

### SOHNS Programs

- *Biological Sciences*
- *Chemistry and Biochemistry*
- *Health & Human Performance*
- *Nursing*
- *Nutrition and Dietetics*
- *Oakes Museum*
- *Pre-Health Professions Advising*

### Contact Us

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## Student Research

Projects continued during Summer 2007 despite the need to relocate several faculty research labs from Kline to Jordan. Under the direction of faculty members Shin, Lindquist and Schaeffer at least five students dedicated their summer to scientific investigation in molecular genetics, amphibian ecology and analytical chemistry. This work was generously supported by funds from the Steinbrecher Trust and the Nature Conservancy.

Faculty student research during the academic year has been ongoing for several decades but the move toward summer research has been greatly facilitated by the efforts of Dean Jeff Moshier. The hope is that with the availability of Kline and several faculty returning from sabbaticals, the level of summer student faculty research activity will continue to increase in coming years.

## Kline Renovations

Five air handling units in Kline Hall were replaced during summer 2007. Much credit is due to both the contractor and the Messiah College staff for keeping this project on target. Renovation work and subsequent cleaning (extensive) of the Kline facility were largely completed by mid-August. Despite the disruption inherent in moving faculty offices, on-going research projects and instruments to Jordan for the summer, a smooth and timely return to Kline greatly facilitated the start of the new school year.



## Position Changes

Jeff Moshier's departure necessitated changes in School of Health and Natural Sciences (SOHNS) leadership for the 2007-2008 academic year. Dr. Jerry Hess, Professor of Biology and Biological Sciences Chair is serving as Interim Dean of SOHNS for this academic year while a search for Jeff's replacement is conducted. Dr. Gary Emberger, Professor of Biology, is serving as Interim Biological Sciences Department Chair for the year. Both anticipate returning to their previous positions for the 2008-2009 academic year.

## New Faculty and Staff

Two new faculty have joined us to fill SOHNS faculty positions. Dr. Anne Reeve is Associate Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, and Ms. Heidi Lutz, RN, DNSc(c) is Assistant Professor of Nursing (clinical track).



Dr. Anne Reeve  
Chemistry Department



Heidi Lutz, RN, DNSc(c)  
Nursing Department

In addition to these, Jennifer Billman (90) has moved from a long term of service as Adjunct Professor of Biology to a full time Lecturer in Biology position for the 07/08 academic year. Nancy Mott (mother of three Messiah grads) is a new adjunct faculty member who is teaching Physical Science for Elementary Education while Dr. Sandra Holmes is on leave.



Jenn Billman

Sarah Crone joined the SOHNS staff as Assistant Lab Program Manager in mid-September. Sarah provides lab preparation and technical support for courses in the Biological Sciences and Nutrition and Dietetics Departments. Sarah replaces Krista Frank (05) who left us in August to teach science and math at the Harrisburg Technical High School (former William Penn campus).



Sarah Crone

## Recent Retirees

Our two recent retirees, Dr. Kay Huber and Dr. Joe Sheldon, while greatly missed here in Grantham, are reportedly active in their retirement pursuits. Kay continues her involvement with the Wellness Center in Steelton while Joe is directing the construction of his new environmentally friendly house just adjacent to the Pacific Rim campus of Au Sable Institute on Whidbey Island north of Seattle, Washington.

## Numbers Increase for Nursing

The capacity of the Nursing program clinical courses has been increased thanks to a Pennsylvania State Department of Labor and Industry award to Messiah College and Pinnacle Health Systems of a \$67,444 grant (with \$101,694 pending for year two) to fund our Loaned Nurse Faculty Initiative.

## Sabbatical Leaves for 07/08

Dr. Ted Davis, Distinguished Professor of the History of Science has a sabbatical leave for the entire year, supported by a John Templeton Foundation grant. Fall semester sabbaticals include Dr. Larry Mylin, Associate Professor of Biology at Penn State College of Medicine and Dr. Karl Oberholser, Professor of Chemistry is continuing his work on computer modeling of protein interactions.

### Special Links:

School of Health  
and Natural  
Sciences

[www.messiah.edu/schools/health\\_natural/sci](http://www.messiah.edu/schools/health_natural/sci)

Pre-Med/Health  
Advising

[www.messiah.edu/departments/premed/health/](http://www.messiah.edu/departments/premed/health/)

Oakes Museum

[www.mesisah.edu/Oakes/](http://www.mesisah.edu/Oakes/)

God and Science

[www.messiah.edu/godandscience](http://www.messiah.edu/godandscience)

## Looking Ahead

Students currently involved with Fall 2007 research projects as well as those involved in Summer 2007 research projects will present talks on their work at the **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Research Symposium** to be held on Thursday afternoon, December 13, in the Kline/Jordan Science Center.

The culminating event for the 2007-2008 SOHNS senior student research endeavors will be showcased on Friday afternoon, April 18, 2008. The venue for the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual SOHNS Scholarship Symposium** will again be the Kline/Jordan Science Center. We anticipate participation from students across all five SOHNS Departments.

## Good News from SOHNS Departments

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is pleased to announce the completion of the new chemical stockroom. This past April, renovations were completed in Kline Hall of Science that converted a classroom into a storeroom that houses nearly all of the Department's three thousand chemicals. Specially designed ventilated cabinets were installed to hold flammable and corrosive chemicals. In addition to chemical storage, the new stockroom has an office for the Natural Sciences Laboratory Manager and a prep room complete with new analytical balances and a fume hood. This new space allows for greater control over the chemical inventory and helps the College to be better stewards of the environment and College resources.



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Dr. Karl Oberholser, Professor of Biochemistry, is on sabbatical this fall to continue his work in the development of molecular visualization tools for the teaching of Biochemistry. For many years he has used Chime software to develop modules that allow students to interact with three-dimensional representations of various protein structures. Dr. Oberholser's sabbatical work began with his poster presentation at the Visualization in Science and Education, Gordon Research Conference and continued with a week long collaboration with Dr. Eric Martz at the University of Massachusetts. It was here where he began converting his Chime files (now obsolete) to a new Java based visualization tool called Jmol. His work can be seen at [http://www.messiah.edu/departments/chemistry/molscilab/index\\_frameset2.htm](http://www.messiah.edu/departments/chemistry/molscilab/index_frameset2.htm). From July to mid-September the collagen tutorial, in particular, had 30-40 hits per week, but since school has begun the number of hits has jumped to 90-150 per week.

Biological Sciences Associate Professor, Erik Lindquist, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, is studying vernal pools in the South Mountain region of central Pennsylvania in hopes of protecting declining populations of woodland salamanders, frogs, and toads that live there. Outdoor Writer Marcus Schneck featured Erik's work and scholarship with this project in the Oct. 7 issue of the *Patriot-News*.

New Technology in Nursing Courses: The Nursing Faculty are piloting several new items of technology to enhance classroom pedagogy this semester. Students are using "clickers" to respond to questions in the classroom setting. In addition, the faculty are testing an electronic portfolio system. Professors Pam Linstedt and Debbie Loop are giving leadership and will be happy to provide additional information.

