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# NEWSLETTER

April  
2017



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## ***OUTREACH at PEMBROKE MIDDLE SCHOOL***

Dr. Brandon visited Pembroke Middle School on April 3, 2017. He and the students studied batteries, how to measure voltage (with batteries in series and parallel), and then used the batteries to power the buggies in their study of kinematics (motion). Everyone had a great time. Thank you, Dr. Brandon, for your awesome work.



## ACADEMIC AWARDS DAY

The College of Arts and Sciences Academic Awards Day Program-2017 was held April 5, 2017 in the UC Annex. The department had 13 winning students for awards and scholarships. They are **Emily J. Batton** – AIC Outstanding Senior Award; **Wei Wang** – Professional Promise Award and the Undergraduate Research Award; **Erin L. Barnhardt** – Continuing in Chemistry Award and the Anne Marie Teague Memorial Endowed Scholarship; **Lonzie T. Hedgepeth** – ACS Sponsored Award in Analytical Chemistry; **Yara B. Abumohsen** – ACS Sponsored Award in Inorganic Chemistry; **Mena G. Issa** – ACS Sponsored Award in Organic Chemistry; **Justin K. Scott** – CRC Freshman Chemistry Award; **Mariam Gerges** – Outstanding Pre-Engineering Student Award; **Andrew A. Stephens** – Einstein Achievement Award in Physics; **Taylor M. Felton** – Drs. Cecil & Naomi Lee Conley Scholarship; **Casey L. Burroughs** – Linda D. Oxendine Memorial Scholarship; **Neveen G. Issa** – UNCP Biotechnology Scholarship; and **Sandra D. Huneycutt** – Jose & Dorothy D'Arruda Scholarship. Congratulations, students, on your recognition and award!









## ***INDUCTION CEREMONY***

The Gamma Sigma Epsilon Chemistry Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held on April 6, 2017 in the Faculty Dining Room. The Alpha Zeta Chapter at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke was established in March 2004 by Dr. Meredith Storms. The 2016 – 2017 members are Yara Abumohsen, Hoytney Alsardieh, Emily Batton, Amelia Brown, Jullienne Lim, Daniel Middleton, and Andrea Morales. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of fried chicken, pork barbecue, chips, potato salad, green beans, dessert, and drinks. Congratulations, students! Thank you Dr. Storms, Mrs. Scott, Dr. Flowers, Dr. D'Arruda, and Hope in making the Gama Sigma Epsilon Chemistry Honor Society happen very successfully this year. We sincerely appreciate the hard work and effort.







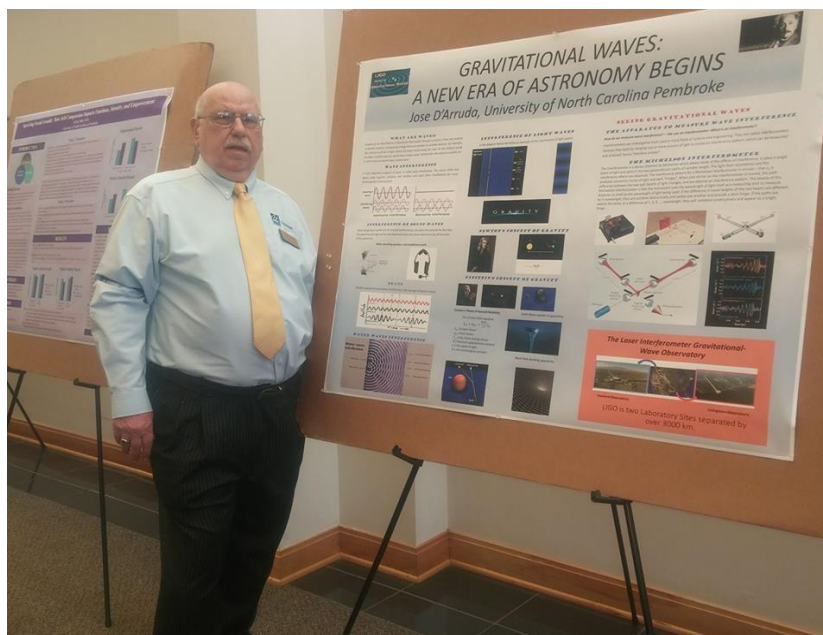
## ***OPEN HOUSE***

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions and the Open House Committee hosted the Spring Open House on April 8, 2017. On behalf of the department, we thank you, Sally. We appreciate your effort to participate at the open house this semester. Sally had established good contacts with several potential students for both '3+2' and Chemistry program.



## DR. JOSE D'ARRUDA

Take a look at the research activities that Dr. D'Arruda has been involved in during the past year. The showcase will highlight the research and creative projects of UNCP faculty and staff members. It is a multidisciplinary event, presenting information from multiple departments across campus. Dr. D'Arruda's poster is titled "Gravitational Waves". Gravitational waves are 'ripples' in the fabric of space-time caused by some of the most violent and energetic processes in the Universe. Albert Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves in 1916 in his general theory of relativity. Einstein's mathematics showed that massive accelerating objects (such as neutron stars or black holes orbiting each other) would disrupt space-time in such a way that 'waves' of distorted space would radiate from the source (like the movement of waves away from a stone thrown into a pond). Furthermore, these ripples would travel at the speed of light through the Universe, carrying with them information about their cataclysmic origins, as well as invaluable clues to the nature of gravity itself.



Program and abstracts of presentations can be accessed here:

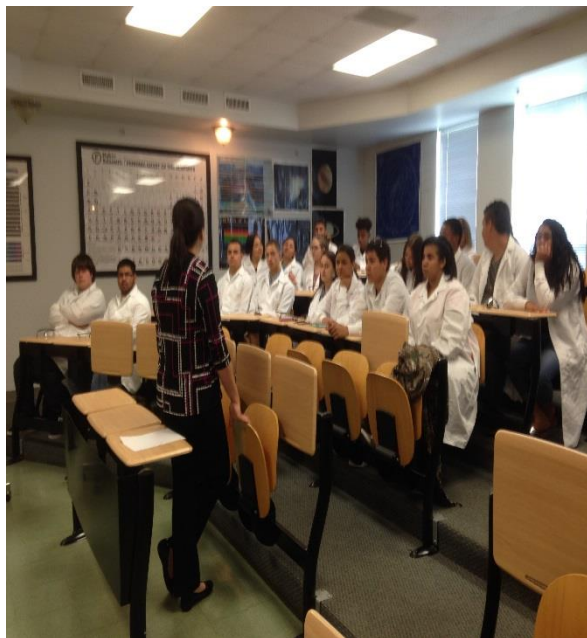
[http://www.uncp.edu/sites/default/files/Images\\_Docs/Library/FINAL%20RCS%20program.pdf](http://www.uncp.edu/sites/default/files/Images_Docs/Library/FINAL%20RCS%20program.pdf)

The UNCP Research and Creativity Showcase is sponsored by BraveDOCKS, the UNCP Institutional Repository.



## ***OUTREACH with PURNELL SWETT STUDENTS***

Forty students from Purnell Swett High School visited the Chemistry and Physics Department and Biology Department on April 12<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Duke Energy Grant. Drs. Mandjiny and Worix did several experiments with the students. They had a great time visiting the labs.



## ***NORTH CAROLINA SCIENCE FESTIVAL***

Dr. Jose D'Arruda participated in the Science Festival event at the library in Laurinburg, NC on April 16, 2017. Pictures of his presentation follows:



## ***BOYS and GIRLS CLUB – PEMBROKE, NC***

On April 19th, the Chemistry and Physics Department got involved with the Boys and Girls Club at their career day. Dr. Siva Mandjiny enjoyed spending time with everyone at the club.





## **8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FARM BUREAU BioAg SYMPOSIUM**

On Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Len Holmes hosted the Annual Farm Bureau BioAg Symposium at the UNCP Biotechnology and Research Center in Pembroke. Guest speakers were Bo Stone, P & S Farms in Rowland, NC, and Mac Malloy, Field Crops Agent for Robeson County. The speakers' presentations were on changes at how technology is shaping the modern farm and how the N. C. Cooperative Extension partners with communities across the state to deliver education and technology that enriches the lives, land, and economy of North Carolinians. This event included a music dinner performed by Michelle McCallum.





***PRESENTATION at the MIDDLE SCHOOL in WAGRAM, N. C.***

Dr. Jose D'Arruda participated in the Science Festival event to the middle school students in Wagram, NC on April 26, 2017. Each student got a pair of solar filter glasses to view the upcoming solar eclipse on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Pictures of his presentation follows:





## ***GRADUATE SOCIAL***

The Chemistry and Physics Department has a social each semester to celebrate the students in our department who are graduating. This special event occurred on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed the Deli Buffet: sandwiches, salads, desserts, and drinks. Everyone had a great time socializing with the students. The Spring 2017 graduates are: Sharon Mosomi Ayioka, Emily Jane Batton, Lonzie Tremayne Hedgepeth, Alexandria Miles Locklear, K'Yana Elise McLean, Sarah Abdulhamid Qambar, Isiah Trenton Smith, Megan N. Stevens, Alejandra Uribe, Wei Wang, and Natasha Wells. CONGRATULATIONS!!!





Dr. Mandjiny and the department “thank you”, Carolyn and Hope. We appreciate everything you do for us.



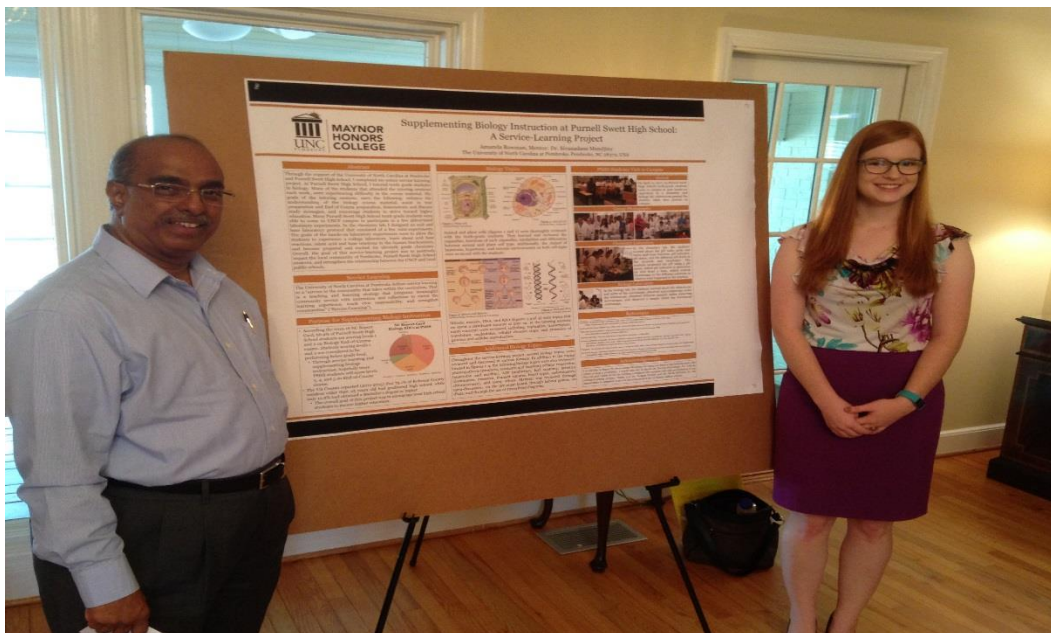


## **PURC SYMPOSIUM 2017**

The PURC Symposium is a campus-wide celebration of undergraduate research scholarship, creativity, and scholarly entrepreneurship. Contributions from Duke Energy help make this program possible. This event was on April 12<sup>th</sup> at UNCP. Our students for this year are: Taylor Felton and Emily Batton – Mentor: Dr. Meredith Storms; Elizabeth Gerdes – Mentor: Dr. Leonard Holmes and Devang Upadhyay; Kaitlyn Smith and Gabriell Green – Mentor: Dr. Paul Flowers; Kennedi Stewart and Megan Stevens – Mentor: Dr. Siva Mandjiny; and Wei Wang and Dayten Hodge – Mentor: Dr. Paul Flowers.

## **SENIOR PROJECT SYMPOSIUM**

The UNCP Maynor Honors College Senior Project Symposium was held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Chancellor's Residence. **Amanda Bowman**, (Mentor: Dr. Siva Mandjiny), presented ***Supplementing Biology Instruction at Purnell Swett High School: A Service-Learning Project***. **Mena Issa**, (Mentor: Dr. William Brandon), presented ***Providing Inexpensive Equipment to High School Physics Labs Using Recycled Components***. The senior project represents a significant achievement for honors students. These students work with their faculty mentor to develop and complete their project, which can take the form of a traditional thesis, a campus dialogue project, a service-learning project, or a creative project. Congratulations to these outstanding students.



## **STATE of NORTH CAROLINA SERVICE AWARDS**

On behalf of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, continuous service awards went to several faculty in the department: **Dr. Siva Mandjiny** – 20 years, **Dr. Tom Dooling** – 20 years, **Dr. Tim Ritter** – 20 years, **Dr. Roland Stout** – 10 years, and **Ms. Sailaja Vallabha** – 25 years. This special event occurred on April 28, 2017. Congratulations to all of you!

