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# NEWSLETTER

February  
2021

Chemistry and Physics Department, Oxendine Science Building – Room 3101, Pembroke, NC 28372  
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## Students News



*Justin Villanueva*

**Justin Villanueva**, a recent UNC Pembroke graduate, has been accepted into the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, which is located at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Villanueva earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in Fall 2020. He credits UNCP's small, rigorous classes and outstanding professors for "igniting the spark of flame" within him to pursue a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Villanueva will begin pharmacy school in August.

**Dana Lamberton:** our first UNCP graduate obtaining the "dual degree" on the '3 + 2' program with NCSU. She will be graduating from NCSU completing the BS Mechanical Engineering degree this semester.

**Joseph Sprinkle:** Attending High Point University (NC) for Pharmacy School

**Nicholas Willard:** Graduate Program at Texas A&M University at Kingsville

**Meredith Hatchell:** attending Wingate University (NC) for Pharmacy School

## THE NORTH CAROLINA REGION IV SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

The 2021 North Carolina Region IV Science & Engineering Fair was held on Saturday, February 20, 2021. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we did not host our traditional, face-to-face fair this year; instead, we utilize a virtual event through Zoom. This year's science fair was the 40<sup>th</sup> year that UNCP has hosted the regional fair. There were over 20 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 seven special recognition awards, many with monetary prizes.



*Dr. Quinton Rice*

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. 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. Tom Dooling, Dr. Bill Brandon, Dr. Benjamin Killian, and Dr. Siva Mandjiny. Thanks to all four of you and without your support, this would not have happened. We appreciate all of you.

*And the  
Winners  
are...*

### **Elementary Winners**

Meghan Peters - Concentrated or Distracted - Star Elementary  
 Madison Owen - The Lemon Battery Experiment - Long Hill Elementary  
 Kelston DeBerry - Hotter than Hot Hands - Star Elementary  
 Hannah Nilson - Which Water Works? - Overhills Elementary  
 Lillian Haynes - Battery Life - Page Street Elementary

### **Elementary Honorable Mentions**

Leah Mullennix - Potty in the Pandemic - McDeeds Creek Elementary  
 Davis Whichard - Which Cup Keeps Water Colder? - Edgewood Elementary  
 Olivia Bass - Planting with Soil  
 Garrett Mullennix - A Ton of Trash! - McDeeds Creek Elementary

### **Senior Winners**

Kaitlyn Zuravel and Lauren Zuravel - Designing a Bioplastic Material to Replace Polystyrene & Polypropylene Materials in Single-Use Hard Plastics - Terry Sanford High  
 Tristan Howell - Efficient Houseplants - Highland Middle

### **Special Award Winners**

#### **US Air Force Award**

Grecko Nemis - Cheese on Coke - William H. Owen Elementary  
 Davis Whichard - Which Cup Keeps Water Colder? - Edgewood Elementary

**Lumbee River EMC**

Leah Mullennix - Potty in the Pandemic - McDeeds Creek Elementary

**Biotechnology Award**

Alison Amador Mendoza - Which Substance Will Keep Roses Alive The Longest? - Page Street Elementary

**Dr. Dalton Brooks Award**

Gavin Tyndall - Soda vs Teeth - Dunn Middle

**UNCP Chemistry and Physics Award**

Aksel Amador Mendoza - Which flavor last longer? - Page Street Elementary

**Grand Prize Winner**

Kaitlyn Zuravel and Lauren Zuravel - Designing a Bioplastic Material to Replace Polystyrene & Polypropylene Materials in Single-Use Hard Plastics - Terry Sanford High



**Congratulations!**