15, 2020 in the Auxiliary Gym, Jones Health and Physical Education Center on the campus of UNC Pembroke. This year's science fair was the 39th year that UNCP has hosted the regional fair. There were over 75 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 20 special recognition awards, many with monetary prizes. The department would like to give a special "thank you" to Dr. Quinton Rice and Dr. Roland Stout for their remarkable work on our Region IV Science Fair. Great Job! Also, thank you to the ones who served as judges or other rolls: Dr. Bill Brandon, Dr. Tom Dooling, Dr. Steven Singletary, Ms. Sailaja Vallabha, Mr. Devang Upadhyay, Mrs. Carolyn Oxendine, and Dr. Meredith Storms.

Chemistry and Physics Winners

Timothy Lahr, Junior at Overhills Middle School in Spring Lake – *Can Your Drone Even Lift, Bro? The Future of Drone Delivery*

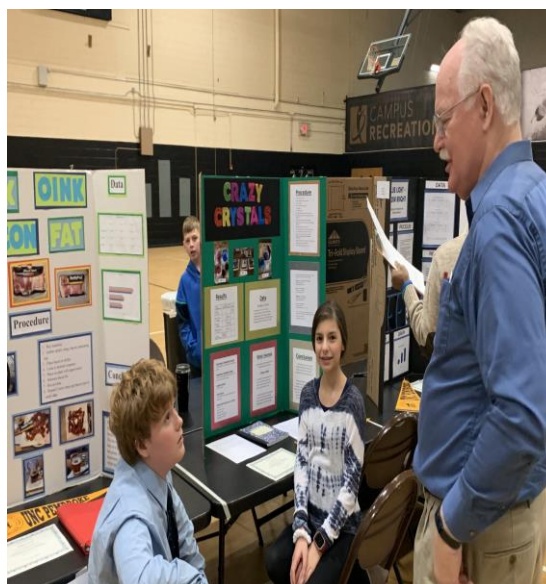
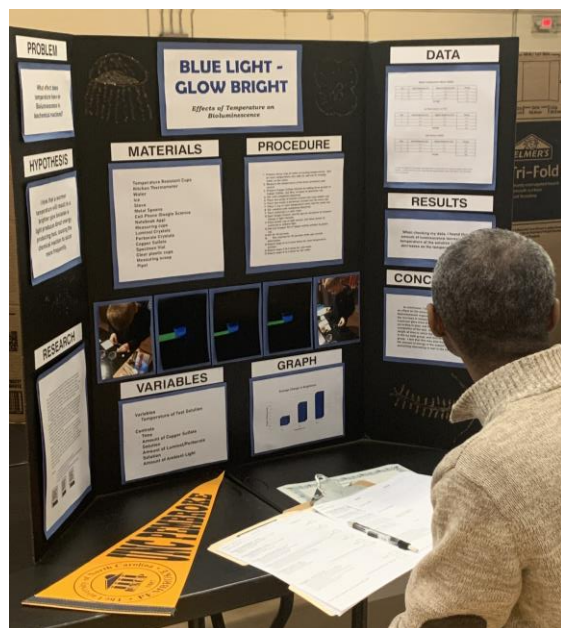
Christopher Temblador, Junior at Sandy Grove Middle School in Lumber Bridge – *The Mystery of Bridges*

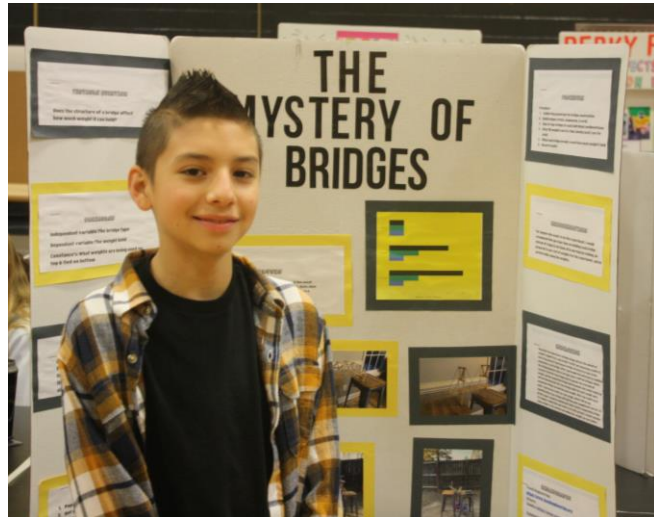
Rebecca Autrey and **Emily Patterson**, Juniors at Western Harnett Middle School in Lillington – *Give Me That Suga' Veggie*

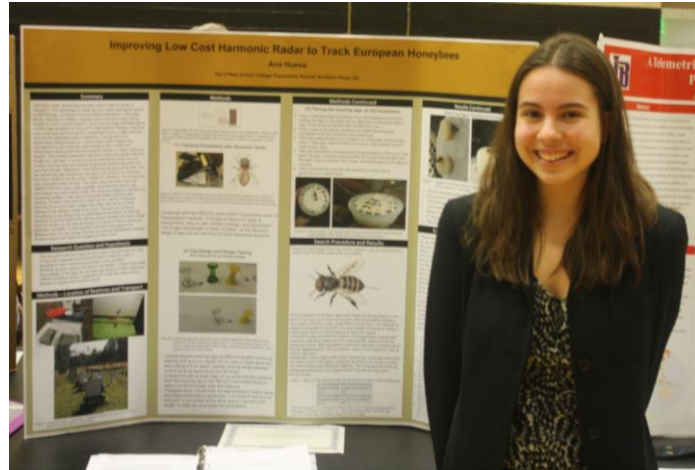
Saathvik Boompelli, Senior at Jack Britt High School in Fayetteville – *A Telemetric Gait Analysis Insole and Mobile App to Track Postoperative Fracture Rehabilitation*

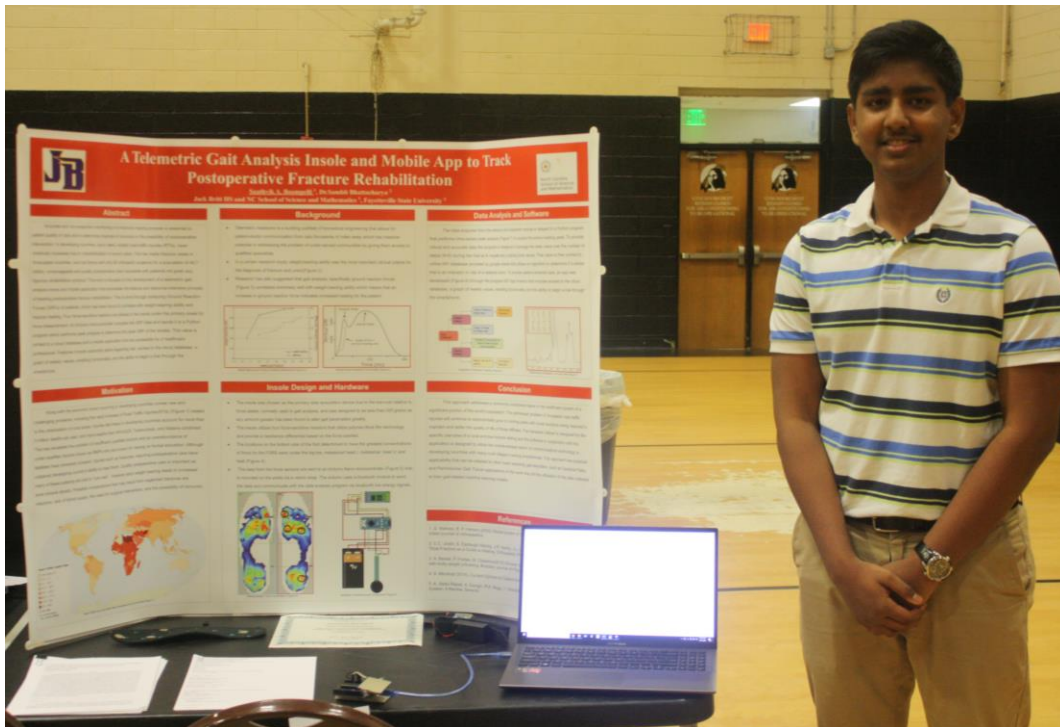
Dr. Dalton Brooks: Winner

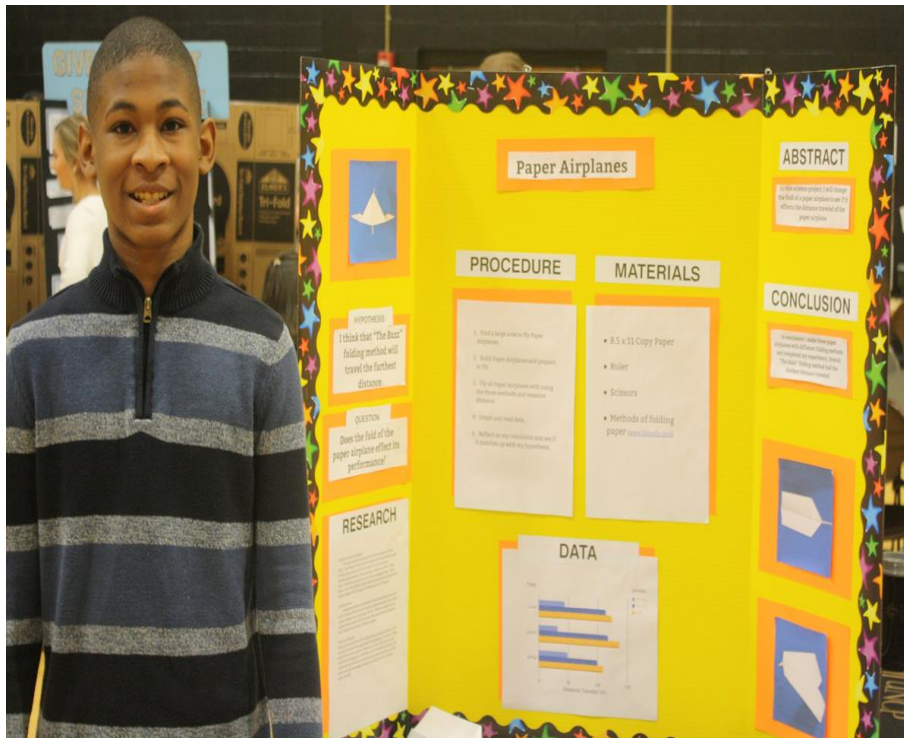
Lauren Zuravel, Junior at R Max Abbott Middle School in Fayetteville – *What's in Your Pic-a-nic Basket? Designing a Bioplastic with the Highest Tensile Strength, Flexural Strength, and Hardness*











North Carolina
Region IV Science Fair



OPEN HOUSE

Spring Open House at UNCP for students took place on February 22, 2020. The Open House at UNCP means students can experience student life on our campus, explore their academic options, and meet admissions counselors and financial aid experts who will help them throughout their application process. It was a great success. Dr. Mandjiny met with 60 students who came to our department to visit. Thank you Dr. Killian and Dr. Tirla for your time and effort on behalf of the department in representing at the open house and speaking with the students. Job well done and we appreciate you as always.



Dr. Benjamin Killian



Dr. Cornelia Tirla

OUTREACH - SCIENCE FAIR JUDGING

On Thursday, February 27, Ashley Reeves, Ayesha Bibi, Kaysey Manista, and Dr. Meredith Storms judged the science fair at Christ the Cornerstone Academy in Laurinburg, NC. Everyone had a great time and the students even made each of them a “thank you” card. Thank you, Dr. Storms, for guiding the students and motivating them to get into science. Special “thanks” to Kasey, Ayesha, and Ashley for being part of the team in judging. Wonderful job!!!!



NEW DEVELOPMENT: Teaching Physics and Engineering in 21st Century

The Engineering Lab in room 3248 has taken great shape due to Dr. Bill Brandon's hard work and vision. Great job, Dr. Brandon.

For beginners... one must first learn to multitask!



Students News



Malerie Leviner. Admitted to Campbell University in the Pharm. D. program