



NEWSLETTER

January 2023

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

NC Collaboratory HMSI Research Grant Program

Dr. Bill Brandon, Physics Department, submit the preliminary proposal to the HMSI (Historically Minority-Serving Institutions) Collaboratory program which has been recommended by the Office of the Provost for official submission to the sponsor - the NC Collaboratory (<https://collaboratory.unc.edu/>). The budget amount of \$69,000 has been awarded.

College	PI/Team	Department	Focus area	Amount
A&S	Brandon	Chemistry & Physics	Physics - Applied Optics	\$69,000

The link of the Collaboratory Award Letter is below.



Brandon_AwardLetter.pdf

Congratulations to Drs. Brandon (PI), Quinton Rice (Co-PI), and Tikaram Neupane (Co-PI)! Job well done.

Department Meeting and Luncheon

The department meeting and lunch with faculty and staff was January 6th. It was a great attendance to start off the Spring semester. The classic sandwich lunch was catered by Sodexo.





Wilmington “Meet & Greet” Breakfast

The Holiday Inn Express Wilmington Porters Neck hosted the “Meet & Greet” breakfast on January 18 in Wilmington, NC. Breakfast was catered by the hotel and the meeting was in the hotel conference room. UNCP speakers for the meeting were: Dr. Scott Billingsley (Associate Provost), Jamee Freeman (Admissions), Dr. Christie Poteet (Student Perspective Highlight), Dr. Siva Mandjiny (Faculty Highlight). Schools in attendance were Pender Early College High School, Hoggard High School, Laney High School, Topsail High School, Cape Fear Community College, and West Brunswick High School. The departments of Financial Aid, Center for Student Success, Athletics, Student Affairs, Admissions, and Academic and Military Outreach provided information for the schools.



Dr. Scott Billingsley, Ph.D.
Associate Provost



Jamee Freeman, MBA, MEd
Director-Undergraduate Admissions



Dr. Christie Poteet, Ed.D.
Associate Dean of Students



Dr. Siva Mandjiny, Ph.D.
Chair-Chemistry & Physics

Good News



Brandon Lowery
Research Specialist

Dr. Richard Gay, Dean – CAS, shared the good news about Brandon Lowery. His position, Research Specialist, is now being funded permanently. Brandon is a staff employee with the Chemistry & Physics Department.

Congratulations Brandon. Job well done!

Devang Upadhyay



Devang has left the University on January 25th. He and his family will be moving to New York. Devang has accepted a job with BASF, NY as a Senior Scientist. We wish you and your family well for the future. Job well done and we appreciate all you have done at the COMTECH.

The department had a small gathering for Devang and his family on January 23.
Best wishes, Devang.







Dr. Meredith Storms, Professor in Chemistry, was invited to serve on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Association of Biomedical Research. Congratulations, Dr. Storms. Job well done!

The North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research (NCABR) has a mission to provide support for and promote public understanding of bioscience research across the state. As a statewide nonprofit, members include academia, industry, government, professional societies, and more. With the goal of leading and advocating for scientific research and education in North Carolina, NCABR has launched innovative science education outreach programs through the years. Dr. Storms will serve on the Board of Directors and represent UNCP with the objective of advancing science education among the community, researchers, educators, the media, and students across the state.

2023 STARward STEM Expo

The UNCP Rocket Team is invited to participate as an exhibitor at the STARward STEM Expo on January 26. The Expo is located at the Douglas Byrd High School auxiliary gym from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Fayetteville, NC. At the event, 400-600 people are expected. This will include students in grades K-12, teachers, families, special guests, and supporters of STEM education in the Fayetteville and Cumberland County region. This is a great outreach event to do some recruiting in addition to our Rocket STEM engagement. The University is proud of the Rocket Team!

The primary goal of the STARward STEM program is to inspire students to engage in STEM and STEM careers through exciting experiences and interactions with STEM professionals. The participation is greatly appreciated as we are helping to create what we hope will be a "STAR" experience for students as they think about what is possible for their futures.

University of North Carolina (UNC) Pembroke - Chemistry and Physics Club Members: this student organization demonstrated a gyroscope, an instrument that uses the principle of conservation of angular momentum to measure the orientation of objects in 3D space. The team also demonstrated how the pH scale is used to identify acids and bases.

UNC-Pembroke Rocket Team: the UNCP Rocket team is composed of students from the 3+2 Engineering program who build high-powered rockets and engineer solutions for competition challenges. The team participates in several NASA-sponsored competitions (Undergraduate Student Launch Initiative, First Nations Launch, Rock On!) and routinely brings home awards and prize money. The team is open to any undergraduate at UNCP and is an excellent way to gain valuable, real-world engineering experience.





It was a busy event, with lots of interactions on several levels. Dr. Steven Singletary stated that as soon as anyone spied the rockets – no matter if they were kids, teens, or adults – they made a beeline for them. The quality of the student work being presented was inspiring. I'm glad we were able to hand out materials and put UNCP on their radar. We need those kids.

Some highlights from the Rocket table:

- NC Space Grant was present. The rocket team gets a lot of money from them, and they are beyond pleased with the work we are doing. So hopefully that funding source is secure for many more years.
- My student team member present was able to get information and a lead on further opportunities (both educational and job related) so he came out ahead and was very happy with his experience.
- Dr. Singletary chatted with other exhibitors prior to the event and have a lead on a possible collaboration to provide internships for our engineering students (more to come as he cultivates those relationships).
- Dr. Singletary met several high school students, a few that have already been accepted to UNCP, and they are planning to come by to see me (or email) for more info about the 3+2 program.
- Lots of interactions with elementary school kids. They all wanted to touch the rockets.
- Dr. Singletary made connections with elementary/middle/high school STEM teachers and have been invited to come for visits.
- Several interactions with alumni, a faculty member, and you could see they were proud of being connected to UNCP.
- Had a great time chatting and hanging out with Emily Oxendine from Admissions. 😊



The UNCP Rocket Team has been selected to compete in the NASA Student Launch Challenge in Alabama in April 2023

Congratulations Dr. Singletary and to your team. Job well done! This is a great outreach for the department. Thank you for your passion and for so clearly making every effort to showcase what UNCP has to offer! We appreciate it.