



# *NEWSLETTER*

## December 2023

Chemistry and Physics Department, Oxendine Science Building – Room 3101, Pembroke, NC 28372  
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### ***Chemistry and Physics Graduates***

Congratulations to our graduates. Job well done!

#### ***College of Arts and Sciences Chemistry and Physics Department***



<i>Bachelor of Science</i>	Juan Manuel Carrillo
<i>Bachelor of Science</i>	James Locklear
<i>Bachelor of Science</i>	Zachary Quinn Reed
<i>Bachelor of Science</i>	Todd W. Rogitz
<i>Bachelor of Science</i>	Faith Renee Smith-Johnson
<i>Bachelor of Science</i>	James Dwight Williams

### **CHM 4270 Student Research Poster Session, Fall 2023**



**Paul A. Flowers, Ph.D.**

On December 6, 2023, Dr. Paul Flowers' students in his Instrumental Analysis class presented their research posters. The session took place at 9:30 a.m. by the first-floor north hallway in the Oxendine Science Building. Free snacks were served. Special thanks to Madan Maharjan (Geology & Geography Department) for expeditious and expert printing of the posters!



**Maribel Cano**



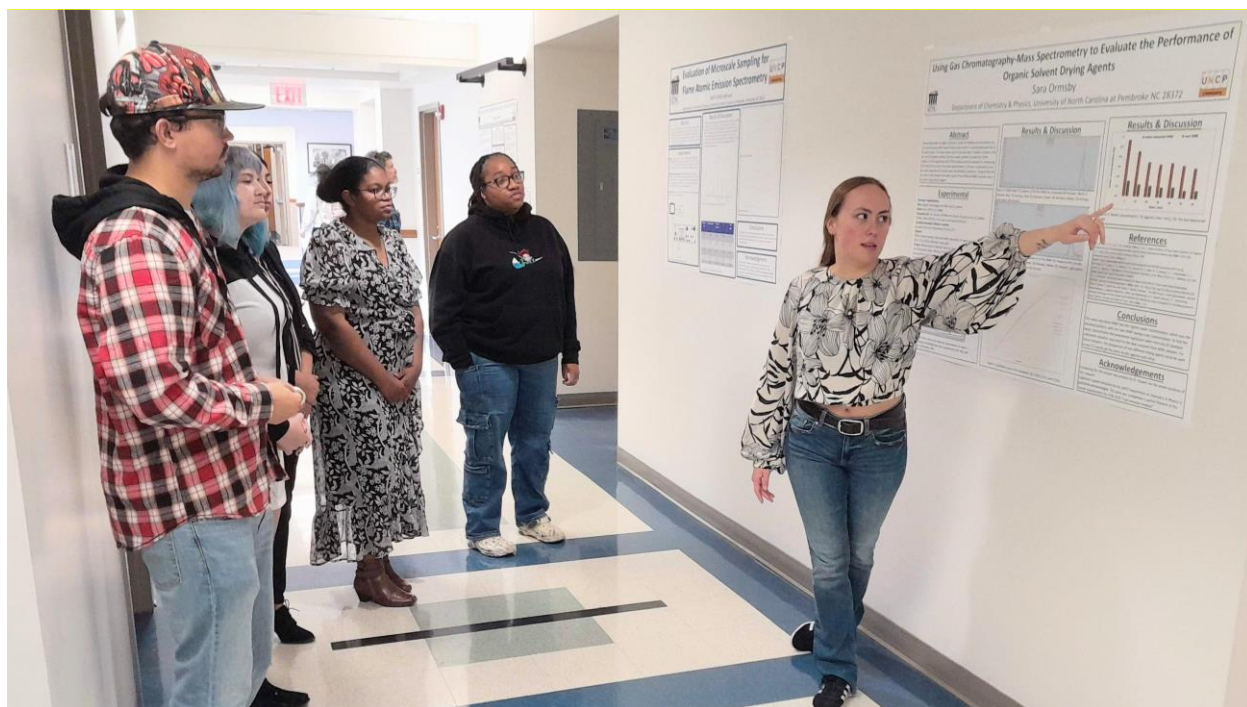
**Todd Rogitz**



Kaitlyn Cook



Faith Smith-Johnson



Sara Ormsby



Tiffani Roberts



**Anastasia Zakharova presenting (*in absentia*, via pre-recorded audio)**

## **HBCU/HAIU Coalition Launches First Bioprocessing Training at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke**

*New Accelerate NC - Life Sciences Manufacturing Training,  
Enabled by EDA's Build Back Better Regional Challenge Funding, Builds Diverse Talent Pipeline*

**PEMBROKE, NC** -- North Carolina Central University ([NCCU](#)) and UNC Pembroke ([UNC Pembroke](#)) announced an inaugural bioprocessing training to help students and residents prepare for entry level positions in biopharmaceutical manufacturing.

The two-week, hands-on short course will be offered for free from Jan. 22 to Feb. 2, 2024, for up to 12 participants. This new training is part of the [Accelerate NC – Life Sciences Manufacturing initiative](#), funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC), which aims to build strong regional economies and support community-led economic development nationwide.

"We are pleased to kick off this first-in-a-series of regional bioprocessing training programs in North Carolina in response to the needs of a rapidly growing life sciences manufacturing industry," said Dr. Ashley Batts Allen, Associate Dean of Faculty and Research in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNCP. "This is critical given the focus on developing job opportunities in the state's economically challenged counties."

The Accelerate NC – Life Sciences Manufacturing coalition, led by the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, received \$25M in BBBRC funding to build equity while supporting economic development across the state.

NCCU, home to the Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE) and leader of the HBCU/HAIU Coalition, worked closely with UNCP for it to be the first university in the coalition to offer bioprocessing training. The coalition also includes Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Livingstone College, Saint Augustine's University and Winston-Salem State University. Other coalition members are expected to launch similar trainings in 2024.

"Accelerate NC is all about helping underserved populations develop new skills to prepare for job opportunities in life sciences manufacturing that may have seemed unobtainable," said William Smith, NCCU-BRITE director of development. "UNC Pembroke is taking a critical first step for the HBCU/HAIU coalition in building an equitable talent pipeline, with many more training opportunities to come." BBBRC funding helped purchase equipment needed to teach upstream and downstream bioprocessing as well as provided the funding to conduct "train the trainer" events where faculty could become trainers.

UNCP training applicants must be 18 years of age or older and must have a high school diploma or GED. Before starting the short course, students must complete five online modules.

Upon completion of the two-week free course, students will earn several certifications in biomanufacturing, including an advanced certificate in biopharmaceutical manufacturing. Training will be held at UNCP's Biotechnology Research and Training Center, three miles north of campus at Carolina Commerce and Technology Park (COMtech).

For more information or to register, visit [uncp.edu/biotraining](https://uncp.edu/biotraining).

## Retirement -- *Felicia B. Scott, M.S.*



Chemistry Senior Lecturer

Mrs. Felicia Scott officially retired at the end of 2023 Fall Semester, December 31, 2023, for the Chemistry Senior Lecturer with the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The department faculty and staff express our gratitude and appreciation for all that you have done for us for 25 years. Among other things, you serve on the Outreach and 3C Program, the Gamma Sigma Epsilon Honors Society, and hiring committee. Your tireless efforts have been truly remarkable, and your role as an advisor, friend, and well-wisher to our students will always be remembered. Your passion for student success has been a catalyst for positive change within our department.

Thank you, Felicia, for your 25 years of hard work, optimism, and valuable contributions.

We will certainly miss you. We wish you well and may you be blessed with success in all your future endeavors.



## Students News

### NC Space Grant 2023-2024

#### MSI STEM Bridge and Pathways Scholars Announced

MyKayla Greene and Reece Hicks are NASA Space Grant Recipients of the MSI STEM Bridge Scholarship. The link below is the announcement of all 2023-2024 scholars.

<https://ncspacegrant.ncsu.edu/2023/12/05/nc-space-grant-2023-2024-msi-stem-bridge-and-pathways-scholars-announced/>



MyKayla Greene

University of North Carolina at Pembroke  
Area of Study: Chemistry and Biotechnology

“I would love to delve into the unknown or little-researched causes of cancerous tumors. One of the causes I would like to study is the American diet. Under NASA’s purview, this research endeavor is likely to pique the interest of the NASA Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, as it delves into the study of biological and chemical mechanisms crucial for the well-being of astronauts during space missions.”



**Reece Hicks**

University of North Carolina at Pembroke  
Area of Study: Chemistry

“My goal is to continue my research in Alzheimers even after undergraduate school. Aerospace travel for extended periods presents several potential stressors and health risks to the brain and its synaptic connectivity.”

Congratulations to both of you. Wonderful news.