



# NHS News

**College of Natural and Health Sciences  
University of Northern Colorado**

College of Natural and Health Sciences  
University of Northern Colorado  
Gunter Hall 1000, Campus Box 134  
Greeley, Colorado 80634  
(970) 351-2877  
[www.unco.edu/nhs](http://www.unco.edu/nhs)

## NHS Schools

- [School of Biological Sciences](#)
- [School of Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Physics](#)
- [School of Human Sciences](#)
- [School of Mathematical Sciences](#)
- [School of Nursing](#)
- [School of Sport and Exercise Science](#)

## NHS Institutes, Clinics & Outreach Programs

- [Mathematics and Science Teaching \(MAST\) Institute and Hotline](#)
- [Region VIII Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program \(RRCEP\)](#)
- [Retired and Senior Volunteer Program \(RSVP\)](#)
- [Rocky Mountain Cancer Rehabilitation Institute \(RMCRI\)](#)
- [Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Clinic](#)



## Inside this issue:

<b>New Faculty</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Recent Retirements</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Student Research Celebration</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Faculty and Staff Kudos</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Student News</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>School and Program Kudos</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Support NHS</b>	<b>5</b>

## Dean's Corner

I am pleased to welcome you to the College of Natural and Health Sciences' (NHS') inaugural newsletter. With the size and complexity of the College and the high level of activity of our personnel, keeping up with NHS happenings can be a challenge, both to those within and beyond the College. It is our hope that this newsletter will inform and educate readers about our people, programs, activities, and accomplishments and provide a mechanism for regular communication with friends of the College. In this first issue, we provide an overview of our recently-established College, introduce our newest faculty, acknowledge NHS personnel who will soon retire, and highlight some recent achievements by our faculty, staff, and academic programs. Stay tuned for future editions, which will include focused articles on NHS students, faculty, and alumni. If you have suggestions for topics or individuals you would like to see covered, [please drop us a line](#). Thank you for your readership and interest in the College of Natural and Health Sciences.

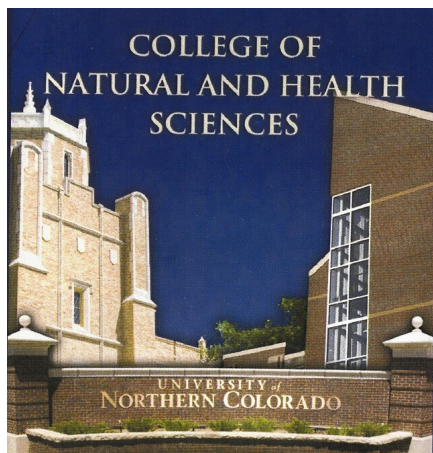


Denise Battles, Dean

## History of NHS

The College of Natural and Health Sciences was established on July 1, 2005. The result of a reorganization spurred by the University's Charting the Future planning process, the College was created through the merger of biological, mathematical, and physical science disciplines formerly in the College of Arts and Sciences with a pre-existing College of Health and Human Sciences. A fundamental element of the University's restructuring activity was the replacement of academic departments with schools, many of them larger and more complex than their predecessors, and each headed by a Director. In the former College of Health and Human Sciences, the School of Human Sciences was created from the former Departments of Communication Disorders, Community Health & Nutrition, Criminal Justice, and Human Services. The Schools of Nursing and Sport & Exercise Science were carried

over from that College into the new College. The Departments of Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Physics, previously stand-alone units in the College of Arts & Sciences, were merged to form the School of Chemistry, Earth Sciences & Physics, and the former Departments housing Biology and Mathematical Sciences were each designated as new Schools. A planned 2008 reorganization will produce an additional modification to the physical sciences' structure, establishing a School of Chemistry and Biochemistry and a School of Earth Sciences and Physics. With seven schools and approximately 135 full-time faculty members, the College of Natural and Health Sciences constitutes the largest of the University's academic colleges by both numbers of academic schools and full-time faculty.



## NHS Welcomes New Faculty

The College of NHS welcomed 21 new faculty in the 2007-08 academic year, a number of which are pictured here. Click on the names of individual faculty members to learn more about our newest faculty.



With the addition of our new faculty, NHS currently has about 135 full-time faculty members.

Back row (l-r): **Douglas Marshall** (NHS Associate Dean & Community Health), **Steve Anderson** (MAST Director & Earth Sciences), **Alena Clark** (Community Health), **Graham Baird** (Earth Sciences), **Emmett Evanoff** (Earth Sciences), **Deborah Givray** (Community Health), **Mark Guiberson** (Audiology and Speech-Language Sciences), **Jeremy Smith** (Sport and Exercise Science). Front row (l-r): **James Stewart** (Community Health), **Mary Jo Stanley** (Nursing), **Julie Deutsch** (Nursing), **James Gould** (Recreation), **Melissa Henry** (Nursing), **Sandra Strobel** (Nursing), **Karen Hessler** (Nursing). Not pictured: **Cathleen Craviotto** (Mathematical Sciences), **Stephanie Fitchett** (Mathematical Sciences), **April Judd** (Mathematical Sciences), **Joe Elkins** (Earth Sciences), and **Katherine Johnson** (Nursing).

## Recent Retirements

The following faculty and staff have recently announced their retirements: Sherrie Frye (School of Human Sciences), Loretta Jones (School of Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Physics: Chemistry Education), Sue Kent (NHS Dean's Office), Kathy Pile (School of Human Sciences: Audiology and Speech-Language Sciences), and Nancy White (School of Nursing). The College wishes them well in their future endeavors.

## NHS Third Annual Student Research Celebration

The NHS Student Research Celebration honors noteworthy research by NHS undergraduate and graduate students as well as exemplary research mentoring by NHS Faculty. The third annual event took place on **April 10, 2008** in conjunction with the University's Student Research Day and Academic Excellence Week. The banquet was attended by roughly 136 individuals from the University and community, and a larger number of individuals participated in the student poster session. The evening began with poster presentations by 28 NHS undergraduate and graduate students. These top scholars were selected by their programs and Schools for this special recognition. The poster presentations were followed by a banquet to honor the value of student research. The evening included oral presentations from two student honorees: Michael Bradshaw, an undergraduate student in the School of Biological Sciences, and Nissa Yestness, a graduate student in the School of Mathematical Sciences. Both students spoke about their research and the personal and societal benefits of their research. Two Biological Sciences faculty were

honored as Faculty Research Mentors of the Year: Susan Keenan for undergraduate mentoring and Jennifer Clarke for graduate student mentoring. Dr. Clarke spoke regarding the importance of faculty mentoring. This year's Student Research Celebration was attended by several members of Greeley Centennial Rotary and their guests. Greeley Centennial Rotary sponsors the event, and the College appreciates its generous support. NHS would like to extend congratulations to all of the poster presenters, student speakers, and faculty mentor nominees and honorees. Additional details including event photos and an official program can be found at [http://www.unco.edu/nhs/highlights/student\\_research2008.html](http://www.unco.edu/nhs/highlights/student_research2008.html).

Fundraising associated with the event benefits the **NHS Student Research Celebration Fund**. If you would like to support this fund please contact the UNC Foundation <http://www.uncalumni.org/Foundation/>.

## Faculty and Staff Kudos

Our congratulations go to the following individuals:

### 2007-08 College Faculty/Staff Award Winners

**Excellence in Teaching** – Dr. Robert Powers, School of Mathematical Sciences

**Excellence in Scholarship** – Dr. Reid Hayward, School of Sport and Exercise Science

**Excellence in Service** – Dr. Paul Nutter, School of Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Physics (Earth Sciences program)

**Excellence in Academic Leadership** – Dr. Richard Grassl, School of Mathematical Sciences

**Faculty Research Mentor of the Year, undergraduate level** – Dr. Susan Keenan, School of Biological Sciences

**Faculty Research Mentor of the Year, graduate level** – Dr. Jennifer Clarke, School of Biological Sciences

**NHS Administrative Assistant of the Year** – Becky Apolonio Hidalgo, School of Sport and Exercise Science

### University Academic Excellence Award Winners from the College

**Teaching Excellence in Undergraduate Education** – Gayle Johnson Bohrer, School of Nursing

**Excellence in Faculty Service** – Dr. Paul Nutter, School of Chemistry, Earth Science & Physics

**Excellence in Faculty Advisement** – Dr. Jennifer Clarke, School of Biological Sciences



(l-r): Keenan, Nutter, Grassl, Clarke, Powers, Apolonio Hidalgo, Hayward, Dean Battles



Fried

**Dr. Juliet Fried**, Professor of Human Rehabilitative Services, received the prestigious Paul R. Hoffman Award from the National Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association (VEWAA) at the 2007 National Rehabilitation Association Annual Training Conference. This award is given in recognition of innovation and creativity in service to persons with disabilities through professional or technical achievements in vocational evaluation or work adjustment.



Hawk

**Dr. Richard Grassl**, Professor of Mathematics, led the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual UNC Math Contest for Colorado students in grades 7-12, which had over 1,800 participants.

**Dr. Shandy Hawk**, Associate Professor of Mathematics, is leading a \$488,742 FIPSE-funded project titled *Videocases for the Professional Development of Novice College Mathematics Instructors*.

**Dr. Reid Hayward**, Associate Professor of Sport and Exercise Science, received a National Institutes of Health grant worth over \$300,000 to support research assessing the therapeutic value of exercise on the negative side effects associated with a chemotherapeutic drug, doxorubicin.



Jones

**Dr. Loretta Jones**, Professor of Chemistry, won the local section award of the Colorado Section of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Jones gave a public presentation on "Different Visions: What Chemistry Students and Instructors Find in the Same Molecular Visualizations."

**Dr. Richard R. Jurin**, Associate Professor of Biology, was appointed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies – National Environmental Education Advisory Council for a three-year term.



Miller

**Dr. Nathaniel Miller**, Associate Professor of Mathematical Sciences, published a book titled *Euclid and His Twentieth Century Rivals: Diagrams in the Logic of Euclidean Geometry*. The book's title was inspired by a book by the mathematician Lewis Carroll, who wrote the book *Euclid and his Modern Rivals* in 1879. Carroll is also the well-known author of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Miller also received a two year \$32,000 grant from the Educational Advancement Foundation to intensively mentor two graduate students in teaching undergraduate geometry courses using inquiry-based or discovery-learning methods.

**Dr. Jodie Novak**, Professor of Mathematics, was awarded subcontracts with the Weld County School District 6 Math and Science Partnership and with the Fort Morgan Math and Science.



Bohrer



Grassl



Hayward



Jurin



Novak

## Faculty and Staff Kudos continued



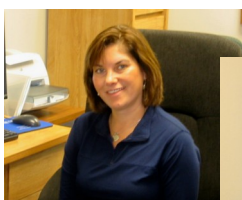
Schountz

**Dr. Tony Schountz**, Assistant Professor of Biology, coauthored a research paper published in the prestigious journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. He and his colleagues discovered a novel protein that protects hantavirus-infected deer mice from illness and death. The protein prevents an anti-inflammatory response to the virus and may have future use to prevent harmful effects when humans are infected by the virus.



Stiehl

**Dr. Jim Stiehl**, Professor of Sport and Exercise Science, received the prestigious Julian W. Smith Award from the Council for Adventure and Outdoor Education/Recreation of the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation. The award recognizes an association member who has shown significant professional service and scholarship in the area of adventure and outdoor education/recreation over an extended period of time.



Soto-Johnson



Craviotto



Diaz

**Drs. Hortensia Soto-Johnson, Cathleen Craviotto, and Ricardo Diaz, faculty members of the School of Mathematical Sciences**, are organizing Las Chicas de Matematicas, a Summer Math Camp for young women. The one-week residential camp will introduce mathematically talented low-income high school girls to the topics of applied analysis and number theory through problem-solving and collaborative learning. The camp will be on the UNC campus from June 15 to June 20. For more information please contact Dr. Soto-Johnson at [hortensia.soto@unco.edu](mailto:hortensia.soto@unco.edu) or 970-351-2425 or Dr. Craviotto at [cathleen.craviotto@unco.edu](mailto:cathleen.craviotto@unco.edu) or 970-351-2953.

## Student News

**Mike Bradshaw**, a Biology undergraduate, was accepted to the Mayo Clinic Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program in Rochester, MN. This is a ten-week, paid fellowship. Out of about 800 applicants, approximately 75 were given a position at one of the three Mayo locations. He will be working under the tutelage of Dr. Weinshilboum and his research team on the pharmacogenomics of anthracycline antineoplastics.

**Sarah Gill** (3rd year, Au.D. program) was awarded one of two national scholarships from the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA) Scholarship Foundation for her mentored research project.

**Douglas Koch**, a sophomore Meteorology and Mathematics double major, received the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Ernest F. Hollings scholarship. Hollings scholars are provided up to \$8,000 of academic assistance per year, and participate in a 10-week paid internship at NOAA facility. For the second consecutive year, Mr. Koch won his division in the National Collegiate Weather Forecasting Challenge (*WxChallenge*), a contest consisting of approximately 1,000 students and faculty from 63 institutions.

Undergraduate physics major **Sarah Nowak** was awarded a NASA Summer Internship. She will spend part of summer 2008 at the NASA Academy at Ames in California.

Three mathematics undergraduates were accepted into National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs) programs this summer. **Brian Shourd** will be attending Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, **Tyler Takeshita** will be attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and **Heather Thompson** will be attending Louisiana State University.

The Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) pursued several outreach activities and opportunities for professional development. Seven students attended the annual meeting of the AMS in New Orleans, Louisiana. Throughout the year, chapter members prepared customized weather forecasts, individually requested and delivered via e-mail. Students utilized the program's tornado vortex model to motivate weather safety and content demonstrations for more than 1,000 eighth graders visiting UNC on campus tours as well as hundreds of second grade students during site visits to five Greeley elementary schools. Chapter members concluded the year by organizing a science and employment workshop led by seven professional forecasters visiting from six regional National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast offices. The workshop was intended to foster long-term relationships between the meteorology program and these regional NWS offices. Four meteorology students have already entered formal internship arrangements at NWS offices across the country; these internships should lead directly to NWS employment upon graduation.

## School and Program Kudos

A **School of Biological Sciences** team including Drs. Catherine Gardiner, Rick Adams, Robert Reinsvold, and Gregory DeKrey, received a National Science Foundation award of \$750,000 to recruit, retain, support and promote the graduation of undergraduate students majoring in the biological sciences. The school was also awarded a U.S. Department of Education grant of \$380,000 to recruit students into the Biological Education doctoral program.

The **Chemistry & Biochemistry program** has created a new Forensic Science Emphasis that has been attracting quite a bit of attention. The emphasis is on acquisition of scientific knowledge necessary to undertake crime investigations. Research work is conducted in the University's Ross Hall, which features new lab facilities and many of the instruments required on the job – and students actually get to use that equipment in their training!

The American Institute of Physics identified the College's **Physics program** as being among the 35 U.S. undergraduate-only physics departments producing the largest number of bachelor's degrees from 2003-2005. Physics achieved the second largest percentage increase in degrees conferred from 1997-1999 to 2003-2005.

The **Audiology and Speech-Language Sciences program** in the School of Human Sciences has received support from the Scottish Rite Foundation, Daniel's Fund, and Wells Fargo Bank to remodel clinic space to launch the Talking and Listening for Preschoolers Program (TALP). This literacy-based program for children ages 3 to 5 offers low-cost intervention services to children whose families may not have the financial resources to pay for services.

In the **School of Mathematical Sciences**, the Educational Mathematics Ph.D. program was ranked 11<sup>th</sup> out of 167 institutions in the U.S. in production of doctorates in mathematics education in the period 1960-2005. Also, the American Mathematical Society recognized the Mathematics Ph.D. program as having the highest percentage of women graduates among all U.S. mathematics departments granting an average of at least two doctorates per year (1995-2003). As well, the School hosted the regional MATHCOUNTS competition in February 2008, which is a national enrichment, coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement.

The **School of Nursing** has implemented a significant \$150,000 upgrade to the Learning Resource Center where students practice nursing skills prior to their experiences in clinical settings. With support from the North Colorado Medical Center, a two-bed simulation lab was constructed that will allow students to practice skills in a lifelike situation. The lab has the capacity for students to work with two high-fidelity adult mannequins as well as pediatric and infant mannequins. All are programmable to simulate real patient situations, interventions and assessment of health outcomes. The School also received a \$429,000 federal congressional grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration Office of Rural Health Policy to establish the National Institute for Nursing Education and Scholarship. The institute will focus on the national nursing faculty shortage and best practice research in nursing education.

Sport administration graduate students in the **School of Sport and Exercise Science's** Sports Marketing and Research Institute have been conducting research for 30 National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of the U.S. Olympic Committee headquartered in Colorado Springs. Physical education faculty in the School successfully completed a flawless National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) report. As one of only two universities in the country to achieve perfection, the receipt of National Recognition through the National Association for Sport & Physical Education (NASPE), a specialized professional association, and through NCATE was remarkable in that this was their first report. In addition, the K-12 physical education program won the UNC Excellence Through Performance Assessment university award.

## Support NHS

Supporting NHS through a financial contribution is one of the easiest ways to participate in the life of the university and to directly impact students, faculty, academic research, programs, and community outreach efforts. There are three easy ways to make a donation:

[Give Online \(click here\)](#)  
It's fast and secure

**By Phone**  
Call the  
UNC Foundation at  
970.351.2034  
800.568.5213

**By Mail**  
Send a check to:  
UNC Foundation  
Judy Farr Alumni Center  
501 20th Street, Campus Box 20  
Greeley, CO 80634

We'd love to hear from you. If you wish to share personal updates for the next newsletter or to update your personal contact information, please respond by return mail or email to:

Nick Lobejko, Associate Director of Development  
University of Northern Colorado, College of NHS  
501 20th Street, Campus Box 134  
Greeley, CO 80639  
[nick.lobejko@unco.edu](mailto:nick.lobejko@unco.edu)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_