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# NEWSLETTER

October  
2018

Chemistry and Physics Department, Oxendine Science Building – Room 3101, Pembroke, NC 28372  
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## STEM PROGRAM

Dr. Meredith Storms and Mrs. Erin Barnhardt Allen presented a service-learning meeting with future scientists on October 5, 2018 at the Robeson County Public Library. The STEM program meets on the first Friday of each month. The new early college program will have a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (**STEM**) emphasis. The University is committed to academic excellence in a balanced program of teaching, research and service, offers bachelor's and master's degrees and an affordable, high quality education in a small campus setting.

Thank you, Dr. Storms and Erin, for your time and effort towards the future generation.



## STOKES RECEIVES PHYSICS EDUCATION GRANT

Dr. William Brandon mentored several physics students for this grant. Congratulations to graduate student **Brittany Stokes** (MAT Science Education) on receiving the Bauder Fund grant from the American Association of Physics Teachers to construct wave drivers. The Bauder Fund was established to support special activities in the area of physics teaching. Brittany worked with undergraduate physics students: Mariam Gerges, Dana Lamberton, James Barstrom, and Dr. William Brandon, who co-wrote and mentored the project to construct wave drivers for area instructors. Wave drivers are instruments used to investigate standing waves (the concept of resonance) in vibrating strings and/or springs for

secondary physics courses. The wave driver units will be given to high schools and community colleges in southeastern NC to support physics instruction. The project will be presented in a poster, paper, and workshop at the North Carolina Section of the American Association Physics Teachers (NCS-AAPT) Conference on November 9-10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Great job, Dr. Brandon and students!



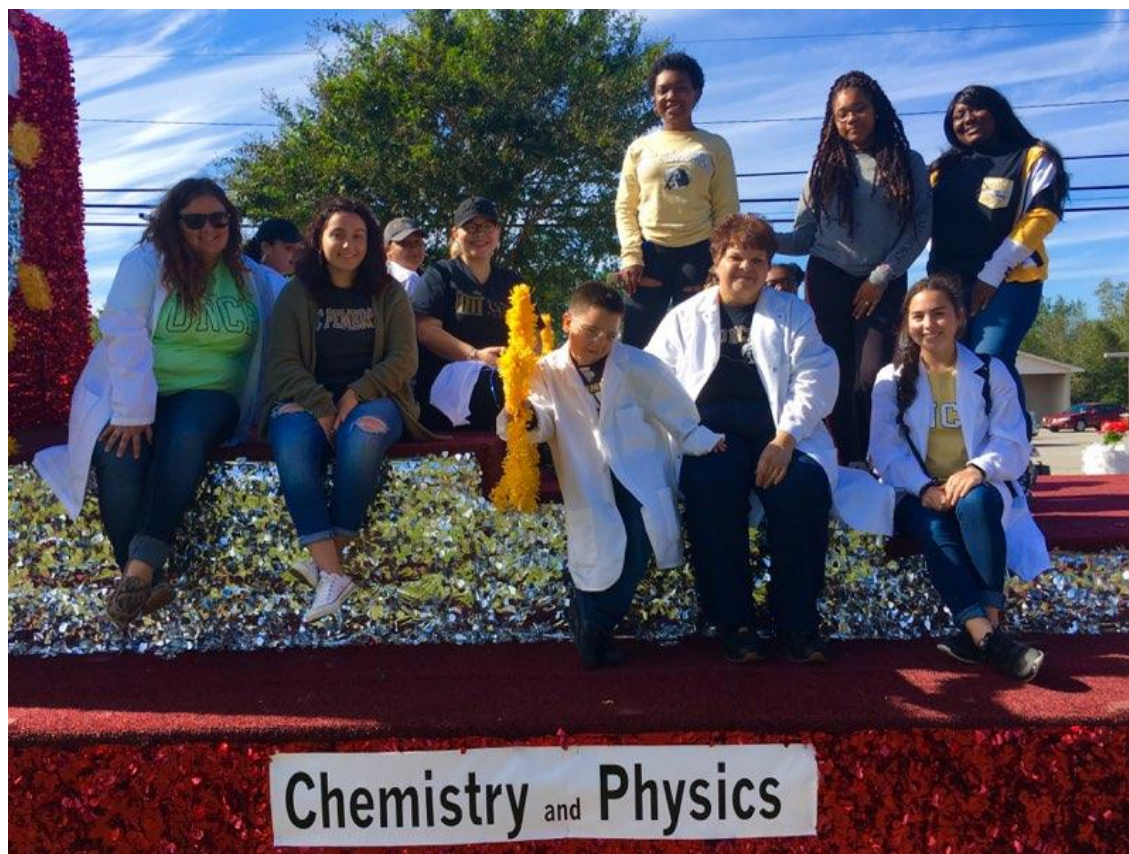
Brittany Stokes, Danna Lamberton, and Mariam Gerges are holding a few of the devices they constructed.

### ***UNCP Homecoming Parade***

Mrs. Felicia Scott led the team of the UNCP Homecoming “Chemistry and Physics Float” on Thursday, October 18 at 4pm. There were 33 students on the float. Good job, Felicia. Thank you.







## ***OPEN HOUSE***



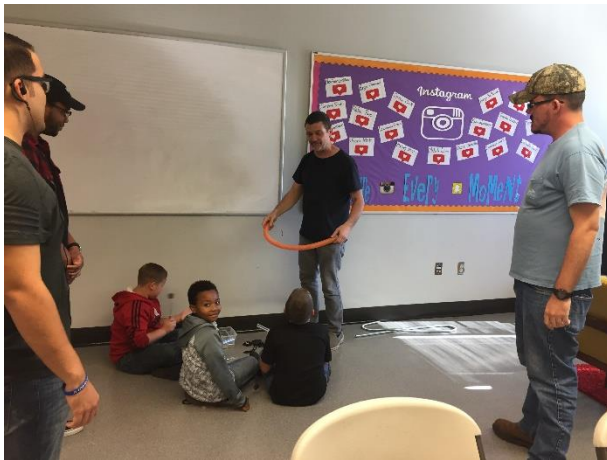
Dr. Rachel Smith represented the department for the Fall Undergraduate Admissions Open House for UNCP students on October 20, 2018. The students experienced student life on our campus, explore their academic options, and met admissions counselors and financial aid experts who will help them throughout their application process. Thank you, Dr. Smith, for being a part of open house and speaking with the students on behalf of our department. Great job!

## **Dr. Bill Brandon and Dr. Quinton Rice**

The Community and Civics Engagement Office at UNCP have a program called Literacy Commons which is dedicated to promoting the plurality of literacies through cooperation and reciprocity among those who live, work, and attend school in our region. One of the programs that Literacy Commons houses is the Science Buddies program which is a program that seeks UNCP students, faculty, and staff to travel to local schools and after-school programs to perform science experiments and demonstrations. This is a chance to promote science literacy and engage the UNCP community with the local community.

During the last outreach at Pembroke Housing Authority on October 22, **Dr. William Brandon** and **Dr. Quinton Rice** (the activities organizers), and their students performed physics demonstrations to kids of grades 5th through 12th. The demonstrations and activities included different kinds of waves (mainly sound), laser diffraction, laser modulation, optics of chiral molecules, and some practical electrical devices.

We appreciate your hard work. Great job!







### ***Dr. Meredith Storms***

Dr. Storms and Erin Barnhardt Allen presented their work at the 7th Annual Bridging the Gap Conference in Raleigh, NC on Wednesday, October 24. Our poster was entitled, "All Aboard! Full STEAM Ahead for Scientific Discovery and Reading Literacy". Erin is an honor's college student working on a service-learning project for her senior thesis. In addition to presenting our work, we had a great time learning new ideas to incorporate into our outreach projects with the local libraries --- we participated in a windmill challenge and an inquiry-based chemistry lesson. We had such fun learning new ideas to incorporate into our outreach activities!

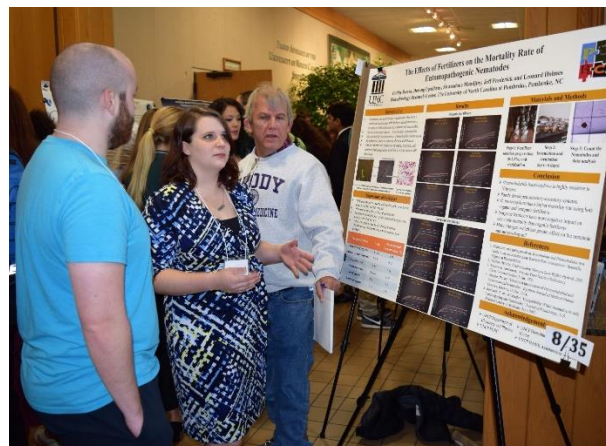
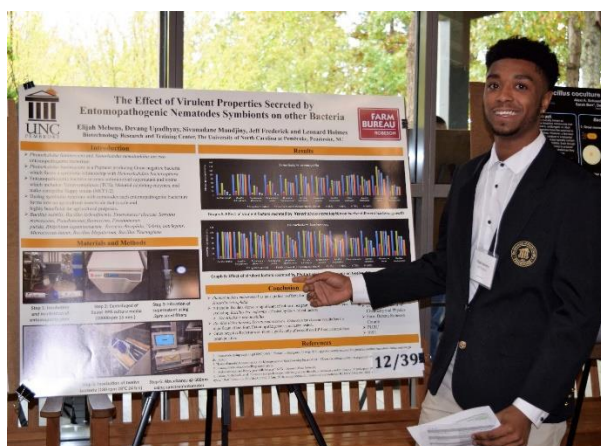
Congratulations, Dr. Storms and Erin, in helping strengthen K-16 STEM education throughout North Carolina.



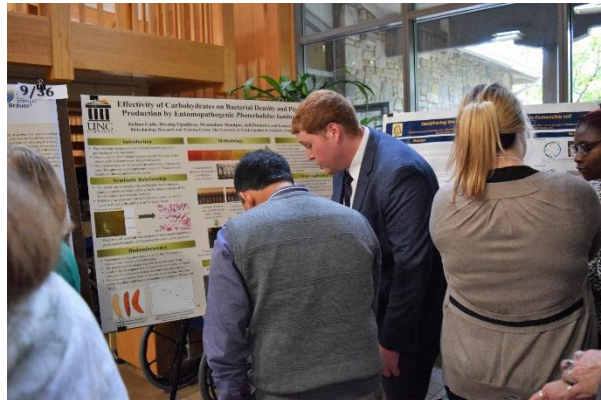
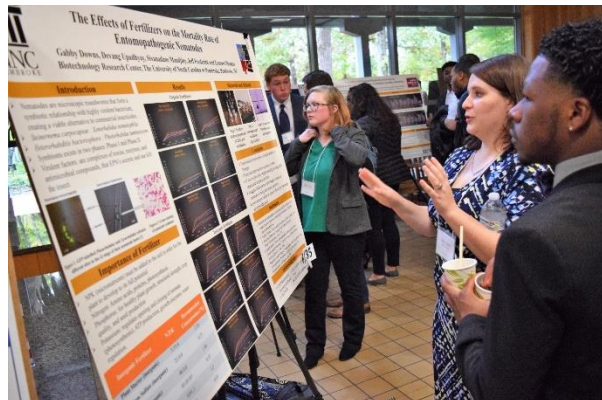
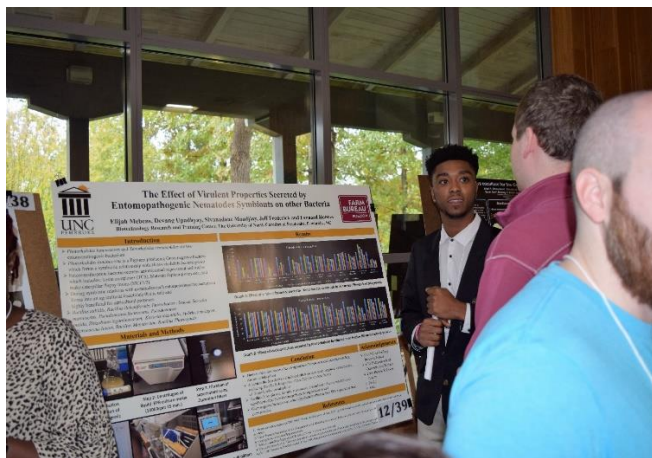
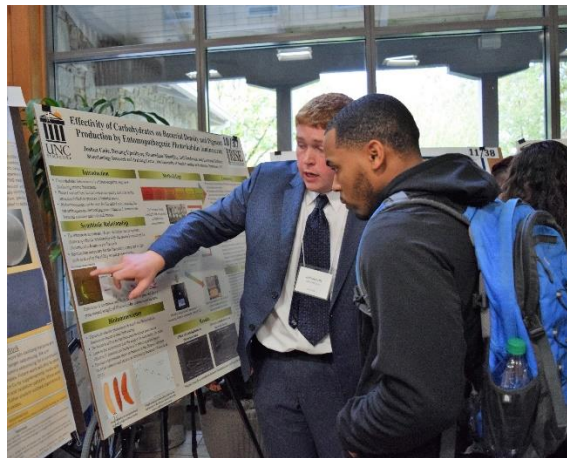


## 2018 NC ASM Conference – Asheville, NC

Our Biotechnology Lab's Research Scholars attended the "North Carolina American Society of Microbiology 2018 Meeting" at the NC Arboretum in Asheville, NC, on October 26 - 27, 2018. The students did a really good job with their oral and poster presentations. The students attending this meeting were Gabby Downs, Joshua Cade, Elijah Mebens, Cynthia Payne, and Jarrett Harrington. The group was accompanied by Devang Upadhyay. Devang, we recognize you and your hard work towards our students.







## Dr. Benjamin Killian



Dr. Benjamin Killian did a great job with the Boy Scouts on Saturday, October 27. The program is to help Boy Scouts earn their merit badges. Dr. Killian, you are doing great work! We appreciate you.

## ***Dr. Meredith Storms and the General Chemistry Lab I Class***

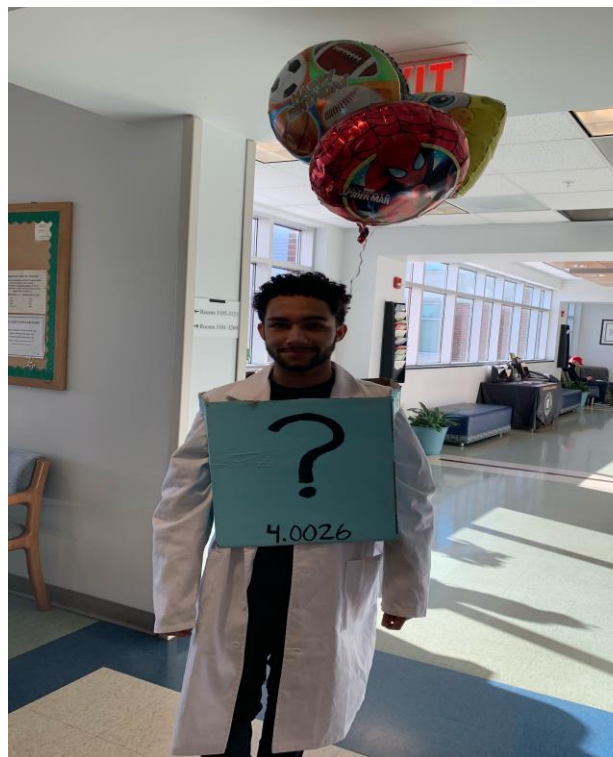
On October 31<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Storms' students dressed as their favorite chemistry element costume for Halloween. Can you name them all?







Darien Chavis was our grand prizewinner as helium!



### ***Glaxo Women in Science Scholar***

Dr. Lisa Kelly, Dr. Meredith Storms, and Dr. Velinda Worriax selected **Yara Abumohsen** as the Glaxo Scholar for Chemistry for the 2018-19 academic year. The Scholars' program provides some benefits, such as a small scholarship administered by the University's Financial Aid, a science mentor assigned by Glaxo, and the opportunity to apply for a summer internship with Glaxo. **Congratulations, Yara!** We are very proud of you in receiving this year the Glaxo Scholars opportunities.



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