



NEWSLETTER

September 2023

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

Chemistry and Physics Club Speaker Event

Environmental Engineer Speaker - Dr. Stephanie Bolyard

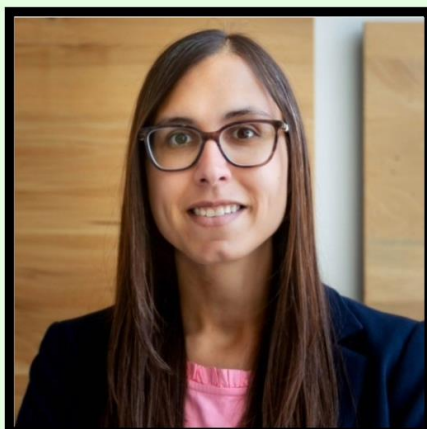
The club (Keirah-Lee Garry, president) host Dr. Stephanie Bolyard. She is an environmental engineer with NC Department of Environmental Quality working on research on "forever chemicals" (PFAS compounds) in industries as well as their remediation. She will be speaking on her experience and the evolution of PFAS knowledge (like GenX). PFAS includes GenX as well as many other compounds used throughout many industries. She had a rather non-traditional educational path and is regarded as one of few experts in the impact of PFAS on landfills. She has had a unique journey to her current position as Senior Engineer to the Assistant Secretary!

The event itself is both in-person (Oxendine Science Building - room 3246) or via Webex <https://uncp.webex.com/meet/kmg031> for those who cannot be in person.

Everyone was welcome to join the event on Tuesday, September 5, from 4 pm to 5 pm.

Come learn about her journey as an environmental engineer and her current work in the PFAS realm.

Dr. Stephanie Bolyard



Title:

Senior Engineer to the Assistant Secretary at NC Dept. of Environmental Quality

Current Work:

Provide technical guidance for the regulation and evolving understanding of per- and polyfluoroalkyl compounds!

Education:

PhD and MS in Environmental Engineering from University of South Florida and BS in Chemistry from University of Florida

Experience:

Research Engineer at NCDOT (2021-2022); Research and Scholarship Program Manager for the Environmental Research & Education Foundation (2016-2021)



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UNCP Chemistry and Physics Club Presents:

SPEAKER SERIES

Dr. Stephanie Bolyard

Speaking on Her Experience as an Environmental Engineer and the Evolving Understanding of PFAS Compounds

September 5th in Ox. 3246 at 4pm or via WebX!

JOIN US!

[More Speaker Information!](#) →

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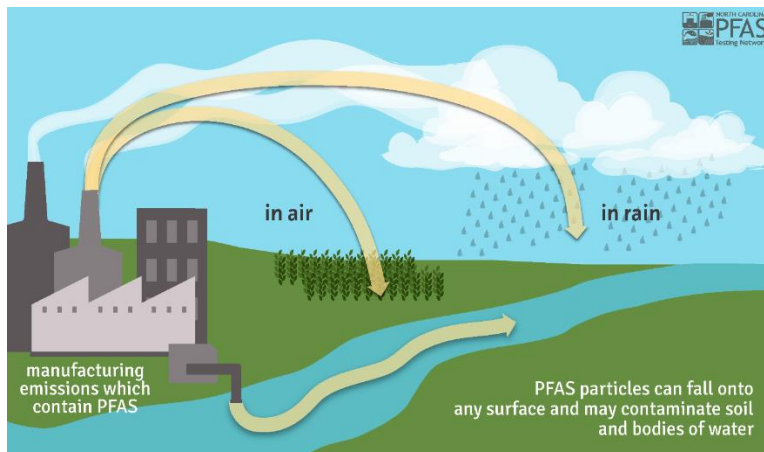
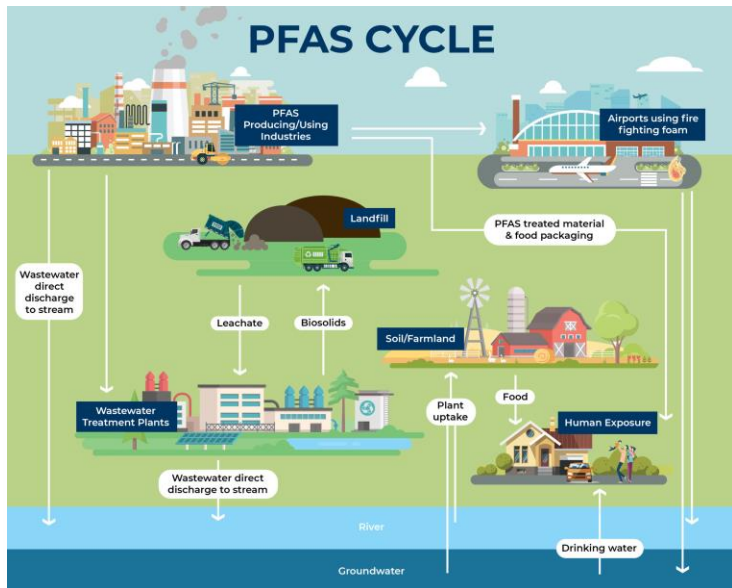
Dr. Stephanie Bolyard

Q&A with Dr. Bolyard:

1. *What is one piece of advice you would give to students seeking a career in your field?*
"Keep to your true north - you are the only one that truly understands what you are able to accomplish."
2. *What has been your favorite accomplishment or experience in either your educational career or occupation?*
"Traveling to China for a summer to conduct research during my PhD."

Join us in Ox. 3246 at 4pm in person or via WebX on Tuesday!!

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Ritter's Recruits Walk to Defeat ALS – September 16, 2023

This is the eighth walk to defeat ALS! To be honest, Tim never expected to be around this long (<https://wpde.com/news/local/everyday-i-get-a-little-worse-north-myrtle-beach-man-opens-up-about-8-year-battle-with-als>); but are certainly blessed that he could host yet another walk. This year's walk will be held at **11:30 AM Saturday, September 16, 2023**. Tim and Marie host both the walk and the party at their house. We will be having our usual much anticipated post walk party here at the house with catering by Mission BBQ, the ever-popular bouncy house, music, karaoke, a 50-50 raffle, a gift raffle, and the Ritter's Recruits swag bag! New this year we hope to have a bigger and better bouncy house for the kids as well as inflatable games for everyone! We certainly hope you can join us for this event, as we are truly blessed to be able to host this for one more year.

As you may know, in March 2015, Tim was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Eventually, people with ALS lose the ability to initiate and control muscle movement, which often leads to total paralysis and death within 2 - 5 years of diagnosis. For unknown reasons, veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS as the general population. There is no cure and currently only two drugs approved by the FDA that modestly extends survival by a few months. So far, the disease has been progressing slowly in my case but still....it progresses each and every day and he find himself on a ventilator 18 to 20 hours per day.

It is hard to believe that this will be my 8th walk, but with friends like you it is hard not to continue to fight the fight.

Tim & Marie



Call for Applications: Dr. Timothy Ritter and Marie A. Amero Endowed Research Scholarship

Announcing Dr. Timothy Ritter and Marie A. Amero Endowed Research Scholarship

The Pembroke Undergraduate Research and Creativity Center is accepting applications for the Dr. Timothy Ritter and Marie A. Amero Endowed Research Scholarship. Applications are due by the 1st of each month on a rolling basis.

For more information on the scholarship, please see the attached file below or visit the respective pages on the PURC website:

Dr. Timothy Ritter and Marie A. Amero Endowed Scholarship (Due March 3rd annually):

<https://www.uncp.edu/dr-timothy-m-ritter-and-marie-amero-endowed-research-scholarship>

Awardees will be recognized at the annual PURC Symposium on April 10th, 2024.



Dr Timothy Ritter
and Marie A Amero E

Awardees will be recognized at the annual PURC Symposium on April 10th, 2024.

Visit with NCSU - September 21, 2023

Dr. Justin Richardson (Assistant Director of Recruiting – College of Engineering at NCSU) and Dr. Kim Roberts (NCSU) visit the department on September 21st at 2:00 p.m. in SCI 3233. Dr. Richardson spoke with the Applied Physics and Applied Physics 3+2 students. The students enjoyed the meeting with Dr. Richardson. He answered many of the students' questions about the College of Engineering at NCSU. We appreciate Dr. Tikaram Neupane (Physics) and Dr. Joanne Hersey (College of Arts and Sciences) hosting the meeting. "We are so glad to continue our collaboration with NCSU" said Dr. Mandjiny.



Chemistry and Physics Club Speaker Event Forensic Toxicology Speakers - Lindsay Mitchell and David Castellini

This event by Lindsay Mitchell and David Castellini (Forensic Toxicologists) is schedule for September 26th at 4 p.m. in SCI 3246 and via webex.

The speaker event is on Forensic Toxicology and will host two forensic toxicologists, Lindsay Mitchell and Jared Castellani, from South Carolina Law Enforcement Department. It will be co-hosted by the Criminal Justice Club, headed by President Rylan Schall; as well as it is an intersection of the two disciplines. They will speak on the opportunities available in their field and the responsibilities held by individuals in the profession.

Lindsay Mitchell and Jared Castellani



Title:
Forensic Toxicologists at the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED)

A Virtual Presentation!

Education:

Lindsay Mitchell - Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

Jared Castellani - Master's Degree (MSFS) and Certified with the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (D-ABFT-FT)

Join us in Ox. 3246 at 4pm in person or via WebX on Tuesday!!

UNCP Chemistry and Physics Club Presents: **SPEAKER SERIES**

Lindsay Mitchell and Jared Castellani

Career Opportunities and Responsibilities in the Field of Forensic Toxicology

September 26th in Ox. 3246 at 4pm or via WebX!

Co-Hosted by the UNCP Criminal Justice Club!

[More Speaker Information!](#)

Lindsay Mitchell and Jared Castellani

Q&A with Mitchell and Castellani:

1. *What is one piece of advice you would give to students seeking a career in your field?*

"The decisions you make now can have a large impact on your future. Most law enforcement/forensic jobs will polygraph, so drug use, poor choices, etc in college could affect your application process."

2. *What has been your favorite accomplishment or experience in either your educational career or occupation?*

"For Jared and I, our favorite experience has been the conferences we've been able to attend. It's a great way to learn more about the field and meet other people from all over the country and/or world."

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Latent Prints

Compare The Prints



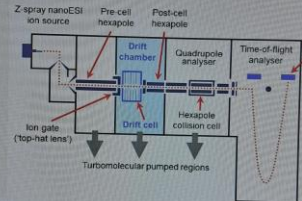
Brandon Mayfield's left index fingerprint from his arrest when he was 17 years old.

This is a copy of the latent print found on the plastic bag in a van near where three of the bombed trains in Madrid, Spain departed on March 11, 2004. The print is rotated 17 degrees to match the orientation of the other fingerprint.

Note: Mayfield's fingerprint and the Madrid fingerprint were published in The Seattle Times, June 7, 2004.

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Welcome to 2023-2024 NASA Student Launch Project Year

Congratulations, UNCP Rocket Team and Dr. Steven Singletary, on Being Selected to Participate in the 2023-2024 NASA Student Launch Challenge!

<https://www.nasa.gov/stem/studentlaunch/teams/index.html>



Congratulations on successfully navigating the first milestone.

Panel Participation for Braves Preview Day



The Office of Undergraduate Admissions host a Braves Preview Day on Friday, September 29, in the James A. Thomas Hall Auditorium at 11 a.m. This event is a smaller version of our open house and is intended to provide a more intimate setting for our prospective students and guests. Dr. Siva Mandjiny served on the panel to provide a faculty member's prospective of UNCP and the many opportunities we have available. The panel, consisting of current students, faculty, and alumni, aims to provide our guests with an introduction to UNCP and the value of being a student here. Thank you, Dr. Mandjiny, for your willingness to participate in our "Up-Close with UNCP" panel as part of Braves Preview Day.