



NEWSLETTER

March 2025

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Chemistry and Physics Club Event

The Chemistry and Physics Club hosted Catapult Competition on Thursday, March 20, at 5 pm in Oxendine Science Building - room 3235. The event is a Catapult Building Competition that puts engineering and creativity to the test! The person/team that constructs the best catapult that can launch the farthest will win a 1st place prize. The 1st place winner was Mason Schwenneker. The 2nd place winner was Andres Mijangos-Cruz. The 3rd place winner was Psi Lupton. More rules and guidelines are noted in the flyer.

CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS CLUB PRESENTS:

Catapult COMPETITION

Join us for a Catapult Building Competition and put your engineering and creativity to the test! Construct your best catapult and see if your design can launch the farthest.

MARCH 20
5-6 PM
OX. SCIENCE 3235

RULES & GUIDELINES:

- ★ All materials needed to build a catapult will be provided
- ★ You will have 30 minutes to make your best catapult
- ★ You may build your catapult individually or in a group of 2-3 people
- ★ A prize will be awarded to the 1st place winner!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Accessibility Resource Center, Oxendine Administrative Building, Room 110, 910 521-6695





UNCP Hosts the FIRST-NC Pembroke District Robotics Competition

Thirty-one teams of high school students visited UNCP the last weekend of March for a FIRST-NC District Robotics Competition. These teams came from as far away as Jackson, Morehead City, and Reidsville. Many teams were from urban and exurban areas, like Charlotte, Raleigh, and Cary. Several local teams from Lumberton, Spring Hill, and Fayetteville were also represented.

FIRST Robotics competitions are designed to teach high school students how to plan, design, and build robots to accomplish a set of goals that will change from year to year. As part of this work, students learn to collaborate effectively and efficiently with other teams during the cooperative match-play. This year's theme — Reefscape — saw the teams working to build up their underwater reef by removing algae (green balls) for further processing (placement into nets) and replacing it on the reef structure with new coral (plastic tubes) to take root. Points are awarded based on the number of algae processed and the number of new corals planted.

Awards are presented for both mechanical and team attributes. The RobCoBots from Lumberton won the prestigious *FIRST Impact Award*, which is the top award presented at the matches. By winning this award, the RobCoBots are guaranteed a spot in the state championship to compete for advancement to nationals.

Departmental participation in the FIRST competitions can serve as a vital part of our recruiting mission. Our interaction with these talented and amazing students introduces them to the opportunities offered through UNCP. This year, Dr. Ben Killian served in his 9th year as Judge. Two members of the Chemistry and Physics Club, Hannah Leviner and Andres Mijangos-Cruz, also participated as volunteers. Hannah reprised her role as Judge Advisor Assistant and Andres was a Field Resetter.

For more information, you can visit the URL <https://www.firstnorthcarolina.org/> FIRST is always looking for more Judges and volunteers. Please consider joining us. Thank you everyone.



Included in the photo:
Chemistry & Physics Club President
Hannah Leviner,
Member Andres Mijangos-Cruz, and
Member and NC FIRST Robotics
Alumni Psi Lupton.

Chemistry and Physics Club - Outreach at Douglas Byrd High School

Some members of the Chemistry and Physics Club participated in the annual STARward STEM Night at Douglas Byrd High School in Fayetteville on March 27th. They had three different experiments available for the students to participate in. These experiments include making a baking soda and vinegar balloon pufferfish, paper chromatography, and the physics turntable. Included in the photo is President Hannah Leviner, Social-Media Director Alicia McCrimmon, and Member Andres Mijangos-Cruz.



NC Academy of Sciences

Six Chemistry and Physics majors' students presented their research at the poster session at the 121st Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Sciences held at Fayetteville State University on March 28-29.

Kathryn Bering (Paul Flowers, mentor)

David Gort (Ben Killian, mentor)

Christian Oxendine (Siva Mandjiny, mentor)

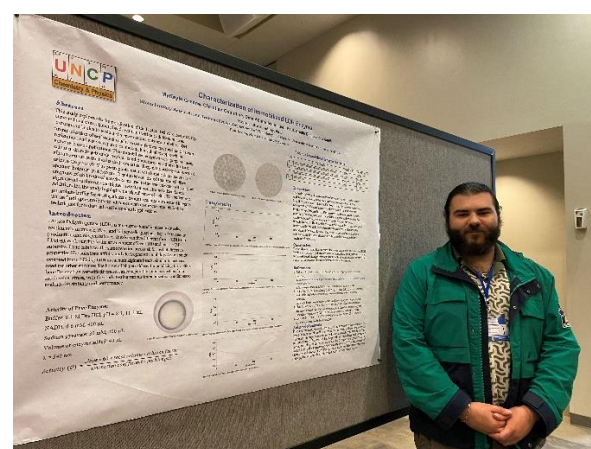
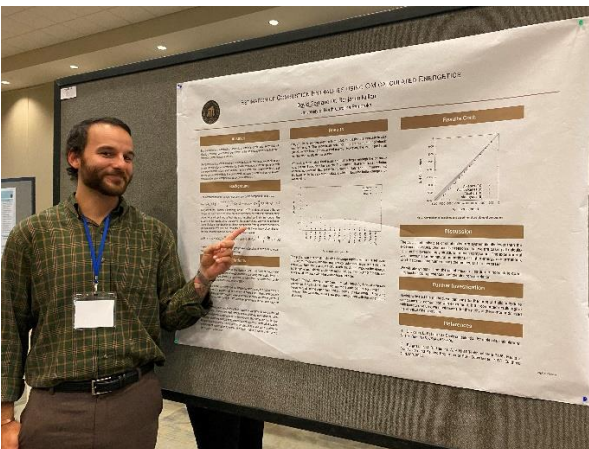
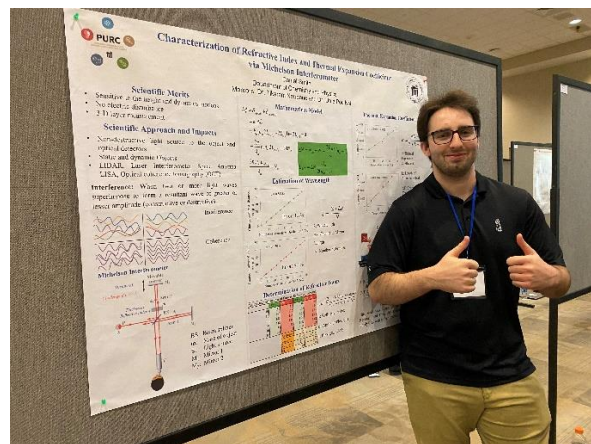
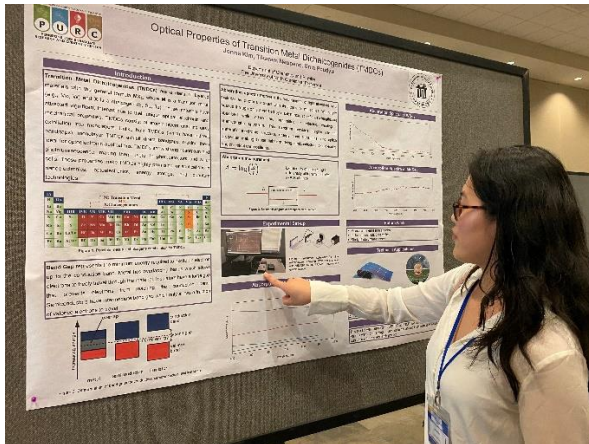
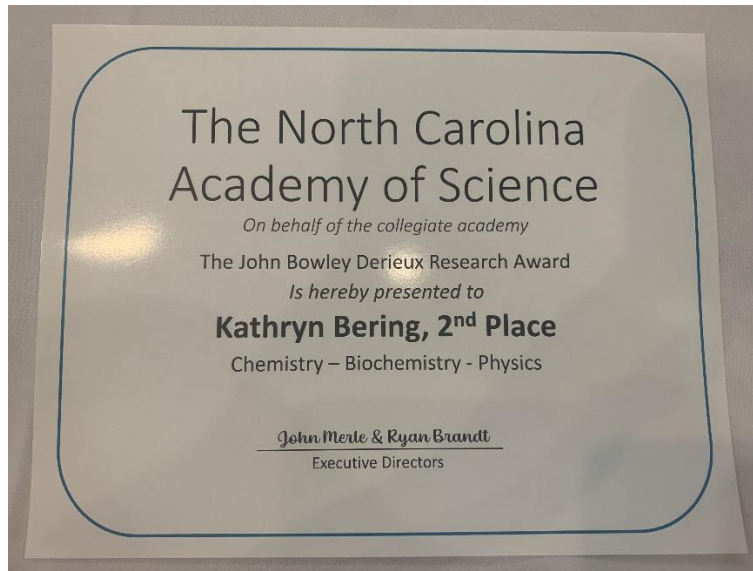
Daniel Smith (Tikaram Neupane, mentor)

Jenna Kim (Uma Poudyal, mentor)

Maria Bogan (Cornelia Tirla, mentor)

In addition, UNCP Chemistry BS 2024 Dominick Burgess attended to support his research teammate Maria Bogan.

Kathryn Bering received the John Bowley Derieux Research Award for her poster presentation: "Determination of Acetaminophen in Urine Using a Rapid Mass Spectrometry Technique".



Ambassador Community Event – March 19, 2025

The UNCP Biotechnology Research and Training Center proved to be the perfect venue for the Accelerate NC Life Science Manufacturing Ambassador Training Program. This in-person event offered an ideal opportunity for community members to enhance their life sciences manufacturing expertise and become local advocates. It also provided a perfect fit for networking, allowing attendees to connect with industry experts and acquire invaluable insights. Dr. Ashley Allen and Dr. Siva Mandjiny organized this program in collaboration with Ms. Pearl Sullivan and Mr. Randal Johnson from the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, Research Triangle Park.



Student News



GREENVILLE, S.C. – An individual title at the Pawley's Island Beach Bash paved the way for Marta Ortega (Chemistry major) to be named as Conference Carolinas Golfer of the Week, league officials announced Wednesday.

Ortega is just the third Brave to earn the award, and the first since Georgia Page picked up the honor on March 15, 2023.

A native of Mallorca, Spain, Ortega carded a one-over-par 73 in the opening round of the tournament, followed by an even-par 72 to take first place by two strokes with a two-round total of 145. The freshman tallied six birdies and 23 pars at the tournament.

The Braves will be back in action on Monday, March 24 for the Patsy Rendleman Invitational. The two-day tournament will be hosted by Catawba at the Country Club of Salisbury

SALISBURY – Newcomer Marta Ortega (Chemistry major) carded a 10-over-par in the final round of action as the UNC Pembroke golf team finished fourth at the Patsy Rendleman Invitational on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at the Country Club of Salisbury.

Deepest Sympathy



The department members send their condolences to Mrs. Dottie D'Arruda and his family of the passing of *Dr. Jose D'Arruda* on March 5, 2025. He served as Chair of our department for many years. Jose was a cherished colleague, and his contributions to our community will be remembered with great affection.



With heartfelt sympathy



The department members send their condolences to Mrs. Felicia Scott and her family for the passing of her mother, *Mrs. Eunice Brewer*, on March 19, 2025.



The department members send their condolences to Mrs. Carolyn Oxendine and her family for the passing of her niece, *Haiiley Smith-White*, on March 22, 2025.