

The Continuing History* of:
The Science Teaching Section of
The Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Inc.
Also known as
The GNATS Division
And
The NATS Division

*[As built upon "A Brief History" compiled originally by Robert Feurer and James McGahan based on the work of Dale Rathe]

Covering the time period from December 1961 through September 2016



Prepared as a Project of the NATS Past-Presidents' Council
Susan Koba, Past-President (1999 – 2000)
Assisted by Sally Harms Past-President (2006 – 2007)
Reflections by many NATS Past-Presidents

Introduction

This second volume of our history began with a conversation during the Past-Presidents' Council meeting at the NATS Fall Conference of 2009. We talked about how we might celebrate our 50th anniversary as the Nebraska science teachers' organization – in its many different forms. We brainstormed many ideas that ranged from Burma Shave-type signs leading to and from Camp Calvin Crest and a timeline of our history and membership to passing the gavel among as many Past-Presidents as possible and updating the NATS history begun by Jim McGahan and Bob Feurer. Each of these brainstormed ideas has become a reality – and this is my small contribution to that effort.

The following pages are a result of a lengthy but fascinating process. Right after that original Council meeting, Sally Harms and I gathered as many NATS programs from the Calvin Crest era from the files there at the camp. We poured through those programs and gathered information that eventually became the tables that are the first portion of following document. When I returned home, it didn't take long before Dan Sitzman shared additional NATS programs that he had – quite the historian and packrat he is! So I used his programs to gather further data and began the electronic version of this document. Next, Jim Woodland carried to me by hand a large box of additional historical programs and stacks of old newsletters. I studied these and the original history, adding as much information as possible to the tables. Cecelia Dorn then provided electronic versions of newsletters from which I gleaned even more information.

This document builds on the first volume of our history – but it is not the end. Its electronic form allows us to easily add to it, year by year. That addition should include annual updates from the newest Past-President and further contributions from Past-Presidents who have not yet added their reflection. As a gentle reminder, Dan Sitzman has offered to serve as the NATS Historian, so this document becomes his to maintain and expand.

Finally, I want to express how much I appreciate the opportunity to talk a walk through our history and compile it into this document. What evolved for me as I compiled the document is a glimpse into our organization at a level I'd never had before and a greater appreciation for our early leaders who persevered in making NATS, as we know it today, such a strong organization. This picture moved from an outline to a fleshed-out story when I began to receive the written reflections of many Past-Presidents (the second half of this document). It is the written storyline of reflections that tells the amazing story of not only the 50 years of dedication to supporting science teachers of Nebraska but the historical "brotherhood/sisterhood" that is this organization. I give my heartfelt thanks to the early contributors to the Science Teaching Section of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, the early pioneers of GNATS, the many leaders in the NATS we know today, and to the ongoing line of future leaders. It takes great leaders – of which there are many in Nebraska – to sustain an organization for 50 years. Let's all enjoy our 50th celebration and reflect on and thank those who have led us here!

---Susan Koba, NATS Past-President
September 2010

The revised document, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organization, was dedicated in September 2010 to Bob Reeder, Al Musson, Donn Carlson, Don Weeden and all of the other leaders of the science teaching profession in Nebraska over the past 50 years.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- The Organization's Names and Meeting Names p 3
- Summary of each "Camp Out", "Retreat" and "Conference", including dates, location, theme, leadership, and lecturers p 4-25
- Presidential Reflections with photos when available p 26-87
- Catalyst Awardees by year p 88-90
- GW Brown Pinnacle Awardees by year p 91

The Organization's Names

1961-1979 Science Teaching Section of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Inc
1980-1989 Greater Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science
1990-present Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science

Annual Meeting Names

1961-present at Annual Meeting (Spring) of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences
1970-1978 Science Teachers Section Fall Camp Out
1979 Science Teachers Section Fall Retreat
1980-1989 GNATS Fall Retreat
1990-present NATS Fall Conference

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards/Special Guests
1961 Chair: Dale Rathe (Lincoln Public Schools) Nebraska Center for Continuing Education on College of Agriculture Campus, Lincoln Science Teaching Section of Nebraska Academy of Sciences is organized					
April 13, 1962 Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, Lincoln April 14, 1962 University High School, Lincoln 2nd Meeting of STS during 72nd NAS Meeting	Planning Committee: Marlin Languis Charles Kofoid Oscar Bretthorst			Dr. James Rutledge (UNL)	Honor group members of the Nebraska High School Science Talent Search
May 3-4, 1963 Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, Lincoln		"Teachers of Earth Science"			
May 1-2, 1964 Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, Lincoln and University High School, Lincoln				Dr. Merle Brooks (Omaha U) "Biology Teaching Today"	
April 30-May 1, 1965 Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, Lincoln				Loren Eiseley (U of Pennsylvania)	
1966 Chair: Bob Reeder (Lincoln Public Schools) Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, Lincoln					
April 26-27, 1967 Chair: Bob Reeder (LPS) Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, Lincoln				Dr. Alfred Sherwood Romer (Harvard U)	
1968 (No written history available)					

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards/Special Guests
<p>Thomas Leonard & Robert Fisher (Co-Chairs) 1969</p> <p>Attendance to STS triples to 130. Steering Committee authorized " to enlarge the membership of the organization, to publish some type of newsletter, to encourage regional meetings for science teachers, to develop a constitution and other structure for this organization such as the election of officers and to appoint whatever committees are needed to accomplish these and other tasks."</p> <p>STS chair given position on NAS Executive Committee</p>				<p>R. J. Tuzo Wilson (U of Toronto) "Sea Floor Spring and its Consequences: The Origin of Ocean Basins"</p>	
<p>Thomas Leonard & Robert Fisher (Co-Chairs) Feb 26, 1970 Lincoln Area STS meeting at Nebraska Wesleyan</p> <p>By deduction.... First campout?</p>				<p>Dr. Commoner (Washington U) "Problems of Environmental Pollution"</p>	
<p>Oct 8-9, 1971 Chadron State College</p> <p>STS Campout held in conjunction with NAS Fall Meeting. 100 attend</p>					
<p>1972 (No written history available)</p>					
<p>Co-Chairs: Dale Rathe (Lincoln Public Schools) & Joe Dappen (Lincoln Southeast High School) Oct 6-7, 1973 Halsey National Forest</p> <p>132 total attend, the largest attendance for the Fall Retreat</p>					
<p>Co-Chairs: Joe Dappen (Lincoln Southeast High School) & Roger Macklem (NDE) Oct 19-20, 1974 Halsey National Forest</p> <p>"5th Campout" Registration costs \$2 regardless of age (large number of family members also in attendance)</p>					

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards/Special Guests
<p>Co-Chairs: Roger Macklem (NDE) & Joe Dappen (Lincoln Southeast High School) Sept 26-28, 1975</p> <p>"6th Campout" at Camp Covenant Cedars, Hordville 2 nights + 5 meals for \$16</p>					
<p>Co-Chairs: Bruce Holmquist (ESU 3) & Bob Reeder (Lincoln Public Schools) Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 1976 Fall campout again at Camp Covenant Cedars</p>					
<p>1977 Co-Chairs: Bruce Holmquist (ESU 3) and Dale Rathe (Lincoln Public Schools) Campout at Camp Covenant Cedars</p>					
<p>Co-Chairs: Bruce Holmquist (ESU 3) and Dale Rathe (Lincoln Public Schools) Oct 25-27, 1978 Maranatha Bible Camp near Maxwell</p> <p>Don Woodburn starts as advisor from Nebraska Department of Education Jim Landon elected to fill the unexpired term of Bruce Holmquist as Co-Chairman Election of STS chair moved to Fall Campout rather than at Spring Academy Meeting. Carpeted rooms at Bible Camp! Suggested that a planning committee form to help co-chairs get ready for next year's campout</p>					
<p>Co-Chairs: James Landon (Seward High School) & Randy Hubbard (Grand Island Northwest High School) Oct 25-27, 1979 Maranatha Bible Camp near Maxwell</p> <p>"Fall Retreat" terminology replaces "Fall Campout"</p>					
<p>Co-Chairs: James Landon (Seward High School) & Randy Hubbard (Grand Island Northwest High School) Oct 23-25, 1980 Halsey 4H Camp Nearly 130 attend The science teachers' division becomes the Greater Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science (GNATS), as well as an NSTA state chapter. Co-chairs attend CAGS. Note that the NSTA President was Don McCurdy. The Fall Retreat was at Halsey.</p>					
<p>Co-Chairs: Pat Geary (ESU 3) & James Landon (Seward High School) Oct 29-31, 1981 Halsey National Forest NAS Centennial</p>					

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards/Special Guests
Co-Chairs: Chuck Lang (Omaha Westside High School) & Pat Geary (ESU 3) 1982 Halsey National Forest 156 in attendance Should we be GNATS or NATS was the issue.					
Co-Chairs: Chuck Lang (Omaha Westside High School) & Jim Woodland (UNL) Oct 27-29, 1983 Eastern NE 4-H Center, Schramm Park 150 in attendance NAS official seal established College credit available					<u>Presidential Award (inaugural year)</u> *Jack Skrocky
Co-Chairs: Jim Woodland (UNL) & Ruth Green (Bellevue Wake Robin Elementary) Oct 25-27, 1984 Chadron State College 104 in attendance GNATS became a division of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences					<u>Presidential Award</u> *Ron Cisar
Ruth Green (Bellevue Wake Robin Elementary), President Sept 27-29, 1985 Fall Retreat at Camp Comeca 97 in attendance	Julie Wells, President-elect, Robert Reeder, Secretary-Treasurer.				<u>Presidential Award</u> *Roger Rea
Julie Wells (Kearney High School), President Oct 23-25, 1986 Halsey National Forest	Ed Brogie – President Elect Don Woodburn (NDE)(Advisor)				<u>Presidential Award</u> *Chuck Lang
Ed Brogie (Laurel High School), President Oct 27-29, 1987 Gretna 4H Center 197 registrants is all-time high Jim Woodland’s 1 st year at Nebraska Department of Education	Julie Larson Kim Timperley Jim Rynearson John Rogers Mark Brogie Jim McGahan Joanne Lagabee Bob Reeder				<u>Presidential Award</u> *Mary Kubovy

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>Mary Romjue (Franklin High School) Oct. 27-29, 1988 Gretna 4H Center</p> <p>BEES (Biology Educators for Excellence in Science) organized by John Rogers</p> <p>Science Concept Ball held</p>	<p>Jim McGahan Joanne Langabee Ed Brogie Ann Danner Judy Johnson Jim Landon Al Musson John Rogers Ed Schafer <i>Executive Director:</i> Chuck Lang <i>Newsletter Editor:</i> Judy Johnson <i>Advisor:</i> Jim Woodland</p>	None		Laura Marsh	<p><u>Presidential Awards:</u> *Jim McGahan Ed Brogie Kathy Jacobitz</p>
<p>Jim McGahan (Grand Island Northwest High School), Oct. 26-28, 1989 4-H camp Halsey</p> <p>Ron Bonstetter elected as Division Director for Teacher Education on the NSTA Board</p> <p>TESS (Teachers of Elementary School Science) was formed</p> <p>Project 2061 initiated with release of <i>Science for All Americans</i></p>	<p>Judy Johnson Joanne Langabee Mary Romjue Ron Bonnstetter AnnDanner Al Musson Roger Carlson John Rogers Ed Schafer <i>Executive Director:</i> Chuck Lang <i>Newsletter Editor:</i> Judy Johnson <i>Advisor:</i> Jim Woodland</p> <p><i>Program Chair:</i> Jon Pederson</p>	None		<p>Bill Futrell</p> <p>Chuck Lang</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards:</u> *Ed Brogie Jim Landon Joanne Langabee</p>

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awardees(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>Judy Johnson (UNL), Oct. 25-27, 1990 Camp Calvin Crest</p> <p>GNATS 1st annual spring conference held March 24th at ESU #13 in Scottsbluff</p> <p>In compliance with Resolution 249 the state legislature resolved to eliminate use of terms such as “outstate”, “greater”, and “lesser” to describe areas of Nebraska. GNATS became NATS.</p>	<p>Ron Crampton Joanne Langabee Ed Schafer Jim McGahan Ron Bonnstetter Ann Danner Al Musson Roger Carlson Gayle Ellison Julie Thomas <i>Newsletter Editor:</i> Judy Johnson <i>Advisor:</i> Jim Woodland</p>	None			<p><u>Presidential Awards:</u> *Joanne Langabee Jim Fitzgibbon Jim Landon</p> <p>*Henrietta Pane (Elementary)</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Hans Anderson, Retiring NSTA President Janet Gerking, District X Director</p>
<p>Ron Crampton (Omaha Westside High School) Oct. 24-26, 1991 Camp Calvin Crest</p> <p>Ice storm</p>	<p>Jim Rynearson Lois Mayo Ed Schafer Judy Johnson Ron Bonnstetter Mary Schafer Marla Smith Roger Carlson Gayle Ellison Julie Thomas <i>Newsletter Editor:</i> Judy Johnson <i>Advisor:</i> Jim Woodland</p>				<p><u>Presidential Award:</u> Roger Kassebaum (Secondary) Sue Kirby (Elementary)</p>

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards/Special Guests
<p>Jim Rynearson (Lincoln High School), Oct. 29-31, 1992</p> <p>First Elementary mini-sessions (featuring Sen. Kerrey playing with goop and ignoring aides' pleas to move on)</p>	<p>Board members uncertain</p> <p>Lois Mayo Mary Schafer Marla Smith Gayle Ellison Julie Thomas Judy Johnson (Newsletter Editor) Jim Woodland (Advisor) <i>Donn Carlson and Bob Curtright were probably on the board based on other data in this table. Mark Brogie and Ron Crampton were mentioned as on board, but are not listed in years prior or following 1992.</i></p>	None	<p>Joe Dappen</p> <p>Sen. Bob Kerrey</p>	Bob Kerrey (U.S. Senator)	<p><u>Presidential Awards:</u> Susan Koba (Secondary) Pam Smith (Elementary)</p>
<p>Mark Brogie (Creighton Community High School), Oct. 28-30, 1993</p> <p>Program Chairpersons: Mark Brogie and Lois Mayo</p> <p>Jim Woodland elected to 3 year term on NSTA Board of Directors as Director of Supervision</p>	<p>Bob Talbitzer Jim Rynearson Lois Mayo Mike Tolfa Donn Carlson Bob Curtright Mary Schafer Marla Smith Judy Williams Bob Feurer Steve Skinner:Desktop Publishing Gayle Ellison: Newsletter Editor Kathleen Jacobitz: Public Relations Jim Woodland, Advisor</p>	None		Steve Garner (Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center)	<p><u>Presidential Awards:</u> *Diane Epp (secondary) Randy Emery Lois Mayo</p> <p>*Paul Clark (elementary)</p>

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
Bob Talbitzer (Kearney High School) Oct. 27-30, 1994 NATS Strategic Planning facilitated by Anne Tweed NE Math & Science Frameworks Document approved by the State BOE	Lois Mayo Mark Brogie Rosemary Thornton Michael Tolfa Donn Carlson Robert Curtright Bob Feurer Judy Williams Susan Koba Douglas Zink Gayle Ellison (Newsletter) Kathy Jacobitz (PR) Jim Woodland (Advisor)	None		Michael Vorhies, UNL (Maiben) Bob Becker	<u>Presidential Awards:</u> *Bob Feurer (secondary) Steve Skinner Judy Williams *Nancy Bellows (elementary) Linda Lea Rosemary Thornton <u>Special Guest</u> Shelley Fisher (Lee) – NSTA President-Elect

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>Lois Mayo (Lincoln Pius X High School), Oct. 26-28, 1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future site study conducted. Decision to stay at Calvin Crest • Joint NATS/NATM/NAS Strategic Planning • Western drive-in Conference March 17-18 in Gering • NSTA redistricts and NATS part of District XI with MO and KS • Gerry Wheeler named NSTA Executive Director <p>Program Chair: Susan Koba</p>	<p>Kim Timperley Bob Talbitzer Rosemary Thornton Mike Tolfa Bob Feurer Judy Lewis Carolyn Schlager Judy Williams Susan Koba Douglas Zink Gayle Ellison (Newsletter) Kathleen Jacobitz (PR) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	None	<p>Donald A. (Skip) Anderson</p> <p>Dr. Lee Simmons (Henry Doorly Zoo)</p>	<p>Dr. Lee Simmons, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo(Maiben)</p> <p>ExploraVision Team from Crete and NASA</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards:</u> *Judy Williams (secondary) Jane Obbink George Probasco *Angela Nickel (elementary) Lindar Anderson Rosemary Thornton</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Shelley Fisher (NSTA President) Carol Williamson (NSTA District XI Director) Captola Taylor Harris (KATS President) Kim Robak (Nebraska Lieutenant Governor) presented Presidential Awards</p>
<p>Kim Timperly (Northeast Community College) Oct. 24-26, 1996</p> <p>1st year that program chair is president-elect</p> <p>Release of the <i>National Science Education Standards</i></p> <p>Program Chair: Kim Soper</p>	<p>Aurietha Hoelsing Lois Mayo Rosemary Thornton Randy Johnson Judy Lewis Carolyn Schlager Susan Koba Douglas Zink Patricia Crum Angela Nickel Gayle Ellison (Newsletter) Kathy Jacobitz (PR) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	None		<p>Richard Olenick (Maiben)</p> <p>Larry Flinn, Flinn Scientific</p>	<p>PAEMST Elementary Finalists: *Joan Anthony Judy Lewis Rosemary Thornton</p> <p>PAEMST Secondary Finalists: *Michael Tolfa Jane Obbink Carol Engelmann</p>

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>Aurietha Hoelsing (Omaha Public Schools), Oct. 23-25, 1997</p> <p>Rainy & cold. Many leave Friday to get home before ice storm and snow disables eastern Nebraska.</p> <p>Lois Mayo elected to NSTA Board of Directors</p> <p>Program Chair: Bob Feurer</p>	<p>Bob Feurer Kim Timperley Sara Morris Randy Johnson Judy Lewis Carolyn Schlager John Niemoth Caroline Winchester Patricia Crum Angela Nickel Gayle Ellison (Newsletter) Kathy Jacobitz (PR) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	None	Roger and Don Carlson (UNK)	<p>Chuck Lang (Maiben)</p> <p>Catherine Valentino</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards:</u> * Mary Tusha (elementary) Curtis Mann Sheree Person-Pandil</p> <p>*Lois Mayo (secondary) Dan Sitzman Michael Taylor</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Emma Walton, NSTA President-Elect Pat Lucido, STOM President</p>
<p>Bob Feurer (North Bend High School), Oct. 22-24, 1998</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st NE State Standards • Joint strategic planning NAS/NATS led by Deb Jordan • Spring Drive-in Conference in Gering • 3rd International TIMMS results released • CAGS becomes NSTA Congress • 1st joint NAS/NATS newsletter <p>Program Chair: Kim Soper</p>	<p>Kim Soper Aurietha Hoelsing Sara Morris Randy Johnson Pat Crum Jim Fitzgibbon Angela Nickel John Niemoth Julia Polak Caroline Winchester Jim Woodland (NDE)</p> <p>NAS Newsletter Editor (Sandy Kaplan)</p>	None	<p>Kathleen Jacobitz</p> <p>Chuck Lang</p> <p>Bob Reeder (Lincoln Public Schools)</p>	<p>Ellen Paparozzi (Maiben)</p> <p>Howard Gendelman (UNMC)</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> *Bob Talbitzer (Secondary) *Jan Johnson (elementary)</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Emma Walton, NSTA President Lois Mayo, District XI Director Pat Lucido, STOM President Mike Johanns (Lincoln mayor and gubernatorial candidate)</p>

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>Kim Soper (Ogallala High School), Oct. 28-30, 1999</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jr. Academy winter workshop in Wayne • BaP begins in NE (Susan Koba & Jim Woodland) • Mini-session coordinators – Bev Grueber & Carol Murray <p>Program Chair: Susan Koba</p>			<p>Dave Gosselin</p> <p>James McGahan (Grand Island Northwest High School)</p>	<p>Ellen T. Paparozzi (Maiben) – Chance Favors the Prepared Mind</p> <p>Roger Welsch "The Fat Guy in the Overalls"</p> <p>OPS Mini Singers</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards:</u> Bob Curtright (secondary) Karen Hastings (elementary)</p> <p><u>Special Guests:</u> Emma Walton (NSTA President) Lois Mayo (District XI Director – NSTA) Patricia Lucido (STOM President)</p>
<p>Susan Koba (Omaha Public Schools), Oct. 26-28, 2000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning (Anne Tweed) • New Past Presidents Council • New NATS website • BaP funding secured • Kelly Gatewood – 1st BaP State Director • Work division among Board members, specifying jobs • NATS Board books developed as NATS Procedures and Practices • NAS/NATS Policy Book developed • NATS/NATM Preservice Conference • Developed NSTA Inquiry Institute • Susan Koba elected to NSTA Board of Directors <p>Program Chair: Randy Johnson</p>	<p>Randy Johnson Kim Soper Carolyn Schlager Joan Anthony Ross Dinwiddie Jim Fitzgibbon Bev Gruber Julia Polak Bill Walters Wanda Clarke Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	<p>Quality in the 21st Century: Continuing a 40 Year Tradition</p>	<p>Carolina Biological Supply</p> <p>Al Musson (O'Neill Public Schools)</p> <p>Bob Curtright (Lincoln Public Schools)</p>	<p>Eugenie Scott (Maiben)</p> <p>Doug Christensen, NDE</p> <p>Ron Cisar, Omaha Public Schools (musical entertainment Friday night)</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> *Cece Schwennsen (secondary) Patty Brown Ron Crampton</p> <p>*Anita Long (Elementary) Janet Jizba Julia Polak</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Arthur Eisenkraft (NSTA President) Jim Puckett (District XI Director) Deb Jordan (McREL) Alan King (KATS President) Mary Butel (KATS President-Elect) Pat Lucido (STOM President) Becky Litherland (STOM President-Elect)</p>

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>Randy Johnson (Gering High School), Oct. 25-27, 2001</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Nebraska Science Teacher</i>, new NATS Journal (Ed. Susan Koba) • TIMMS-R results released • Integration of NJAS into the Academy to result in 3 divisions – NAS, NATS, NJAS • State standards clarified <p>NSTA Inquiry Institute hosted by District XI leaders (NE, KS, MO) Lied Conference Center in Nebraska City</p> <p>Program Chair: Julia Polak</p>	<p>Carolyn Schlager Wanda Clarke Joan Anthony Ross Dinwiddie Dan Sitzman Lois Veath Bill Walters Susan Koba Kelly Gatewood (BaP) Judy Williams (NJAS) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	<p>Inquiry in the 21st Century</p>	<p>McREL</p> <p>Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	<p>Timothy Gay (Maiben) UNL Physics</p> <p>Thor Holmes (University of Kansas Natural History Museum)</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u></p> <p>* Bev Gruber (Elementary) *Katie Jo Ramsey (Secondary) Randy Johnson Dan Sitzman</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u></p> <p>Mary Robillard (District XI Director) Deb Jordan (McREL ERC) John Sutton (McREL ERC) Mary Butel (KATS President) Becky Litherland (STOM President) Susan Koba (NSTA Director of Coordination and Supervision)</p>
<p>Julia Polak (Exeter-Milligan Elementary School) Oct. 24-26, 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BaP NE cited as an “exemplary program” • NSTA releases SciLinks • 2nd NSTA Inquiry Institute (strong McREL support) <p>Program Chair: Pat Crum</p>	<p>Pat Crum Randy Johnson Carolyn Schlager Sheree Person-Pandil Deb Brewer Ross Dinwiddie Sally Harms Dan Sitzman Bill Walters Kelly Gatewood (BaP) Judy Williams (NJAS) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	<p>Assessment and the Standards</p>	<p>Susan Koba (Omaha Public Schools)</p> <p>Carol Mitchell (UNO)</p>	<p>Kenneth F. Dewey, UNL (Maiben)</p> <p>West-In the Groove (Millard West Group)</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> (Secondary Only)</p> <p>*Carol Engelmann Dan Sitzman Jake Winemiller</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u></p> <p>Mary Robillard (District XI Director) Deb Jordan (McREL) Mary Butel (KATS Past-President) Susan Koba (NSTA Director of Coordination and Supervision)</p>

President/ Year	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>Pat Crum (Millard West High School), Oct. 23-25, 2003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final year of <i>The Nebraska Science Teacher</i> journal (funding issues) • BaP Advisory Committee begun • New BaP State Director • Ask-a-Mentor program begun • NCLB <p>Program Chair: Wanda Clarke</p>	<p>Wanda Clarke Julia Polak Pat Dutton Sheree Person-Pandil Deb Brewer Sally Harms Ted Koehn Janet Sheaffer Dan Sitzman Lois Veath Judy Williams (NJAS) Kathy French (BaP) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	<p>Leave No Teacher Behind</p>	<p>Marla Smith (Imperial Schools)</p> <p>Judy Williams (NJAS)</p>	<p>Jodi Peterson, NSTA (Maiben) – No Child Left Behind</p> <p>A Night of Science Research (presenters students, Science Olympiad coaches, & students, NATS Board members)</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> *Dan Sitzman Earlene Uhrig Deb Brewer</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Jodi Peterson (Director of Legislative Affairs for NSTA) Mary Robillard (District XI Director) Kay Neill (KATS President) Jim Puckett (STOM President) Susan Koba (NSTA Director of Coordination and Supervision)</p>
<p>Wanda Clarke (Omaha Public Schools), Oct. 28-30, 2004</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology access at conference improved • Board member job descriptions updated • 1st Year of the Nebraska Scientific 20-Year Member Award • NAS Quincentennial – 125 years! • Ed Brogie President of AAAS/NAAS • Wendell Mohling dies • New NJAS President appointed by NAS <p>Program Chair: John Niemoth</p>	<p>John Niemoth Pat Crum Pat Dutton Sheree Person-Pandil Marcia Crofutt Rhonda Hanson Sally Harms Ted Koehn Janet Sheaffer Dan Sitzman* Judy Williams (NJAS) Kathy French (BaP) Aurietha Hoelsing (NAS) Jim Woodland (NDE) * appointed to complete a vacated term</p>	<p>Growing and Keeping Our Own: Sustaining Highly Qualified Teachers</p>	<p>Ed Brogie (Laurel- Concord)</p> <p>Ron Bonnstetter (UNL)</p>	<p>Philip Brauer of Creighton University (Maiben) -The Antarctic</p> <p>Bob Gress (Wildlife photographer and Director of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, Kansas)</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> *Vanita Jarmon Marcia Crofutt Eric Nelson</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Anne Tweed (NSTA President) Lois Mayo (NSTA Director of Coordination and Supervision) Becky Litherland (District XI Director) Scott Capes (KATS President) Mary Butel (KATS Past-President) Lloyd Barrow (STOM President)</p>

President/ Year	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>John Niemoth (Waterloo High School), Oct. 27-29, 2005</p> <p>Program Chair: Sheree Person-Pandil</p> <p>Brenda Zabel (Omaha Westside HS) named Nebraska Teacher of the Year</p>	<p>Sheree Person-Pandil Wanda Clarke Pat Dutton Chris Schaben Joan Christen Marcia Crofutt Rhonda Hanson Ted Koehn Terry Rotherham Janet Sheaffer Judy Williams (NJAS) Kathy French (BaP) Bruce Chase (NAS) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	<p>Science is Relative</p>	<p>Suzanne Kirby (Lincoln Public Schools)</p> <p>Roxanna Jokela (UNMC)</p>	<p>David Watkins (Maiben)</p> <p>Mary Ann Holmes</p> <p>Albert Einstein (Robert Kennedy)</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> *Jim Rynearson Tyler Berzina Pat Crum</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Becky Litherland (District XI Director & STOM) Dave Pollock (KATS President Elect) Anne Tweed (NSTA Retiring President) Lois Mayo (NSTA Director of Coordination and Supervision)</p>
<p>Sheree Person-Pandil (ESU 3) (NSTA Area Conference held at the Qwest Center and the Omaha Hilton) Oct. 19-21, 2006</p> <p>1st reporting on the Science STAR standards for grades 5 (or 4), 8 and 11</p> <p>1st year of KICKS</p> <p>Program Chair: Sally Harms</p>	<p>Sally Harms John Niemoth Bill Walters Chris Schaben Kirsten Smith Mary Moser Marcia Crofutt Ronda Hanson Joan Christen Terry Rotherham Aurietha Hoelsing (NJAS) Jim Rynearson (NAS) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	<p>O! Pioneers in Science</p>	<p>Wanda Clarke (Omaha Public Schools)</p> <p>Elizabeth Mulkerrin (Henry Doorly Zoo)</p>	<p>Conference Strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching for Learning in Science: Exemplary Practices- Good, Better Best • Assessment for Learning • Freshwater Systems Science <p>General Session: Dr. Timothy Gay, UNL, "The Physics of Football"</p> <p><u>Presidential Award</u>: Julia Polak</p> <p><u>Area Conference Leadership</u>: Conference Chairperson (Susan Koba), Program Coordinator (Jim Woodland), Local Arrangements Chair (Wanda Clarke) NSTA Rep District XI (Becky Litherland), Elementary Rep (Bev Grueber), High School Rep (Randy Johnson), Post-Secondary Rep (George Veomett), Informal Science Rep (Elizabeth Mulkerrin), Strand Coordinators (Becky Litherland & Anne Tweed; Sheree Person-Pandil; Carol Lloyd), Local Arrangements Committee (Ted Koehn, Clara Hoover, Chris Schaben, Carol Mitchell, Lois Mayo, Julie Anderson, Dan Sitzman)</p>	

President/ Year/History	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>Sally Harms, (Wayne State College) Oct. 25-27, 2007</p> <p>Program Chair: Ross Dinwiddie</p>	<p>Ross Dinwiddie Sheree Person-Pandil Bill Walters Chris Schaben Joan Christen Kirsten Smith Mary Moser Anna Detlefsen Mark Seier Terry Rotherham Aurietha Hoelsing (NJAS) Jim Rynearson (NAS) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	<p>Science: The Myth Busters</p>	<p>Gayle Ellison (Lewiston Schools)</p> <p>Cecelia Dorn (NAS)</p>	<p>Brook Levey (Maiben)</p> <p>The NATS Board Myth Busters</p>	<p><u>Presidential Award</u> *LeeAnn Vaughan Tyler Berzina Joan Christen</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy John Whitsett (NSTA President) Jim Puckett (District XI Director & STOM)</p>
<p>Ross Dinwiddie (Central City Schools), Oct. 9-11, 2008</p> <p>Frances Eberle named NSTA Executive Director</p> <p>Program Chair: Dan Sitzman</p>	<p>Dan Sitzman Sally Harms Bill Walters Elizabeth Mulkerrin Kirsten Smith Mary Moser Anna Detlefsen Mark Seier Mary Jensen Andrew Wood Sheree Person-Pandil (BaP) Aurietha Hoelsing (NJAS) James Wood (NAS) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	<p>Dancing with the Stars</p>	<p>Aurietha Hoelsing (NJAS)</p> <p>Sheree Person- Pandil (ESU 3)</p>	<p>Daryl Smith (Maiben) - Tallgrass Prairie</p> <p>Michael Fossum (NASA Astronaut)</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> *Reenie McMains Beth Stenzel</p> <p><u>Special Guest</u> Jim Puckett (District XI Director & STOM)</p>

President/ Year	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>Dan Sitzman (Omaha North High), Oct. 8-10, 2009</p> <p>10th anniversary of BaP in NE</p> <p>25th year for PAEMST</p> <p>Saturday morning we awoke to 6" of snow</p> <p>Program Chair: Joan Christen</p>	<p>Joan Christen Ross Dinwiddie Laura Plas Elizabeth Mulkerrin Jay Kuecker Dan Carpenter Anna Detlefsen Mark Seier Mary Jensen Andrew Wood Sheree Person-Pandil (BaP) Aurietha Hoelsing (NJAS) Chris Schaben (NAS) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	<p>Milestones in Science</p>	<p>Nebraska Scientific</p> <p>Jim Rynearson (Lincoln High School)</p>	<p>Charles Darwin/ Brian "Fox" Ellis (Maiben)</p> <p>Dr. Ed Louis (Henry Doorly Zoo)</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> *Brenda Zabel Alan Dappen Joan Christen</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Governor Dave Heineman Roger Breed (Nebraska Commissioner of Education) Jim Puckett (District XI Director & STOM) Pat Shane (NSTA President)</p>
<p>Joan Christen (Beatrice High School), Sept 23-25, 2010</p> <p>50th anniversary of NATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20th conference at Camp Calvin Crest • Final year of KICKS (MSP grant expired Sept 30, 2010) • Nebraska BaP officially renamed "Science Matters" • Michael Fryda(Omaha Westside HS) named Nebraska Teacher of the Year <p>Program Chair: Kirsten Smith</p>	<p>Kirsten Smith Dan Sitzman Laura Plas Elizabeth Mulkerrin Jay Kuecker Mary Moser Suzy Goedeken James Kriz Mary Jensen Andrew Wood Sheree Person-Pandil (BaP/Science Matters) Aurietha Hoelsing (NJAS) Russ Soucek (NAS) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	<p>Science is Golden</p>	<p>Henry Doorly Zoo</p> <p>Susan Hester (Bellevue Public Schools)</p>	<p>Past-Presidents' Celebration (17 in attendance Thursday night; 2 others arrived later)</p> <p>Clayton Anderson (NASA Astronaut from Ashland, NE)</p> <p>Dr. Alan McCormick "Creativity, Imagination and Magic"</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> *Laura Callahan Karen Humphry Sheryl Uehling</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Dr. Alan McCormick (NSTA President) Dr. Sally Harms (NSTA District XI Director)</p>

President/ Year	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>Kirsten Smith (Lincoln Public Schools), September 29-October 1, 2011</p> <p>First Year of KICKS₂</p> <p>Bob Feurer named Nebraska Teacher of the Year</p> <p>Program Chair: Jon Pedersen</p>	<p>Jon Pedersen Joan Christen Laura Plas LeeAnn Vaughan Jay Kuecker Mary Moser* Suzy Goedeken James Kriz Teresa Bender Tammy Blobaum Sheree Person-Pandil (Science Matters) Aurietha Hoelsing (NJAS) Ross Dinwiddie (NAS) Jim Woodland (NDE) * appointed to complete a vacated term</p>	<p>Science is Elemental</p>	<p>Dan Sitzman (Omaha North High)</p> <p>Steve Waller (CASNR Dean, UNL)</p>	<p>Dr. Jeff Goldstein, National Center for Earth and Space Science Education</p> <p>Jodi Peterson, Assistant Executive Director for the NSTA Office of Legislative and Public Affairs (Maiben)</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> *Joan Christen</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Dr. Alan McCormick (NSTA President) Dr. Sally Harms (NSTA District XI Director) Sharon McDonald (KATS Past-President) Kathy Rome (KATS Secretary) Shirley Rose (KATS Treasurer)</p>

President/ Year	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Other
<p>Jon Pedersen (UNL College of Education and Human Sciences), September 27-29, 2012</p> <p>1st year of NeSA-S 25th Nebraska Science Olympiad</p> <p>Program Chair: Mary Moser</p>	<p>Mary Moser Kirsten Smith Betsy Barent LeeAnn Vaughan Joe Myers Jennifer Swerczek Suzy Goedeken James Kriz Teresa Bender Tammy Blobaum Sheree Person-Pandil (Science Matters) Aurietha Hoelsing (NJAS) Dave Peitz (NAS) Jim Woodland (NDE)</p>	<p>STEM: Science That Engages Minds</p>	<p>Joan Anthony (Elkhorn Spring Ridge Elementary)</p> <p>Kathy French (Education Coordinator, University of Nebraska State Museum)</p>	<p>Dr. Karen Ostlund, University of Texas, College of Natural Sciences & NSTA President (Maiben)</p> <p>John Chapo, CEO and President, Lincoln Children's Zoo</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> Heather Dreibus *Kimberly Humphrey Stephanie Kurz</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Dr. Karen Ostlund (NSTA President) Dr. Sally Harms (NSTA District XI Director) Christine Herald, (KATS)</p>
<p>Mary Moser (Pawnee City High School), September 26-28, 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Generation Science Standards released in April 2013 • David Evans named NSTA Executive Director • James Blake's first FC as NDE Science Director • 30th anniversary gathering of Presidential Awardees • Jim Woodland awarded the first J.A. Woodland Lifetime Achievement Award by NATS • NATS starts Tweeting @NATS_Science in December 2012 <p>Program Chair: Katie Ramsey</p>	<p>Katie Ramsey Jon Pedersen Betsy Barent LeeAnn Vaughan Joe Myers Jennifer Swerczek Jim Rynearson Rich Powers Teresa Bender Tammy Blobaum Sheree Person-Pandil (Science Matters) Aurietha Hoelsing (NJAS) Dan Sitzman (NAS) James Blake (NDE)</p>	<p>Science Puts It All Together</p>	<p>Tyler Berzina (Millard West High School)</p> <p>Dr. Jon Pederson (University of Nebraska Lincoln)</p>	<p>Drs. Dennis and Victoria Molfese UNL Developmental Brain Lab, Child, Youth, and Family Studies</p> <p>Joseph Brus, Science Advisor for I Marine Expeditionary Force (Maiben)</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> Teresa Bender *Angela Bergman Sean Putnam</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Dr. Sally Harms (College Division Director, NSTA) Dr. Paul Adams (NSTA District XI Director & KATS)</p>

President/ Year	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>Katie Ramsey (Grand Island Public Schools), September 25-27, 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Cooper introduced as new NDE Science Director starting Oct 1 • First Year of KICKS₃ • National Congress on Science Education announced to be held in Omaha, July 15-18, 2015 • 31st National Science Olympiad preparations to be held May 2015 at UNL City Campus • 15th anniversary of Nebraska Science Matters <p>Program Chair: Joe Myers</p>	<p>Joe Myers Mary Moser Betsy Barent Stephanie Kurz Jennifer Swerczek Jim Rynearson Rich Powers Tammy Blobaum* Jodi Bahr Shauna Roberson Sheree Person-Pandil (Science Matters) Aurietha Hoelsing (NJAS) Martin Hulce (NAS) * appointed to complete a vacated term</p>	<p>Science Bridges the Gaps</p>	<p>Dr. Kirsten Smith (Lincoln Pound Middle School)</p> <p>Phil Arnold, ("Doc Gizmo" Science Demos)</p>	<p>Dr. Elizabeth Jones, UNL, Engineers Without Borders</p> <p>Dr. Ramsey Musallam, San Francisco, CA Sacred Heart Cathedral High School (Maiben)</p> <p>Michael Sibbernsen (Friday Night Star Party)</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> Stephanie Kurz (finalist) *A second K-6 Math teacher was recognized from Nebraska in lieu of a K-6 Science teacher.</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Dr. Sally Harms (College Division Director, NSTA)</p> <p>Dr. Carolyn Hayes (NSTA President-Elect)</p> <p>Ted Willard (NSTA Program Director)</p>

President/ Year	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards/Special Guests
<p>Joe Myers (Norfolk High School), September 24-26, 2015</p> <p>Program Chair: Lee Brogie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board member Jim Rynearson passes away March 29 • NJAS applies to be its own non-profit charitable organization • District XI & XV Retreat on July 18 after NCSE in Omaha • First year for electronic conference program using confplusapp.com • Every attendee receives a black NATS t-shirt with conference logo • Historical Top 5 daily rainfall total the day before conference starts, with rains continuing Thursday 	<p>Lee Brogie Katie Ramsey Betsy Barent Stephanie Kurz Rich Powers Jodi Bahr Shauna Roberson Kellen Conroy Tim Hagge Kim Humphrey</p> <p>Sheree Person-Pandil (Science Matters) Aurietha Hoelsing (NJAS) Randy Linnemann (NAS) Sarah Cooper (NDE)</p>	<p>Science Runs Through It</p>	<p>Katie Ramsey (Grand Island Public Schools)</p> <p>David Harwood (UNL)</p>	<p>Dr. Dennis Ferraro, UNL (Maiben)</p> <p>Mike Farrell & Val Cuppens, Platte Basin Timelapse Project</p> <p>Bob Becker, Kirkwood (MO) HS</p> <p>Jeff Kurrus, <i>NebraskaLand</i> Magazine & Author</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> *Nicole Miller</p> <p><u>Special Guests</u> Dr. Sally Harms (College Division Director, NSTA)</p> <p>Mary Gromko (NSTA President-Elect)</p> <p>Beverly DeVore-Wedding (High School Division Director, NSTA)</p> <p>Dr. Paul Adams (NSTA District XI Director & KATS)</p>

President/ Year	Board Members	Theme	Catalyst Awards	Lectures	Presidential Awards(*) & Finalists/Special Guests
<p>Lee Brogie (Wayne Community Schools), September 22-24, 2016</p> <p>Program Chair: Shauna Roberson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NJAS President Aureitha Hoelsing passes away March 3 Nebraska Science Olympiad prepares for 30th year and moves from NDE to under the NJAS umbrella Entirely electronic conference program using confplusapp.com, sponsored by Nebraska Soybean Board & Discovering FARMLAND Every attendee receives a black NATS t-shirt with conference logo Sheree Person-Pandil's last year leading Science Matters Last Fall Conference for KICKS₃ MSP grant 	<p>Shauna Roberson Stephanie Kurz Jodi Bahr Kellen Conroy Tim Hagge Kim Humphrey Tom Brestel Lisa Bryan Pam Petersen Sheree Person-Pandil (Science Matters) Randy Linnemann (NJAS) Karin van Dijk (NAS)</p>	<p>Eclipsing Science in Nebraska</p>	<p>Deb Paulman (ESU 16, KICKS₃)</p>	<p>Dr. Todd Hutner, University of Texas, Argument Driven Inquiry (Maiben)</p> <p>Dr. David Crowther, University of Nevada-Reno & NSTA President-elect</p> <p>Dr. Jeff Goldstein, National Center for Earth and Space Science Education</p> <p>Dr. Todd Young, Wayne State College</p>	<p><u>Presidential Awards</u> Marlo Tomich Janice Buss</p> <p><u>Special Guest</u> Rob Lamb, Pattonville, MO (2016 NSTA Yager Awardee)</p>
<p>Shauna Roberson (Garden County Schools)</p> <p>Program Chair:</p> <p>Total Eclipse of sun visible across Nebraska on August 21</p> <p>Conference to be held in conjunction with NATM in Kearney</p>	<p>Jodi Bahr Kellen Conroy Tim Hagge Kim Humphrey Tom Brestel Lisa Bryan Pam Petersen Andrea Hoopman Scott King TBD (Science Matters) Randy Linnemann (NJAS) TBD (NAS)</p>				<p><u>Presidential Awards</u></p> <p><u>Special Guests</u></p>

1. This table is an outline that can be used to update our history. It is written as NATS History, whereas the old history is as much, if not more, history of NAS. I suggest that once this is done, it is shared with all the past presidents that we can still contact, asking them to write a personal note for their year – a remembrance of their year as president. Thanks to Susan for getting this coordinated and edited. Since this is a "continued history" updates are welcome! From then on, it should be the duty of the retiring president to add to the history – or for the historian to do this in collaboration with the past president.
2. Each president needs to review their year – there are obvious years with lacking info since programs were missing and/or newsletters limited in scope. We need special attention paid to 1999 (Ellen Paparozzi (listed as Maiben for both 98 and 99)).
3. The website lists Catalyst Awards as a group from 1997 and back – how do we determine the actual years of award? I could not find the information in newsletters. Jim/Celia, can you help? When did the awards begin? (Some specific pre-1997 awardees have been identified by year; see the last page of this document for past winners not attached to a year)
4. When were the 1st and last years of McREL funding that helped with New Teacher Scholarships, etc.? This is not in the table for any year since I can't track the history.

Jim Landon
NATS President 1979 - 1981

There has been much water under the bridge since I served on the NATS board and as an officer. This task of reminiscing on what transpired during that time has conjured up memories of many things I have not thought about in some time. My first exposure to our group was Camp Comeca south of Cozad. I remember that I did a presentation on live trapping small mammals using homemade can traps. I met for the first time several individuals whom I forged life long personal and professional relationships with that helped me develop into the teacher I became most of my career. In those early years we moved the location of the conference every year so that teachers from different parts of the state would have a greater opportunity to attend. Attendance back in the day was pretty low and it was a constant concern how to increase interest. High school teachers mostly attended these conferences with an emphasis on biology if I remember right. The name NATS was not yet our moniker as we were just an affiliate of the Nebraska Academy of Science. As our organization grew a targeted attempt was made to reach out to elementary, middle school, and college and university teachers. This really blossomed when we started holding our gathering at Camp Calvin Crest each year instead of moving it around. In the early days it was rather difficult to get anyone to run for office or serve on the board. It was refreshing to see that all change as NATS grew and became more popular.

During my tenure on the board it was decided that we should become an affiliate of NSTA. Randy Hubbard and I made a road trip in his convertible to Columbus Ohio one summer to attend the meeting where they were going to vote on accepting us so that we could speak personally on behalf of our organization. That was quite a trip. Something else that happened at this time was giving our organization the name it currently goes by. The story behind this goes as follows. The Kansas Association of Teachers of Science (KATS) was going gangbusters so a contingent of Nebraska folks went down and participated in one of their conferences. When we returned we started kicking around names that we could call our group. I came up with the name GNATS which stood for Greater Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science. I used this because it was the proper spelling for the small pesky bugs that plague us every summer. Little did I know that it would cause major consternation with our western Nebraska colleagues who thought the name was favoring the more populous eastern part of the state. An art teacher from Grand Island Northeast even drew up a neat cartoon figure of a gnat to go on T-shirts. I still have one of these collector items. After this the board decided to shorten the name to NATS.

I remember Camp Calvin Crest fondly. The steak barbecue, the Oh Dark Thirty bird walks led by the Brogie brothers, and the raffles put together by Ed Schafer every year that featured way cool stuff that he scrounged from science supply companies all over the country. I still have a "black hole T Shirt I won on one of the raffles. There were so many talented and passionate teachers who made up the core of NATS. Kathy Jacobitz, Mary Romjue, and Ed Brogie were my student science research buddies. Even though our kids competed with each other at state and regional competitions every year there was always a willingness to share ideas and work as a team. It was great watching Lincoln and Omaha get involved with the science fairs also. Sue Koba, Wand Clarke, and Kelly Gatewood

became the rising stars in science education in their districts and it was always a blast to get together with them and compare notes. I remember these three ladies dragging me into some weird shop with rubber and leather outfits one time when we were back east. Kelly also taught me how to play darts in some bar that night. I have fond memories of our conventions at Halsey. That area was always so beautiful in the fall. There were the nights where some of the contingent went into the berg of Halsey to let their hair down and came back to invent a new game called frozen cookie shuffleboard. I think that Jim Woodland and Joanne Langabee were involved in that sport.

I am so grateful to have been able to meet, get to know, and been able to work with such a great group of teachers over the years. The model Nebraska was able to develop with buy-in from teachers across the K-16 spectrum would be enviable in any other state. I did not find that in the state I currently reside in. It is neat to see that past officers and retirees are seen as an asset to the organization and that so many continue to remain involved each year. This attitude adds wisdom and a sense of history that would otherwise be lost. Hopefully I will be able to attend a NATS conference at some point in the future. It would be so neat to catch up with the lives of those I knew in the past.



Halsey National Forest 1980



Ruth Woodland & Don Woodburn (NDE Science Director)



Left: Jim Woodland, Don Woodburn, Ruth Woodland, Earlene Uhrig, Lou Christiansen



Right: Don, Ruth, Earlene, & Lou

Chuck Lang
1981 - 1983

Here are my thoughts from year as President of GNATS.....

Yes, I was President of GNATS

Yes, I can't remember the year

Yes, we held the fall workshop at the 4-H Camp near Halsey, NE

Yes, one of the "hot" items on the agenda was whether the name should be NATS OR GNATS

Yes, another of the items on the agenda was where to hold the fall workshop. It was decided that a rotation of 3 years in Eastern NE, 1 year in Central NE and 1 year in Western NE would be best and was voted on and agreed to.

NOTE: Obviously, my leadership on this issue has been changed.

Mostly, what I remember is all the great people and all the great fun.



Halsey National Forest, 1981



Ruth Green and friend, 1981



Florence Leuninghaener & Jim Woodland, 1981

Jim Woodland
NATS Co-Chair 1982-84
Fall Conference Dates: October 25-27, 1984

In 1983 GNATS (now NATS) went from being an affiliate of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences to being a Division of the Academy. The site for the 1984 Fall Conference was Chadron State College. This was a result of a new policy to rotate the Conference locations within the state on a central, west, central, east, cycle. The intent of this policy was to locate a Conference closer to all Nebraska science educators, as well as an opportunity for teachers to explore and learn about other areas of Nebraska.

The Fall Conference, held at Chadron State College, was the only time the Conference was held on a college campus. The 104 attendees chose to attend sessions ranging from planetarium shows, visits to the Earth Science Museum and Museum of the Fur Trade, and the most infamous NATS Fall Conference Field Trip to date, lead by Charles and Karen Messenger, "Rock and Rollers." This was an opportunity to visit the rock fields north of Chadron while looking for the elusive Fairburn Agate. The trip ended at Toadstool State Park. Most of the 104 attendees chose to learn about the geology of Western Nebraska and climbed into 17 vehicles on the morning of October 26. What was not expected was the effect from a blizzard one week earlier. After getting off of the highways and onto country roads the caravan encountered mud left by the melted snow. This caused the wagon train of vehicles to stop at the bottom of each hill to have teachers get out of their vehicles and push them up the hill. This continued throughout the day and turned the half-day field trip into a full day event. Participants experienced northwest geology first hand, and a good time was had by all. The day was capped off with a fascinating lecture about Jewell Cave. This was presented by Herb and Jan Conn, the two people responsible for exploring and mapping most of this cave. Jan began the presentation in complete darkness demonstrating how to light a carbide lamp. After that feat a slide show began interwoven with stories about spelunking in the cave.

This year ended GNATS being led by co-chairs as the offices of President Elect, President, and Past President were established. Jim Woodland became the 1st past president, Ruth Green the 1st President, and Julie Wells the 1st President Elect.



Ed Brogie, Mark Brogie, Chuck Lang, Ruth Woodland. Searching for the elusive Fairburn Agate, 1984



Chadron State College, 1984. Harly Hardison (van driver), Ann Danbury, Chuck Lang, Jim & Ruth Woodland, others.

Ed Brogie
NATS President, 1986 – 1987
October 27 – 29, 1987

I first remember NATS with folks like Dale Rathe (remind me to tell you the “gravity” story), Don Woodburn, James McGahan, Karen and Charles Messenger, Bertrand Schultz, Bob Reeder, Ron Weedon, Randy Hubbard, Al Musson, and Jim Landon. It was either Camp Covenant Cedars or Camp Maranatha where we had to push cars by hand to get them out of the mud and down the road and it was at the Halsey 4-H camp where we had to avoid all the poison Ivy as we went on bird walks with Ruth Green. I learned first-hand that new teachers were welcomed with open arms. I was immediately impressed by how eager NATS teachers are to share their expertise and friendship, and to create a place for you in their professional organization.

It was Jim Landon that talked me into getting more involved with outdoor projects and we began collaborating with both of our students. Our two schools took students on a Four-Tusker dig, a forest fire re-planting outing and numerous trips to prairie workshops. With Jim Landon, Harlan Pankratz of WSC, Mary Romjue, and Kathy Jacobitz, I became very involved with promoting the Nebraska Junior Academy of Science, GNATS and the Nebraska Academy of Science. As you know, if you are with these science teachers very long you are quickly asked to do part of the work and soon become part of a professional family. It isn’t uncommon for conversations to begin with the following questions: “Can you do a workshop?”, “Why don’t you try this?” or “Why don’t you apply for this or that?” I would soon learn to talk to other science teachers using the same verbiage.

Of course, I had to return the favor of getting friends and family involved, so in the early 80’s, I brought Kim Timperley (student teacher), Mark Brogie (little brother), and Jim Rynearson (fellow teacher and hockey sieve) to these fantastic GNATS events and told them they had to help out because that is just what all science teachers do. These “diamonds in the rough” bought into the story just as I had. In 1985 Mark and I took over the bird walks from Ruth Green and thought that was cool stuff. Little did I know that later, in 1986, I would be elected president-elect to NATS while Julie Larson was the President. Board members were like family members. Kim Timperley, Jim Rynearson and John Rogers were newly elected board members. Mark Brogie, Jim McGahan and Joanne Langabee were returning board members. Bob Reeder (recently departed friend) was the secretary-treasure and Don Woodburn (Pre-Jim Woodland) was the DOE adviser. So when I say NATS has always been “friends and family” ... It is the truth, both literal and figuratively.

I became a workshop junkie and went to all the NATS, NAS, AAAS, NABT, NSTA and other conferences I could go to. I saw fellow NATS teachers wherever I went. Since I taught Biology, Advanced Biology, Chemistry, Advanced Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology, Physics, Chem Com, and Independent Science Research during the school year and led student and teacher workshops during the summers I could gain tons of information at GNATS for all my interests. Teachers like Ann Danner, Ron Cisar, Jim Landon, Harley Hardison, Chuck Lang, John Rogers, Ron Crampton, Steve Skinner, Donn Carlson, Roger Carlson, Ed Miller and Ed Schafer where just a few that gave great workshops and shared

all their great ideas for me to use in my classes. I can honestly say that in most cases the workshops we had here at NATS were better or equal to any that I went to at NSTA.

I remember first meeting Wendell Mohling, Don McCurdy, and Dave Vernier at NATS conferences. Herb and Jan Conn were fantastic and gave me nightmares about being trapped in a cave. I met folks from Carolina Biological, Ken-A-Vision, Sargent Welch, Nebraska Scientific and G.W. Brown Optical who provided great materials for the classroom and donated supplies to the teacher workshops in Nebraska.

With help from Dr. Bob McCue and later Dr. Mary Eittle, I started the Winter Workshop at Wayne State College somewhere in the 80's and most presenters were NATS members. They traveled to Wayne every year and did these great workshops in exchange for Pizza at lunch. One year we had 100 workshops held on a single Saturday. I am not sure of the exact event dates but many of my files are allegedly archived in the Jackson landfill.

Things like costume parties, GNAT-Man, Steak fries with all the Bobs, bird hikes, SSI and Bob Kerry, KICKS, world class snorers in the cabins, star gazing, my sons John and Joe winning way too many raffle prizes, give-aways, share-a-thons, PEP and Board meetings, "Taking a Closer Look" Workshops with my wife, Lee Peterson-Brogie, Junior Academy Student Posters with my students, and just hanging out with teachers are all very fond and important memories that I share with the great teachers of NATS. Jim Woodland is always saying: "He is from the government and he is here to help". I remember in 1990 we even changed the name from GNATS to NATS. Another great thing about NATS is the friendly smiles of all the folks working behind the scenes, such as Sue Koba, Cecelia Dorn, Wanda Clarke, Judy Williams, Sally Harms, Bob Feurer, Bob Talbitzer, Kim Soper, Julia Polak, Aurietha Hoesing, and Dave Heidt. If you needed help and if you could catch one of those persons running back and forth in a red vest – maybe somebody like Dan Sitzman, Randy Johnson, Gale Ellyson, Pat Crum, Lois Mayo, Ross Dinwiddie, Sheree Person-Pandil, Joan Christen or John Niemoth.

NATS and its great teachers were my links to being and staying professionally involved. My involvement in NATS led me to the Junior Academy and to designing a successful Independent Science Research Class that won a Peter Kiewit Award. Truthfully, I became involved in NJAS so I could just beat Jim Landon's students at the state science fair. That led to taking students to the American Junior Academy of Science and the AAAS meetings and to my current position as Executive Director of the National Association of Academies of Science. It was at a NATS workshop that Donna Bogner talked me into going to Princeton for a Woodrow Wilson Workshop with Diane Epp on Micro-scale Chemistry. That was a life-changing event for a young science teacher. From that experience I was selected to be on the Woodrow Wilson National Chem Team 5 with Rob Lewis, George Gross and John Little. Later, I was a member of The Flinn Chemistry team with Bob Becker and Penny Sconzo. It was also NATS teachers like Chuck Lang, Diane Epp, Lee Brogie and myself that helped Garry Duncan make a success of the Howard Hughes Science Teachers Workshops at Nebraska Wesleyan University for twelve years. The truth is that NATS is a connection to the professional world of science teaching.

I am not the only science teacher that gives NATS credit for being an essential part of my professional career. Look at how many Presidential Award winners, Tandy Winners, Friends of Science, Catalyst Winners, and NSTA Officers come out of our NATS ranks. The Nebraska science community has a model organizational structure in the Nebraska Academy of Science, Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science, and the Nebraska Junior Academy of Science. We are one of the few states that have their Junior Academy and Science Teachers Association under the same umbrella. The success of Nebraska's science teachers proves that this model works. Of course, the real winners of teachers being professional are when the students they teach are consistently recognized at the local, state, National, and International levels for their academic achievements. That is the case for many of NATS' teachers. I agree with my brother Mark, when he says...."NATS is family" because for the Brogies it really is! / Ed M. Brogie

James McGahan
NATS President, 1989

To be perfectly honest, I couldn't even remember in what year I was President of GNATS. I had to look it up at the NATS website. Fortunately, Bob Feurer and I gathered all the documents we could find in the file cabinets at the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Inc. office in Morrill Hall a few years ago, and converted them into one 44-page document.

I will allow that document to stand as my "reflection" on my year as president. I will add a few reflections here that will not be found in the previous historical document that Brother Bob and I produced. I, as several others who will be in attendance at the 50th Anniversary celebration, go back to when if you were willing to fill the tank with gas and drive to a meeting, you were on the board of The Teaching Section of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences. Only those who were unwilling to pay for or too poor to afford a tank of gas were NOT considered leadership material.

So...allow me instead of being properly "historic" to tell a few "tales" of life in the Teaching Section of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Inc., (a.k.a. GNATS, a.k.a. NATS).

The 1977 edition of the Teaching Section Campout was held at Camp Covenant Cedars, a beautiful little church camp on the Platte River near Hordville. As background for the story, you must understand that this was in the height of the "Alphabet Soup" science curriculum craze...SCIS, SAPA, ESS, PSSC, BSCS, ChemStudy...you get the picture.

Bruce Holmquist and Joe Pinkall were co-chairmen of the Teaching Section that year and thus responsible for gathering the campout program. As one of the options, at each hour of the program, Bruce included the "HISSA." HISSA stood for Highly Individualized Self-Structured Activity. I had ridden to Hordville with fellow G.I. Northwest High School science teacher, Randy Hubbard. I hadn't seen Randy for several hours, and he was nowhere to be found in any of the buildings where sessions were being held. I became concerned that he had taken off and left me at "camp." After a frantic period of searching in every nook and cranny, I found him floating in a camp canoe in the middle of the sandpit lake at Covenant Cedars. He had been there a couple of hours doing his HISSA...sitting in the canoe reading a book...highly individualized self-structured activity.

Two years later (1979) we gathered at Maranatha Bible Camp between North Platte and Maxwell. We had developed a relationship with the Kansas science teachers during those years. The Kansas group was KATS (Kansas Association of Teachers of Science). The KATS group used a cat as their mascot on their logo. They use it to this day. You can see it on the logo on the home page of their website.

It was common practice in those early years to trade presenters. Several people from the Teaching Section would travel to the Kansas science teachers' meeting to make presentations, and some of the Kansas teachers would reciprocate. Seeing our neighbors with a mascot, we decided to follow suit. Thus was born the gnat mascot, and the accompanying GNATS name...the Greater Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science.



So, here is our gnat in all his glory, complete with lab coat. He was born at Maranatha through the artistic skills of Gary Nickels, Art Supervisor for G.I.P.S. Attendees were told to bring their shirts to be screen-printed with the new gnat to go along with the new name of the Teaching Section...the Greater Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science.

Our friend, the GNAT's gnat, lasted for several years until the Nebraska Unicameral decided to pass a bill that no state employee could belong to an organization that had "Greater Nebraska" in its title. I won't dwell on their reasoning at this point, but suffice it to say, if we had kept the greater in the organizational name, one of our most important and influential members, Jim Woodland, being a state employee, would have had to look elsewhere for professional companionship.

That is the point in our association's history where the "G" was dropped from the organizational title, and the Greater Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science became NATS, the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science with the new logo that you can now see at the NATS website.

Life was tough in the early years of the Teaching Section. Some years we made money on the "campout," but many years the meeting was a money loser. As a section of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, we were under the NAS financial umbrella. This worked to our advantage in the early years. But as we went forward and became a more vibrant and populous group, we started making more money than we spent. We had a nest egg of a couple of thousand dollars in our account.

We got ready to spend some of those surplus funds, only to find that Dr. Bert Schultz, the Executive Director of the Academy, had found what he believed to be a more serious need and had spent our little nest egg. I am not complaining because the Academy had bailed us out on any number of occasions when we were losing money. I use this little story only to make the point of how precarious our status as an organization was in the early years. The organization today is a far cry from the struggling group of a few decades ago.

Final thought...one of the things that Bob Curtright and I pushed, when we served our back to back terms as President of the Academy of Sciences, was inclusion of NATS members as candidates for the presidency of the "parent" body...NAS. At that point in time, more than half of the NAS membership was in GNATS (NATS). Until Bob Curtright became NAS president, only one other pre-college educator, Dr. Dale Rathe, had held that exalted office. All of the other more than 100 Academy presidents had been college educators.

It seemed unfair and quite foolish to ignore over half of the organization's membership when selecting a leadership team. Continuing on to this day, the presidency of the Academy has effectively alternated between pre-college and college NAS membership on a yearly basis. I hope this procedure, started in the 20th Century, will continue unabated throughout the 21st Century. It seems very wise and certainly appropriate.

Jim Ryneanson
NATS President, 1991 – 1992
Conference Dates: October 29-13, 1992

I had been a member of KATS for many years and was very close friends with Brad and Carol Williamson from Kansas. Gayle Ellison and I had attended their conference for many years and were always amazed at how many teachers they had attend their conference. In the spring of 1991 Mark Brogie and I attended the KATS conference with the intention of taking good notes and incorporating the things we liked into our fall conference. Mark and both thought if we could incorporate the Elementary mini-sessions into our conference we could have a greater appeal to the elementary science teachers so we did.

Jim Woodland or Ron Crampton not sure who found this great place to hold our science conference called Camp Calvin Crest near Fremont, Nebraska. We had the fall conference there the year before during Ron's presidency and it was such a great success that we decided to hold it there during my year (the rest is history). These were the days of lots of money being pumped into to states for science education via the Eisenhower funds. As I recall we had between 900 and 1000 participants that year highlighted by Bob Kerrey giving a talk. I remember that they could not get Bob away from the elementary mini-sessions as he was having so much fun. We had so many teachers that we had to contract with Camp River Crest for rooms to hold meetings and cabins for people to sleep.

Introducing Bob Kerrey was not easy for me, as I don't like to read in front of people so I memorized the introduction and got through it. When I look back on all it took to put the conference together I'm amazed we got through it. The board all pinched in and made my job one of a coordinator making sure all the "I" were dotted and the "T" were crossed.

I will always remember the passing of the gavel to the new president; it was my turn to pick on Mark Brogie in the same way Ron Crampton did to me a year earlier (gave me a piece of petrified dinosaur poop because I was so old). I found a copy of the theme to the batman TV show and recorded it, along with a mask and capes that I had Mark wear. As I transferred the presidency to Mark all the people started singing NAT-MAN, NAT-MAN instead of Batman. It was a great way to pass on the excitement of the NATS organization to a good friend of mine, Mark Brogie.

Mark A. Brogie

NATS President: 1992-1993

Conference Dates: October 28–30, 1993

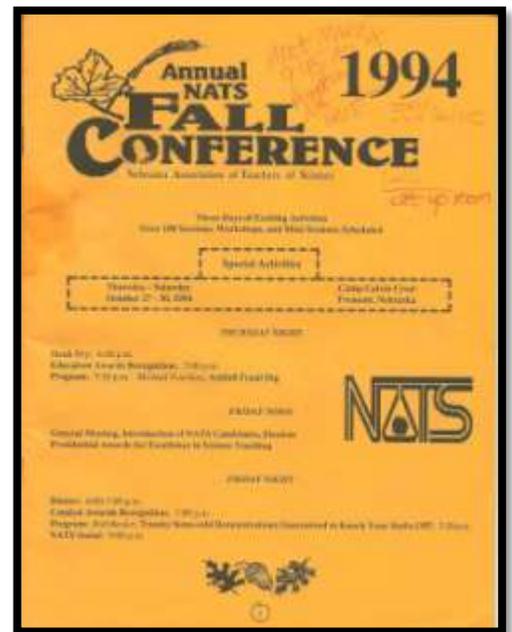
NATS has been a part of my life since 1983. My brother, Ed, “drug me along” to the then called “Greater Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science – GNATS Annual Retreat” held at Eastern Nebraska's 4-H Center located at Schramm Park, near Gretna. It was the following year in Chadron that I was first elected to the Board of Directors. In 1985, at Camp Comeca, near Cozad, Ed and I took over the duties of leading the “Early Morning Bird Walks”, which we have been presenting ever since! NATS has been a family affair! My wife, Ellen, used to accompany me in the NATS years B.C. (Before Children) and help on the bird walks. Ellen was also one of the first presenters involved during the inception of the “Elementary Mini-Sessions”. She helped me immensely in 1992-93, when I had the honor of being elected and serving as NATS President.

An excerpt from the October 1993 Nebraska Academy of Sciences Newsletter: “The annual NATS Fall Conference will be held October 28-30 at Camp Calvin Crest near Fremont. This year's schedule includes well over 100 workshops, sessions, and elementary mini-sessions in all the major science disciplines. A choice of nine workshops on Thursday afternoon will start off the conference. Special activities include Thursday evening's "Voyager Program" with Steve Garner of the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center and Friday evening's "Earth Music" by Ron Cisar. Anyone who is interested in obtaining a wealth of information and activities for use in the classroom should definitely attend this event. In addition to a wonderful in service, you will meet some amazing and talented individuals. Make plans now to attend.” Attend they did; the 1993 conference set a new attendance record; thanks to the dedicated and hard work of the Board of Directors, the presenters, and the success the year before of the “Elementary Mini-sessions”.

I have long forgotten many specific details, (other than roasting past-president Jim Rynearson and staying up all night “singing?” with Ron Cisar). I do remember being constantly busy and the camps (we also used nearby Camp Rivercrest) being “a-buzz” with activity; but that is true of all NATS conferences. I remember the goals of 92-93 conference were to continue to get more elementary teachers excited about science and to increase the attendance of teachers from western Nebraska. Our pre-conference western Nebraska outreach programs and our “mini-sessions” helped in part in reaching these goals. These were also the years of the beginning of the statewide systemic initiative (SSI), funded (1991) by the National Science Foundation, called the Nebraska Math & Science Initiative, and this program brought in many new faces to the conference.

In regards to meeting “some amazing and talented individuals” that is what keeps me returning to NATS. The knowledge and rejuvenation that NATS gives me every year is incredible, but it is the friendships I have gained over the years that are truly immeasurable. NATS for me, is not just a professional conference, it is a “family” reunion!!

Bob Talbitzer
NATS President 1993-1994
Fall Conference Dates October 27-30, 1994



Lois Mayo
NATS President 1994-95
Conference Dates: October 26-28, 1995

I feel fortunate to have served as NATS President. This experience helped me grow professionally. I met many educators locally, regionally, and nationally and developed helpful professional contacts. I encourage all science teachers to become more actively involved in NATS. The benefits truly outnumber the time commitments.

When I was initially asked to write some reflections, I immediately thought of the many friendships I made and fun that I had through NATS. It has been 15 years since I served as president and I decided to revisit the NATS newsletters and fall conference program that I kept as a reminder of this time. I owe a special debt of gratitude to Susan Koba for volunteering to serve as program chair, to Bob Talbitzer for sharing his knowledge and experiences as president, and to Jim Woodland for helping me take care of everything.

The Fall Conference was the highlight of my presidency. The conference was headquartered at Camp Calvin Crest (CCC). Sessions and sleeping accommodations were held at CCC and River Crest (RC). Meals were in the CCC Cafeteria and the evening presentations were held at RC. A hay rack shuttled attendees between the two camps.

The conference was attended by over 400 teachers. Susan Koba did a stellar job in scheduling approximately 120 sessions in addition to over 20 elementary mini-sessions. New strands were offered in middle school science, technology, and integrated/interdisciplinary curriculum. A safety sign-off was used for the first time. Tours were offered to Cargill's Fermentation Plant at Blair, Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha North, and the Weather Service in Valley. Since there was no internet capability at CCC, a session was held at Fremont Junior High to explore a new NE science website.

Teachers were able to attend with support from Eisenhower Funding. (I wish this funding was still readily available to science teachers.) Vendor displays were held in the CCC Upper Proett Lodge next to the Registration Area. The small room in the Lower Proett was used as a lounge. The First Timers Breakfast was held on Friday morning. In accord with the bylaws of that time, a general meeting was held in the CCC Cafeteria during lunch. Kim Robak, NE Lieutenant Governor, presented the Presidential Awards to Judy Williams and Angela Nickel. After the traditional steak fry, Dr. Lee Simmons from Henry Doorly Zoo presented the evening program. I really enjoyed visiting with him and riding with him from CCC to RC. Friday's evening program included the ExploraVision "Cow to Now" video from Crete Elementary School and a NASA Math and Science Integrated Curriculum presentation.

Bob Talbitzer, who was the NATS President before me, was extremely helpful. The summer before his conference, we flew to San Francisco to participate in Access Excellence. We talked about NATS during the entire flight. Bob helped me "learn the ropes" and made things easier for me. I also remember that he had a special reserved parking spot in front of Proett Lodge due to his frequent travels. After he turned over the gavel to me, he surprised me by moving the reserved sign to be in front of my car.

While I was NATS President-Elect, NSTA was in the process of realigning from 12 to 18 districts. (Jim Woodland co-chaired the realignment process for NSTA.) Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri were linked into District XI. I met with the presidents of KATS and STOM at the CAGS Conference in Colorado Springs during the summer. We agreed to promote relationships between our states by attending one another's conferences.

Although the conference was the major focus of my term, other NATS events included the following.

- NATS and the Panhandle Coalition co-sponsored the Western Drive-in "Integrated Curriculum Conference" in Gering. Carolyn Schlager helped plan this conference that drew over 80 people. Peter Marsten, aka Captain Granville in the popular "Voyage of the Mimi" series, was the keynote speaker.
- NATS, NATM, and Regional Coalition Directors of the Nebraska Math and Science Coalition collaborated in a Joint Strategic Planning Conference to explore how we could work together. Funding was provided by a High Plains Consortium McREL grant.
- The Nebraska Academy of Science (NAS) and NATS developed home pages. Bob Curtright was instrumental in the development and enlisted the help of Randy Emry and Kent Crippen.

Other science news included the following.

- Drafts of the *National Science Education Standards* were distributed for feedback.
- The U.S. Congress deliberated about the termination of Eisenhower funding. Articles in the NATS *Science News* asked teachers to write legislators about the value of these funds.
- The NSTA National Conference was held in Philadelphia
- The Edgerton Educational Center opened in Aurora.
- Dr. Charles Bertrand Schultz, longtime benefactor of the NAS, passed away.

The field of science education is truly evolving in many ways. NATS is a relevant, viable, vibrant organization that is making a difference! Thank you for letting me work with you!

September 12, 2010

Kim Timperly
1996
Oct. 24-26, 1996

Aurietha Hoelsing
NATS President 1996-1997
Conference Dates Oct. 23-25, 1997

When I first made the transition from reading specialist to classroom instructor, I was really treading water regarding the several sections of 6th Grade Science I was supposed to lead. But I was advised by a colleague to get involved in a specialized teachers' organization, and it would enhance and inspire my efforts. I so did; and it did so. I soon discovered that I loved attending conferences at NATS and soon expanded my participation to NSTA. I realized I was sharing with teachers who loved teaching science and who had strategies to help me help my students discover the excitement of science. I began to attend NATS conventions each fall, near Fremont, NE. I became a regular at Gail Ellison's presentations, extremely useful sessions for one looking for practical ideas as well as inspiration. I don't think I knew it at the time, but through frequent attendance, I was also learning how to be a presenter, myself, through the expert modeling of others.

At some point, I received a call requesting that I run for NATS president. Never one to consider such on my own, I was shocked and responded, not-so-loquaciously, with, "Me?" After agreeing (too shocked to say "No"), I was sure that I would not win the election. My husband and I had a social affair to attend, and I did not stay for the election results. But just before leaving my home for the dinner, I received a call and a voice informed me that I had won. Wow, what an honor. Wow, what a surprise. Wow, my blood is really running cold.....

The blood ran cold and hot again the night the gavel was handed over to me. I was mortified! I was overwhelmed... The next year of the conference it was cold and rainy. Mud was everywhere. Once, in a building, it took real incentive to venture out of doors again. Many who lived nearby left for home Friday evening to get ahead of the weather. As always, however, the diehards stayed until the bitter end. And bitter Old Man Winter arrived Saturday to let us know that he was coming – for Halloween. A group from the Panhandle stayed in Omaha with the hope that the weather would soon blow over. Instead, the snow and ice was so bad that city officials called off Halloween activities. I remember the perks the officers got, like afterwards loading Bob Fuhrer's horse trailer and a caravan of cars to take materials to Fremont High School in the blustery wind. Isn't this just a typical Nebraska story?

I like to think I left a permanent impression. The best concrete (or at least non-controversial) idea I came up with was to have all the officers wear vests. Then, if someone needed information, s/he could immediately approach someone who knew. I learned more about Robert's Rules of Order. I developed more friendships, professional relationships, many of which persist to this day. I learned to be more assertive, as some will attest. I learned not to accept old boundaries and limitations. I encourage younger teachers and student teachers I come across to get involved with organizations, especially NATS.

Bob Feurer
NATS President 1997-1998
Conference Dates October 22-24, 1998

One of the key elements of the term I spent as president was being able to work with good friend, mentor and two summer roommate, Jim McGahan. I think our relationship helped us to help our parent organization, the Nebraska Academy. I can vividly remember attending a NAS board meeting and being told that our healthy account status was threatening their nonprofit status. With that, NATS financed a formal accounting of the NAS accounts and eventually led to the selling of some of the land holdings that were not at all profitable and whose management took quite a bit of time and energy of the board.

Jim and I also spent a lot of time in the archives of NAS sifting through the early history of the organization. He formalized a document that put the early history in print for the first time. Now, without being mean, Dr. McGahan was there for most of that early history!

We were also able to get both the current president and president-elect to the national CAGS and NSTA Congress which was a boon to some team building and vision sharing. Those were in Memphis and Corpus Christi. My predecessor, Aurethia Hoelsing did a fantastic job of shoring up our business practices which further aided our financial condition.

I remember booking Roger Welch for our keynote address and passing on a "head cheese" to Kim Soper when I passed the helm over to her. NAS secretary, Martha Kaul, had obtained it at a Green Bay Packer game for me.

The much classier NATS leadership vests were begun during my term. I had some cheap, fluorescent orange plastic road vests that our board members were forced to wear to designate them as someone "in the know" at the fall conference. Julia Polak volunteered to sew something better for the next year. It's fun to see they are now cool!

The cheesy ballot box that is still in use was another of my creations "Don't leaf before voting" or some such quote on the side of the box. My Mom, an elementary school teacher, had some oak leaf stickers that I used to make it "sciencey".

We also provided nice NATS notebooks for the gift for everyone that year. I ordered them to arrive in October but was surprised at school one day in late August with the delivery of a pickup bed full of boxes of them. Fortunately, we had begun to rent space in Fremont for storage so had a place to go with them. I think those served much good public relations all over the state in that and coming years.

We strived to build a presence with the administrators in the state. We rented booth space at the statewide school board conference and manned it to sell them on the value of NATS as a PD tool. We also had promotional brochures printed to get the word out. As I recall, Kim Soper and Martha Kaul manned that booth in both Kearney and Omaha that year.

We were still using both River Crest and Calvin Crest for the conference in those days and remember what a dark walk it was back to Calvin Crest after those night sessions.

Through it all I have always been impressed with how the NATS leadership has also been so highly recognized as great teachers. Did being a great teacher lead them to NATS or was NATS responsible for them being great teachers. In my case, it was the latter!

You'll notice that in these later years there have been no repeaters, no two term presidents. I think that is a good thing. You learn during your term and then vacate the post for the next wave of leadership. That's one of the reasons Nebraska education has got such a good reputation. NATS grows good, young teachers and gives them a place to polish their craft.

Kim Soper
NATS President 1998 – 1999
Conference Dates: October 28 – 30, 1999

Wonderful is what comes to mind as I reflect on my year as NATS president. The opportunity to meet so many interesting people, go to so many places like Alaska, Corpus Christi Texas, Detroit MI, and Boston. Learning how diverse, and yet the same, schools and teachers are across the country. Working with and meeting teachers from all over Nebraska was encouraging and stimulating to realize how much we do in our classrooms that promote really good science. Also enlightening is the fact that we have quality presenters at our NATS conferences every year, who rival those at the regional or national conferences.

Being NATS president was an honor for me and has opened doors for me that might not have opened otherwise. However, I probably learned more about people from being the program chair and dealing with details of a conference at that level than from being President.

Our experiences always serve to teach us and it helps to learn from the best. So many people come to mind as I do a mental review of that year. It is always a dangerous thing to list people's names because you will always leave someone out, but some need mentioned: Bob Feurer, what an encourager, Randy Johnson, a great problem solver, Martha Kaul, Academy office -efficiency personified, Carol Wipf, patient and helpful and Kathleen Jacobitz who was a great sounding board. Thanks to them as well as many others who helped to make 98-99 a wonderful year.



1998 Catalyst Awardee, Bob Reeder

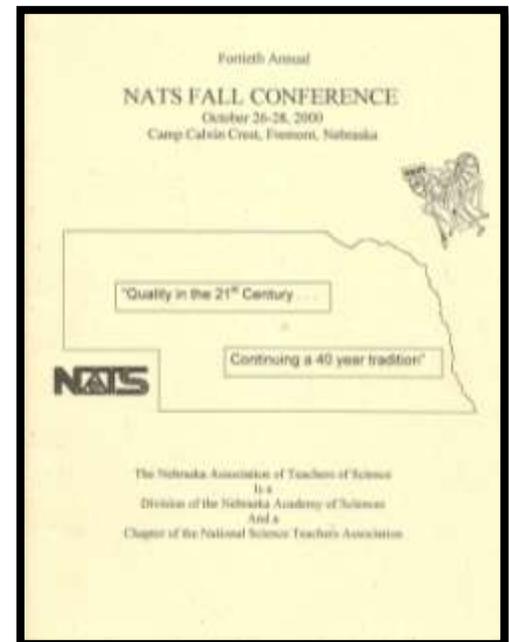
Susan Koba
NATS President, 1999 – 2000
Conference Dates: October 26 – 28, 2000

NATS Conference 2000 fell on a gorgeous day with attendance at over 500. Science educators filled every room at Camp Calvin Crest and Camp River Crest. The very full and excellent program established by Randy Johnson was a great success, drawing attendees with familiar faces and many new ones.

The theme of the NATS conference during my presidency was "Quality in the 21st Century: Continuing a 40 Year Tradition. As I reflect now in 2010 back on that time, the theme has even more meaning. I've always felt that we educators have great opportunities to make the world a better place. For me, that works best based on two essential components – building on tradition and stretching boundaries. That may at first seem counterintuitive. How can we respect and build on tradition but still challenge it? I see my experiences with science education leaders in our state as an ideal example.

Central to my growth are mentors and professional organizations – first and foremost among those organizations is NATS. So as I took on the NATS presidency I needed to build on the work of all my NATS mentors and friends – quite a scary proposition! Think of the likes of Judy Johnson (a dear friend whom I deeply miss), Jim Rynearson (a colleague in learning and a very hard act to follow!), Lois Mayo (who I was lucky to work with during her presidency as her Program Chair and in many other capacities during the years), Ed Brogie and Jim Landon (both whom opened my eyes to what student research was really about) and many, many more. Yet NATS, like any organization, had areas to improve. A major issue was in translating the work of past leadership into a guide for new leaders during their brief three-year terms on the Board.

During my year as president, we took on some major efforts that included a new round of strategic planning, facilitated by Anne Tweed. This planning laid the foundation for some of our work. For the first time, we established a division of labor among Board members to distribute work and lighten the load on the President and President-Elect. Board books were established that outlined the job description, major tasks and timelines for each Board position. These Board books became a way to pass on historical information and make the transition onto the Board a bit less difficult. I don't know if these books are still in use, but it was an important step at the time. We also established, at the end of the year, the Past Presidents Council to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge and experience found among that group. And that group is at the core of planning for this year's 50th anniversary conference celebration. We also secured funding for BaP, making more solid its tenuous start we'd worked so hard to establish the previous year. We saw BaP as a way to establish a strong network of science leadership across the state, building on the historic work of NATS and, at the same time, extending our reach.



Randy Johnson and I had the opportunity to attend a leadership development workshop facilitated by NSTA that was run for the various state chapter leaders. This was a great opportunity for Randy and I to get to know each other even better, work together in thinking forward a couple of years and determine directions we thought might be productive for the organization. In addition, I had the opportunity to attend CAGS in Alaska. Here we heard the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel, led by Harold Pratt, which ultimately led to the Congress, Council and Board Structure for NSTA communications and work. The following year (2000) we were able to attend the first NSTA Congress meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, and participate in this historic NSTA event.

During this year, we also collaborated with leadership of District XI and McREL to develop and implement the NSTA Inquiry Institute. Strong representation from this group was found at our conference, including Jim Puckett (District XI Director), Alan King (KATS President), Mary Butel (KATS President-Elect), Pat Lucido (STOM President), Becky Litherland (STOM President-Elect) and Deb Jordan (then with McREL). The Inquiry Institute was well received and repeated the following year.

Arthur Eisenkraft, NSTA President, joined us for the conference, providing one national perspective. In addition, Eugenie Scott was the Maiben lecturer – a national perspective of a different sort. Finally, Doug Christensen joined us to provide an update on the condition of education in the state.

Personal remembrances include "Return of the NATman 2000", a caricature that did not live up to the original GNATman. Indeed, the caricature on the long-sleeved t-shirt in my drawer was purchased – but never worn! I also recall two very long evenings – not planned but still occurred. I swore after those nights that we'd never involve too many speakers on a single night!

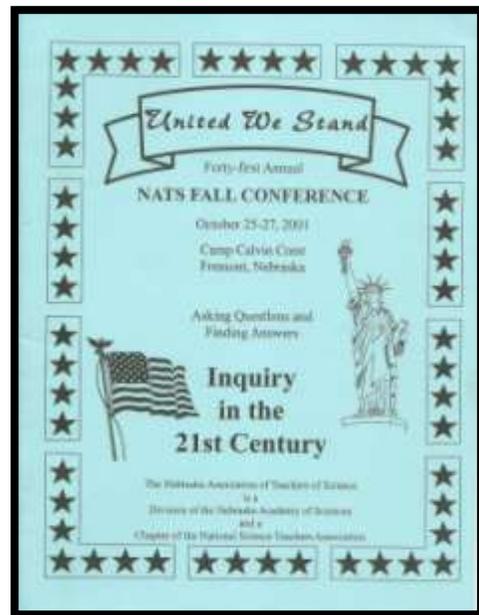
Even with those occurrences, this particular NATS Conference, along with the many in my history, provide fond memories. NATS is the foundation of my ongoing work in science education. More importantly, I met the likes of people who became friends and mentors that I could never find in any other place. I would not be who I am without NATS, and I would not be engaged with national science education as I am without this foundation. It fills me with pride when I look at the current NATS leadership and consider both that some of us – Past Presidents – have something to do with their tenure as NATS leaders and that they, too, will strengthen the NATS foundation for future members and leaders – and attract and engage equally capable future leaders. Nebraska science educators are among the very best in the country and we all have NATS to thank, in large part, for that.



2000 Catalyst Awardee Al Musson

Randy Johnson
President: 2000-2001
Fall Conference: October 25-27, 2001

What an exciting year personally and also for science education in the state of Nebraska! The NATS Fall Conference was held at Camp Calvin Crest. We were fortunate to have two outstanding evening speakers for our event. Dr. Thor Holmes, curator at the University of Kansas Natural History Museum, entertained us with stories with a theme of "Home on the Plains." One very intriguing story was on behaviors of armadillos and selection pressures altering armadillo populations. Surprise! An armadillo's initial response to fear is jump and then roll up. Not necessarily a good response when cars and semis are traveling down the highways. For the first time in many years the Maiben Lecture was moved from the chapel at Rivercrest to downstairs at Proett. The cozy environment provided a great setting for Dr. Tim Gay to demonstrate numerous physics demonstrations and concepts. Perhaps one of the greatest highlights of his presentation was his video presentation on football physics that has earned his national recognition.



It was an honor to introduce Jim Woodland and McRel as the Catalyst Award winners (photo at left). Jim's contributions and leadership strengthened the state's scientific community. Deb Jordan and John Sutton, representing McREL were also invaluable resources and supporters of NATS.

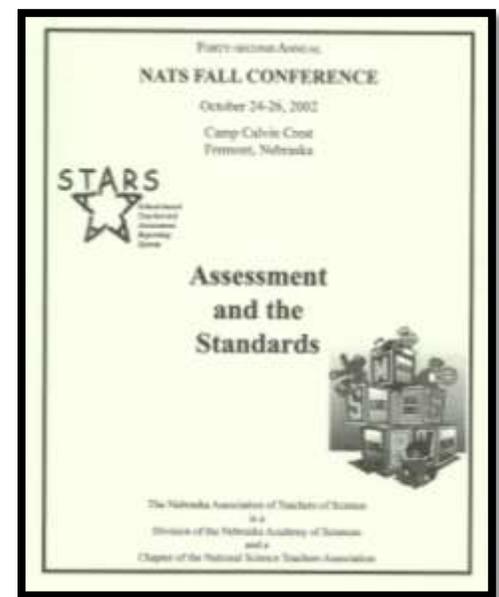
We applied for and received a grant from McRel to carry out a research project and also to support preservice teachers. I want to thank Bob Feurer for his guidance, and along with Deb Jordan at McRel, assistance in crafting and refining a proposal to study the effects of professional organizations in teacher retention. The Nebraska Department of Education provided a list of teachers of science from across the state. Surveys were sent to each of these individuals with well over two hundred surveys returned to me for compilation of responses. The taste of the adhesive on manila envelopes was less than delicious after a while with nearly a thousand surveys sent out. Preservice teachers benefited from this grant by providing then with some financial support to attend the Fall Conference.

The preservice teachers at the Fall Conference were recognized as a group prior to the Maiben lecture on Friday evening. Also, those reaching the later stages of their teaching careers were also recognized. It became quite apparent that there is a strong need for new highly trained teachers of science to replace us "baby boomers" over the next few years and to find creative methods to build the ranks of our science teachers in the state.

The initial letter was submitted to Wendell Mohling at NSTA to express our strong desire to help host a NSTA Area Conference in Omaha. (Note: A copy of the letter is in my archives and also this area conference came to fruition in the fall of 2006.)

The highlight of my presidency was to work with wonderful members of the scientific community throughout the state. A special thank you to Julia Polak for all of her tremendous work in developing a wonderful program for the Fall Conference and also to Susan Koba for her voice of experience and providing moral and mental support throughout my presidency!

Julia Polak
NATS President 2001-2002
Fall Conference Dates: October 24-26, 2002



Pat Crum & Julia Polak check the schedule changes posted on "The Big Board"
Ross Dinwiddie welcomes a participant at the registration table while many investigate the vendor tables.



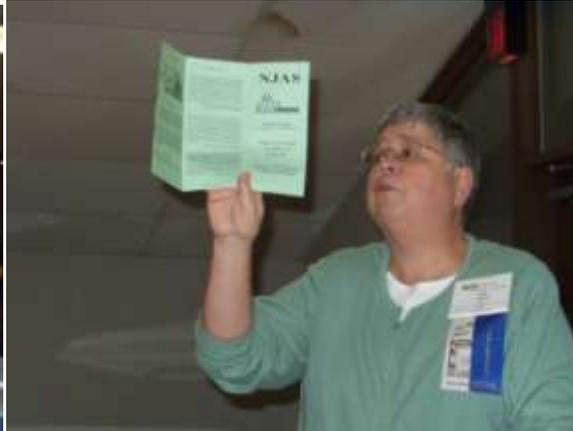
Becky, Dave Oates & Donn Carlson at the conclusion of a session they attended
Jim Woodland recognizes Elkhorn's Carol Engelmann as a Presidential Award finalist



Snow on Wednesday night and early Thursday morning didn't stop Randy Emry, Ed Brogie, Dave Oates and others from grilling stakes on Thursday night.



Attendees test their structure for strength.
Board members Deb Brewer & Sheree Person-Pandil pose in the NATS store located in Eppley.



John presents how to do a gel electrophoresis
NJAS Director Judy Williams enthusiastically describes opportunities for students to do and present research.



KATS Past-President Mary Butell's alter ego blowing bubbles

Pat Crum
NATS President 2002-2003
Fall Conference Dates: October 23-25, 2003

Theme: Leave No Teacher Behind
Attendance: approximately 310 teachers

Yes, No Child Left Behind and our NATS Conference Theme, "Leave No Teacher Behind" were truly the focus of educators in 2002-2003. The NATS Board (see Table) recognized their role in assisting teachers with the tools to help their students succeed and the link to NATS as a vehicle to make this happen. A NATS NCLB Task Force met to consider the No Child Left Behind Act and how NATS could best connect with this legislation while assisting teachers to meet its requirements for professional development.

Our goals were carried out by developing strands of sessions that would fulfill requirements for teachers to obtain funding to attend the NATS Conference and college credit to serve as evidence for fulfilling the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements. Our technology strand was supported with Internet access at Camp Calvin Crest and our Student Inquiry sessions provided many opportunities to learn from some of our best inquiry teachers, including Ed Brogie, Susan Koba, Aurietha Hoesing, Julia Polak, Randy Lienemann and Judy Williams. This theme was further carried out by the Thursday and Friday evening sessions, as described in the table above.

Some memorable events of this year's fall conference:

1. A focus on pre-service teachers was kicked off with a Thursday afternoon workshop on "How to Survive the First Two Years". Once again the First-Timers Breakfast was well attended.
2. The NATS store continued the Store-In-A-Box and saw many NATS attendees with the Store Credit provided as a give-away for presenters.
3. Our Keynote/Maiben Speaker was Jodi Peterson-NSTA Director of Legislative Affairs. She spoke on the topic, No Child Left Behind Opportunities for science Educators Included in the New Federal Education Law.
4. Available VCR/TV technology was increased at the Calvin Crest site. Board officers, Wanda Clarke and Pat Crum, brought overhead and LCD projectors eliminating the need to borrow from Fremont High School. A wide-band satellite system was installed at Camp Calvin Crest and the updated website was available to view in the Lower Lodge.
5. The elementary mini-session was once again held at Camp Rivercrest and was well attended by elementary teachers. The mini-sessions hosted many nontraditional educational opportunities.
6. Doc Gizmo appeared and filled in sessions for which the planned presenters were unable to attend.
7. Friday evening events concluded with a "president's bonfire and marshmallow roast" at the Calvin Crest fire ring. Wanda Clarke provided a display of chemical magic at the bonfire site.
8. Kathleen French, the new BaP director, coordinated BaP sessions.

SPECIAL THANKS GO OUT TO JIM WOODLAND, CAROL WIPF AND CECELIA DORN. WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT AND HARD WORK THE NATS CONFERENCE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE SUCCESS THAT IT WAS.

During the year, the board focused on developing the NATS Organization for sustaining membership. The following areas were emphasized:

1. NATS continued to work on updating the membership listing. This was placed in the hands of board member, Janet Scheaffer, with plans of using the lists to contact NATS members that did not attend the 2003 Fall Conference with a request to continue membership.
2. Another effort was updating the NAS/NATS website where members could obtain information and forms for membership and registration.
3. Strategic Planning conducted in May considered the recommendations of the NCLB Task Force. It was determined that a marketing push with school administrators would be made at Administrator Days in Grand Island. NATS and NATM paired up on this effort that provided NATS and NATM golf balls and tees with NATS/NATM web addresses and flyers made to promote professional development opportunities through the two groups.
4. It was agreed upon at the summer board meeting that the printing of "The Nebraska Science Teacher" be completed and handed out at the NATS Fall Conference to avoid postage costs for this publication.
5. Once again Dan Sitzman, board member responsible for public relations did an excellent job of keeping NATS publicity in focus.
6. The remainder of the McRel monies was used to once again support pre-service teachers for the 2003 NATS Fall Conference.
7. NATS/NATM worked collaboratively on the pre-service conference held at Wesleyan University.



Left: Drs. Bill McGlaughlin and Jim Carr from UNL Department of Chemistry prepare for their session.

Right: Elementary mini-sessions allowed teachers to spend time conversing about lessons, such as those provided by the Henry Doorly Zoo's Education Curator, Elizabeth Mulkerrin



Left: NSTA's Jodi Peterson chats after her presentation about No Child Left Behind. Right: Cecilia Dorn, Wanda Clarke, Marla Smith and Lois Veith staff the registration table.



Playing on the "Got Milk?" ad campaign, Wanda Clarke cheers on Chris Schaben as he takes a photo. Ross Dinwiddie paints on a milk mustache as he prepares for his photo opportunity. Participants paid \$1 to visually ask "Got Science?"



Thursday night Steak Fry had excellent weather and excellent chefs (Dave Oates, Ed Brogie, ?, Little Brogie, Randy Johnson)

Wanda Clarke
2004 NATS President
Camp Calvin Crest: October 28-30, 2004

Being the president of NATS was one of the highlights of my life. I truly enjoyed being a part of an organization that was intent on bringing science alive. We had it all. We enjoyed creative workshops, entertaining speakers and opportunities to network with other science teachers from across the state. While I was president our Thursday



night continued to include our steak fry and the “grilling guys” were there. The Maiben lecturer, Philip Brauer (Creighton University School of Medicine) gave an enlightened lecture on “Antarctic Fish: Adapting to Warmer Waters.” I thought he gave a great account of the effects of global warming on the fish of the Antarctic, but I more vividly remember him falling asleep during my brief announcements before his presentation. (I even have a picture of him asleep.) I mean it really was brief, but the room was so warm and it was after dinner. Oh well.

Some of the mainstays of the conference continued. We still invited pre-service and first year teachers to a morning breakfast on Friday, and the Brogie brothers offered their pre-dawn bird walk (both on Friday and Saturday). I could never figure out why they thought birds would be moving at 6 a.m. or better, why teachers would be moving at that time with limited coffee. We continued to offer the Hayrack shuttle to take members from camp to camp throughout the day and evening. The posted schedule was only accurate about half the time and always seemed to run late. At times, people could out-walk the shuttle, and I am sure we exceeded the weight/person limit. I do not believe anyone was hurt. NATS registration showed 308 attendees and 61 were either pre-service or 1st year teachers. There were 118 presenters, seven strands of 1 hour-long conference sessions and two additional sessions during lunch to address overcrowding. Elementary mini-sessions at the River Crest Chapel targeted specific curriculum ideas for primary and intermediate grades. Available VCR/TV technology was increased with overhead and LCD projectors borrowed by board officers from their school districts, eliminating the need to borrow from Fremont High School. The wide-band satellite system was installed at Camp Calvin Crest and the updated website was available to view in the Lower Lodge.



Usually before Friday night’s dinner a number of us (mainly a group of “old-timers”) went off to Whiz’s (a well-known and respected tavern, mind you) in Fremont to have a few libations before the evening event. Of course as the president, I had to go chaperone those who were not able to police themselves. I mean someone had to drive, right? At the same



time, after dinner, the most respected members of NATS went out to the west side of the dining hall with the UNL Astronomy Education Group to set up telescopes to look for sunspots and then to observe stars before they went to the evening program. But we all met up later at the River Crest Chapel. The theme of the 2004 conference was “Growing and Keeping Our Own: Sustaining Highly Qualified Teachers” – obviously a take on some part of the “No child left behind” era. Since the conference occurred so close to Halloween, I came up with the idea that I would go in costume. Yes, in costume. Face make-up, tights, body bag, etc. I went as a ‘germinating seed’. I really thought it was clever. I will never forget the faces of the esteemed body of professional colleagues looking at me as if I’d lost my marbles. I do not think they could believe I would be so silly. I guessed I fooled them. I also knew that I would never live it down either. I know my picture was taken numerous times, and I am sure there are still some pictures floating around of me from that evening. My presentation at the annual meeting had lots of references to “germinating and growing our own”, but I also choose to use the word “pollinating” which brought a few nervous laughs. Of course it was all in fun and I think everyone understood the intent.

Presentations and acknowledgments occurred on Friday night. Unfortunately, we began by mourning the passing of Dr. Wendell Mohling. Wendell began teaching in Nebraska and over 30 years taught science in Nebraska and Kansas. He became NSTA president and was a devoted member of KATS and NATS. We presented Catalyst Awards to Ed Brogie and Ron Bonnstetter (UNL) and acknowledged our guests: Anne Tweed (NSTA President), Lois Mayo (NSTA Director of Coordination and Supervision), Becky Litherland (District XI Director), Scott Capes (KATS President), and Lloyd Barrow (STOM President). I could not believe that so many dignitaries would attend our conference. I felt I had scored a coup.



Bob Gress, Director of the Great Plains Nature Center was our evening speaker. He shared stories behind the photographs in his new book *Faces of the Great Plains, Prairie Wildlife*. I think everyone was in awe of his photographs. He captured close-ups of many mammals and birds of the prairie. His wife, Mary Butel, (former KATS president) informed us that it meant spending some time in blinds or hidden staged settings in order to get the photos. Kind of creepy, I think.

After the evenings’ entertainment, we returned to our cozy tavern (WHIZs”) in Fremont to discuss the conference and to make fun of my costume. I just think they were jealous. After a few toasts and some games of shuffleboard and darts, we all managed to put our vehicles in automatic pilot and return to camp. Just to clarify, no one was intoxicated or drunk (whichever). We renewed friendships and deepened our bonds as science teachers of Nebraska. Go NATS!

During my presidency, we streamlined some of the treasury budget line items. Phone cards replaced the need to budget for long distance coverage reimbursement from members. We continued to improve the NATS webpage and the conference program was offered for the first time on-line – as were membership and registration applications, though the actual membership/registration process was limited to phone or mail contact. During the summer board meeting we revised the policy book and tweaked job descriptions of board members. We also focused on the results of a 2-year study by McREL on science teacher needs. The survey uncovered a variety of teacher and pre-service teacher needs with lesson planning and curricular development at the top, followed by access to science classroom materials and training on current trends on specific topics. Many of the respondents indicated no involvement in NATS programs throughout the year; but worse yet, many stated that they had had no involvement in professional development opportunities of any kind during the year. The results were used as a springboard for how NATS would provide support to science teachers at the conference.

NATS has been there to help teachers. The mission of NATS is to advance, stimulate, grow, improve, and coordinate science teaching in all fields of science and at all educational levels. Yes, NATS helped this science teacher, too.



Doc Gizmo presents a session attended by many of UNL's NERDS (Nebraska Educators Really Doing Science)

A little demonstration of electricity safety. No animals were actually harmed!





Catalyst Awards were presented by Jim Woodland to UNL's Ron Bonnstetter and to Ed Brogie by Judy Williams. The Friday night raffle tradition continued with great prizes.



Nebraska Scientific 20-Year Member Award

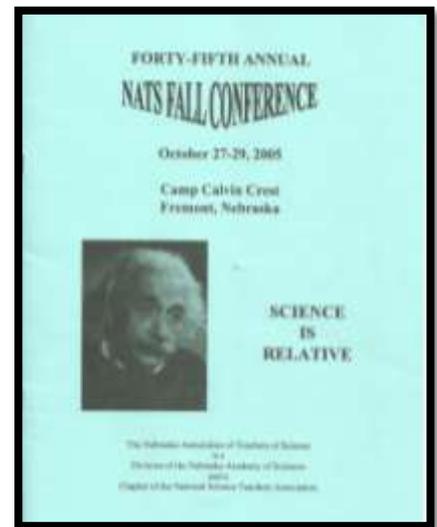
The NATS organization annually awards science educators who have been active members in NATS for 20 years with a medallion. This is presented at the NATS Annual Fall Conference and is sponsored by Nebraska Scientific, Omaha, NE. Fall Conference 2004 was the first year 20-year members were recognized with the medallion so the awardees are identified along with the number of years they have been members.

Mark Brogie (21), Ed Brogie (24), Ann Danner (23), Gayle Ellison (22), Bob Feurer (22), John Kruse (23), Lois Mayo (20), Karen Messenger (37), Charles Messenger (37), John Niemoth (27), George Probasco (22), Jim Rynearson (21), Mark Seier (20), Kim Timperley (21), William Walters (20), Jim Woodland (28), and Ruth Woodland (25).

John Niemoth
2005 NATS President
Fall Conference Dates: October 27-29, 2005

Theme: Science is Relative

This was the first year to recognize 20-year members and to recognize and gather past presidents who were given special gift. A picture of the group should be somewhere since pictures were taken of them, etc. We also held the second annual presidents campfire (lit up by Mountain man-Les Vilda) and over 30 teachers and teachers-to-be were there. One famous quote was to bring a log, put it on the fire and ask if they wanted more to put on the fire – one teacher said more since he was blind. HA! HA!



Stress apples with note clips on top were given to the presenters and special Einstein shirts were sold for this event. Zipper tabs were given to members. This was the last year of the mini-workshops. We sold out vendors and had cloth bags for the members from donations.

Now I'd like to reflect on my years in GNATS/NATS. My first session or conference of GNATS was in 1974 at the Covenant Cedars Bible Camp near Hordville with Dale D. Rathe as President. At that time, Bob Reeder, Don Woodson, and Dale took an interest in young teachers. Of course, Randy Hubbard (Grand Island NW) along with Jim Landon (Seward Public) were great resources. Randy, with his artistic stuff along the sandy beach with making plaster casts, and Jim Landon with his wild edibles, were memorable. Don Woodburn pushed his aviation model airplanes, but Biology seemed to be the major focus at the early camps. I wanted to be sure that I got my worth of stuff by going to these camps. At that time, I just started teaching and knew little about these resources. It might make you wonder why a teacher would go that far for the workshop. The fellowship thing kicked in later on and kept me returning year after year. However, time and distance kept me from helping out with GNATS - with coaching and other duties taking their toll.

Jim Landon created the Backwoods Buffet at Barneston and Niobrara that ran for about 12 years. Leta Powell Drake from Channel 10 and 11 came down to Barneston for the final buffet in 1980 and all the cooking took place outside. Gayle Ellison from Lewiston came down and witnessed this in action. Butch Issom came up to Niobrara and taped it for Outdoor Nebraska with their cookbook in the early 90's. Of course, the favorite was Mother Nature's Cake with night crawlers as the main ingredient. This was made for the GNATS people as well in the late 70's and early 80's. This was spread to KATS in Kansas and shared by the Fugates at schools in the Kansas City region. A skill, I acquired from the KATS members was spider sniffing while I shared the cake and Baby Beaver Burgers.

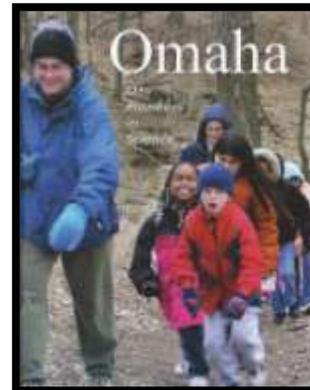
The 80's & 90s were the grant years with information from the NATS workshops since it was a hot topic. This was easier than trying to get money from the superintendent. My name was often mentioned doing these opportunities. Organizing teachers grant groups were special at the Nature Conservancy near Valentine were awesome. Project Wet, Project Wild, Aquatic Wild, PLT, Leopold and others provided more opportunities for these to develop. There has been a lot

water under the bridge since then. Around that time, developing native grass and flower gardens were a high priority. Participating at Wayne State College for Ed Brogie with his Science Day for students on Saturdays was a regular occurrence. Visiting with the Messengers were a unique encounter while at NATS as well as with the Brogie Bird Hikes.

I remembered making several presentations on resources obtained from scientific dealers providing more equipment for the science department. Long personal and professional relationships with NATS members helped me develop into the teacher I became. In those early days, Eisenhower funds were popular if you asked for it. NATS was moved from places often to try and attract more people. However, Al Munson managed to get his clan from O'Neil Public School every year and hung out at the River Crest main building.

Attending NATS was easier in the early years, since we had the NSEA Conferences the same time at NATS meetings. This created a more challenging endeavor when they did away with the NSEA meetings. During the 2000's years, I moved closer to Omaha and made it a priority to attend NATS while teaching. The administration knew that when they hired me. Eventually I had the privilege and honor to be a board member and president soon afterwards. Camp Calvin Crest became our home and was known for its steak fry, ISS (Independent Star Study), the presidential campfire (started by Wanda Clarke), raffles, bird hikes, star studies, songs, hot cocoa, etc. WOW! What was that 20 years ago? Don't forget the wind, the rain, the snow, the combination, or all of the above. Lastly, don't forget the fall colors or the walks to River Crest or just around Camp Calvin Crest or the trailer rides. Huddle close together to stay WARM at times and to whisper softly about something wonderful or the loud laughter! Who would pass up a warm bear hug anyway?

Sheree Person-Pandil
NATS President 2005-06
NSTA Area Conference Dates: October 19-21, 2006



O! Pioneers in Science! Oh WOW, a first for Omaha; our NATS Board was hosting the 2006 NSTA Midwestern Regional Conference. For me, it all started in February 2005, negotiating with NSTA to give up our NATS Fall Conference in exchange for one lump sum and a share in the registration fees. Seems like the year preceding the conference was a blur of activity. Sue Koba became the Conference Chairperson, Jim Woodland was the Program Coordinator and the Local Arrangements Coordinator was Wanda Clarke. So many Nebraska educators stepped up to make the conference one of the most successful that NSTA organizers had seen. Maybe not as successful when it came to numbers of attendees, but successful in the way our workers met timelines, coordinated activities, worked their fingers to the bone, and dedicated their energies to making this experience a positive and memorable one for all.

The Honorable Mike Fahey, Omaha Mayor, and Linda Froschauer, NSTA President, opened the conference at the Quest center on Thursday October 19, 2006. The conference “kicked off” with the general session presentation, *“The Physics of Football”*, by UNL Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Dr. Timothy Gay.

One of the most memorable events of the conference occurred Friday evening, “A Walk on the Wild Side at the Henry Doorly Zoo.” Besides dinner at the Treetops Restaurant and dessert in the Scott Aquarium, conference attendees were treated to a self-guided tour of the Lied Jungle, Desert Dome and Kingdoms of the Night exhibit.

Special Highlights of the Midwestern NSTA Regional Conference were:

- Over 300 sessions were scheduled with high-quality offerings for every educator from Kindergarten to post-secondary.
- The conference strands included:
 - Strand #1- Assessment for Learning Strand, Coordinator: Sheree Person-Pandil
 - Strand #2- Teaching for Learning in Science: Exemplary Practices—Good, Better, Best Strand, Coordinators: Anne Tweed and Becky Litherland
 - Strand #3- Freshwater Systems Science Strand, Coordinator: Susan Seacrest
- Field Trips to: Ashfall Fossil Beds, Gallup, UNMC, Ithaca Research Center, Morrill Hall, Henry Doorly Zoo, Fontenelle Forest, Biomechanics (UNO), Urban Geology, and Arbor Day Farm
- Both Henry Doorly Zoo and Joslyn Art Museum offered free admission during the NSTA Regional Conference.
- Professional Learning Institute – Science at the Center for Reading Success was offered the day before.
- Omaha was chosen as the single area conference to host a physics and astronomy AAPT strand, with Friday, October 20th designated as “Physics Strand Day at NSTA”.

- The NSTA Regional in Omaha also made a great backdrop for Catalyst awards- Wanda Clarke (Omaha Public Schools) and Elizabeth Mulkerrin (Henry Doorly Zoo)



“Sad but True” moments from the Midwestern NSTA Regional Conference were:

- A lower conference attendance (slightly under 1600) was probably an effect of the National Conference being moved from New Orleans (a victim of Katrina) to Saint Louis.
- Too many regional pins and black long sleeve shirts! Whether due to a lack of planning or an overly optimistic view of our salesmanship, we did not sell over half of our NATS stock. Placement of the NATS booth in a low-traffic area was at least partly to blame. Rumor has it that we have seen the last of the conference pins and shirts!
- Not unlike other NATS Saturdays, Omaha experienced its first snow of the season as we left the conference on Saturday. This meant a few travel challenges for those travelling back home.

Other firsts!:

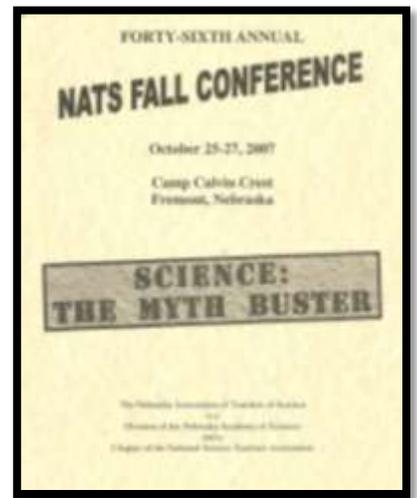
- It was the 1st year for reporting student achievement on the NE Science STAR standards for grades 5 (or 4), 8 and 11
- This was also the 1st year of the KICKS grant. Science KICKS (Keep Improving Content Knowledge and Skills) is sponsored in part by the federally-funded Math/Science Partnership Grant. The goals of the grant are to improve K-12 teacher content knowledge and to support networking opportunities for science educators. Building a Presence for Science (BaP) is also partly supported by the KICKS program. KICKS teachers’ and BaP Key Leaders’ attendance at the Midwestern NSTA Regional Conference in Omaha was supported by the KICKS grant funds. After that, attendance at the NATS Fall Conference was supported by the KICKS grant funds.



Local Arrangement Coordinator Dr. Wanda Clarke, Conference Chairperson Dr. Susan Koba, and NSTA District XI Director Jim Puckett in the vendor area at the Qwest Center Omaha.



Dr. Sally Harms
NATS President 2006-2007
Fall Conference Dates: October 25-27, 2007



The year as NATS President was a wonderful experience. The year prior to my presidency we hosted a NSTA Area conference. (Due to that, I did not have to plan a NATS fall conference!) My fondest memories of the preparation for the fall conference of my presidential year, were of the many Fossil Freeway conversations I had with President-elect, Ross Dinwiddie. We also had a change in the management at Camp Calvin Crest and that was another "adventure" in social interaction.

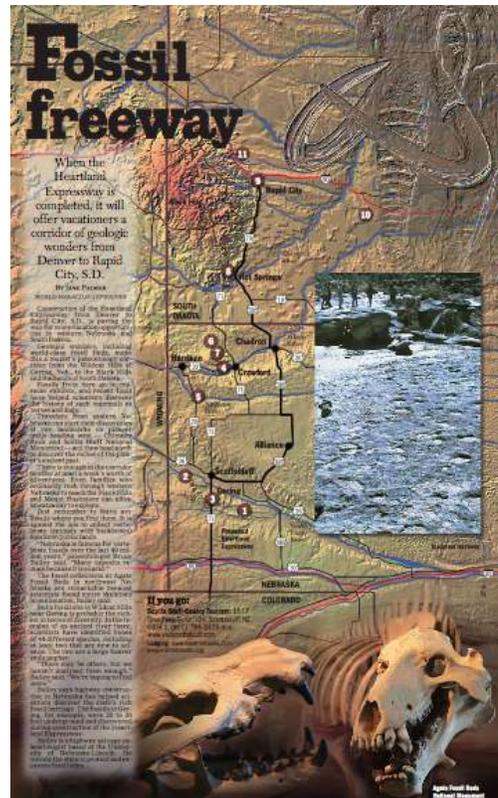
Ross and I had many phone calls throughout the year in preparation to the fall conference along with many laughs. We traveled together to San Antonio for Congress and both Ross and Randy Johnson appeared me by attending a performance of Menopause, the musical, while we were there. The musical was hilarious on its own, but even funnier because the guys were there with me. Congress was the beginning of my increased involvement in NSTA and enabled me to meet science teachers from around the U.S.

The fall conference was a success and we had fun as a board on Friday night providing entertainment as "myth busters". Terry Rotherham was our "guinea pig" for data collection to test the question; "If you combine Menthos and Diet Coke in your mouth, what happens" ...Does it come out your nose?

The Catalyst awards were a surprise to the recipients this year (a challenge to do), but well worth the effort. Cecilia Dorn and Gayle Ellison were the awardees this year. It was a privilege to work with and form friendships with them over the years; both were dedicated to science education and the science teaching community.

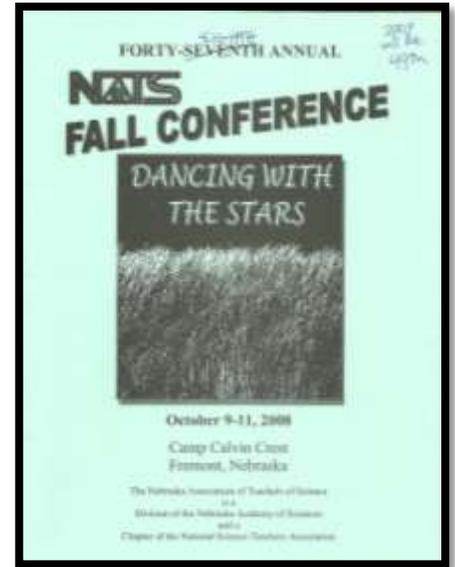
The board members were hard workers but knew how to enjoy the work and played hard too. I cherish the friendships I developed and hope that all NATS members have an equally rewarding experience in this great organization.

Sally Harms



Ross Dinwiddie
2007-2008
October 9-11, 2008

Maiben Lecturer
Daryl Smith with
President Ross
Dinwiddie



Astronaut Mike Fossom (pictured here with 2008 Catalyst Awardees Aurietha Hoelsing and Sharee Person-Pandil) spoke on Friday night. Fossom was invited to be our speaker after Board Member Mark Seier crashed a student's family reunion in Neuman Grove to meet him. At NATS Fall Conference, Fossom continued interacting with members, telling stories in an informal setting well past midnight. Fossom presented NATS with a collage of images and artifacts, including a



miniature Nebraska state flag that flew on the shuttle mission. The framed collage eventually was hung in the Academy office at Morrill Hall (until 2013, when it was presented to Jim Woodland upon his retirement from the Nebraska Department of Education).



Frank Tworek searches for frogs as part of the Thursday "Amphibian Project" session

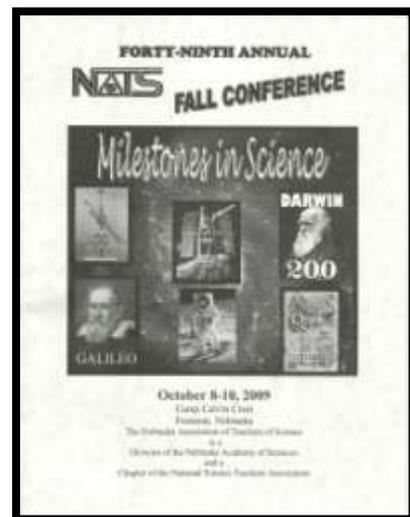


Thursday was a brilliant autumn evening for the annual Steak Fry.
 At left: Ed Brogie, Mark Brogie, and Randy Johnson are supervised by Ross Dinwiddie.
 At right: Dave Oates and Sally Harms load up the grill.



2007-08 NATS Board
 Front Row: Sharee Person-Pandil, Mary Jensen, Bill Walter, Kirsten Smith
 Row 2: Andrew Wood, Mary Moser, Sally Harms, Cecilia Dorn, Ross Dinwiddie, Aurietha Hoelsing
 Row 3: Astronaut Mike Fossom, Mark Seier, Dan Sitzman, Anna Detelfsen

Dan Sitzman
NATS President 2008-09
Fall Conference Dates: October 8-10, 2009



I've always been fascinated with anniversaries of historical events. Even though a zero as the last digit is an arbitrary significance, the zeros lined up in 2009---the 40th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing, the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first telescope, the 100th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origins of Species* and Charles Darwin's 150th birthday. I noted this alignment to the NATS Board in 2007 and began to seek speakers who could connect these events with 2009. Highly recommended came Brian "Fox" Ellis from Illinois and Dr. Ed Louis from Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. Ellis captivated the Thursday night audience with his historical interpretation of a middle-aged Darwin; storytelling and science merged together to entertain and to education (as well as to model a great teaching strategy). Dr. Louis, known for his discovery of numerous species of lemurs in Madagascar, connected history, social, political, and economic issues, the environment with an inspirational



example of what one small group from Omaha can do.

For the first time that anybody could remember, a sitting governor addressed the Fall Conference participants. Gov. Dave Heineman spoke to KICKS participants on Thursday afternoon of the Fall Conference. On Friday, new Commissioner of Education, Dr. Roger Breed, addressed attendees after lunch. NSTA President Dr. Pat Shane from University of North Carolina participated Thursday and Friday.

There were several surprises along the way planning for the Fall Conference. After locking in Ellis for Thursday night, we learned that ESPN moved the Nebraska at Missouri football game to Thursday night at 8 p.m. The NATS Board considered a tailgate party at Camp Calvin Crest, but the lack of cable TV and broadband internet thwarted the plan. Many migrated from Ellis' lecture to the Wilderness Lodge in Fremont to watch Ndomokong Suh's breakout performance in the torrential rain as the Huskers offense exploded from feeble to awesome in a few short minutes early in the fourth quarter. The other surprise was the weather. Despite moving Fall Conference two weeks earlier than the traditional date, we had five inches of wet snow greeting us Saturday morning. Nothing like the two ice storms of the 1990's, but memorable.

It was the year after that first (1991) ice storm that I first attended NATS. And there the snowball of my professional involvement started to, well, snowball. As an undergrad, my methods teacher in Minnesota "strongly encouraged" us to participate in a summer workshop for chemistry teachers. Making models, working with computer programs (on a 5 1/4" floppy for an Apple IIe) and picking the brains of the experienced teachers in an informal setting was exactly what I needed. One teacher, Jack Jaglow from Edina, MN, told me "you may think it's crazy, but now no matter where you go, you'll know somebody who has a connection with us at this workshop." With that experience fresh in my memory, in the spring of my first year of teaching, I jumped at a chance to spend a week at Dana College's TEK Camp. I met some energized educators (Sally Harms, Julia Polak, Yogi Martin, Paul Ekberg, Paul Clark and many others) going through hands on activities and learning

how to use this thing called the internet. Excitedly, I went out and bought a laptop and modem. However, TEK Camp wasn't done; we were required to attend the NATS Fall Conference. There, in October 1992, I sat in the back during the evening social with Ed Brogie and Yogi Martin, talking through ideas about what and how I wanted to teach my 8th grade students. I returned to school on Monday even more confident that I could teach through experiences rather than solely with a textbook and worksheets. By 1994, my involvement in UNL's Operation Chemistry, led by Paul Kelter and Jim Carr, required me to present at NATS. Through the late 90's, I'm presenting annually to anywhere from 4 to 80 people, depending on my time slot. Then, in 2000, while in the grocery store, my pregnant wife and I found our shopping cart highjacked by Susan Koba, convincing us that running for the NATS Board was expected of me. I was proud that my 9th grade biology teacher, Ron Cisar, was the evening entertainment as I was announced as a new board member. My first winter board meeting was memorable for a blizzard, Julia Polak's first view of Chimney Rock, Jim Woodland driving the van home through an ice storm, and meeting Ross Dinnwiddie, who has since been my NATS/NSTA/NCSE roommate and partner in exploring the local culinary scene on many trips. After three great years on the board, I'm thinking I'm moving on and great friend and colleague (and, as she claims, the matchmaker to my marriage) Deb Brewer goes and moves to Kansas City, vacating her board position with one year remaining. So my four years on the board were great. After losing the presidential election to Sally Harms and working as the Field Trip Manager for NSTA 2006, I was again encouraged into a new role. The one OPS Building a Presence in Science meeting I miss in 9 years as a Key Leader, and I later learn that I had been nominated for NATS president! So mine is a story of others encouraging me to expand my horizons, and me enjoying the opportunity to grow.

It all came full circle the summer of 2010, meeting with representatives from the upper midwest to review the draft national science frameworks. I met the retired Science Director for the Minnesota Department of Education. Yes, he knew Jack Jaglow, and that comment to me 20 years ago sounded exactly like something he would have said.

Some highlights from 2009:

NSTA held in New Orleans (March 2009)

NCSE held in Miami (July 2009)

Other highlights for NATS:

- Bob Curtright introducing Jim Rynerson as a Catalyst Awardee.
- Jim Woodland introducing Nebraska Scientific as a Catalyst Awardee.
- GW Brown's first awarding of an antique microscope to a surprised Ross Dinwiddie.
- Two Nebraskans were on the NSTA Board of Directors: Randy Johnson (Scottsbluff), Treasurer and Elizabeth Mulkerrin (OK, so she lives near Glenwood, IA, but she was Omaha raised and currently the Education Director at Henry Doorly), Informal Science. Ross Dinnwiddie (Central City) was on the planning team for the 2009 National Congress on Science Education in Miami. NSTA District XVI elected former Nebraska science teacher Denise Antrim (Orange County, CA) to the NSTA Council. Denise and I taught across the hall from each other at Omaha Morton Middle School in the early 1990's.

- NAS and NATS donated \$1000 to NSTA's John Glenn Center for Science Education
- Attendance for the Fall Conference was 400, with nearly half of them participating as a follow up to KICKS and LINKS Institutes.
- NATS joins the new NSTA Communities on the web.
- Dr. Susan Koba authored the NSTA Press Book *Hard-to-Teach Biology Concepts: A Framework to Deepen Student Understanding*

Other science education news:

- The revision of the state science standards began. A packed room in Lower Eppley in 2008 indicated that science educators had a high interest in the process. During the 2009 Fall Conference, Jim Woodland asked a representative sample of teachers and leaders from across the state about their availability from December through July to work on the revisions.
- Federal funds were packaged in "Race to the Top" and "America Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009".
- No Child Left Behind awaited reauthorization by Congress.
- To include parents and community, Building a Presence morphed into "Science Matters" at the NSTA Conference in New Orleans. At Fall Conference, we opted to maintain BaP in the title for a one-year transition period.

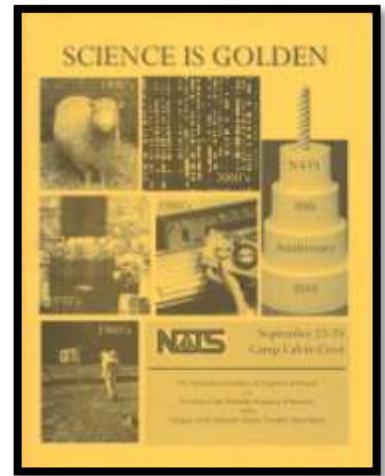


L to R: Sitzman with NDE

Commissioner Dr. Roger Breed; Nebraska Scientific's Neal Brenner; Ross Dinnwiddie accepts first "GW Brown Microscope Award" (renamed "Pinnacle Award" in 2010); Dr. Ed Louis and Catalyst Awardee Jim Rynearson; Charles Darwin (played by Brian Ellis) signs a book after his talk. Dave Oates and Bill Walter have the steaks almost done.

Joan Christen, Ph.D.
NATS President 2009-2010
Fall Conference Dates September 23-25, 2010

During my reign as NATS president (2009-2010), several milestones in Science occurred. Perhaps the most notable was the 50th anniversary of the NATS Fall conference! Our theme was “Science is Golden” and was attended by almost 500 science teachers. We took some time to reflect on the changes in science that have occurred over the years beginning with a man on the moon in the 1960’s, the growth of technology in the 70’s and 80’s, cloning of Dolly in the 90’s, and the mapping of the human genome in the 2000’s. The past presidents took a walk down memory lane and shared memories of the NATS organization as well.



One of the hottest topics of the year was the drafting of new Nebraska State Standards. A group of science educators met throughout the winter and spring to draft the new Nebraska State standards in 2009-2010. The process of writing assessment items for the new Standards took place over the summer of 2010 with educators from across the state participating in the process. Districts would have the option of taking the NeSA science assessment during the 2010-2011 school year with all districts taking the NeSA Science Assessment in 2011-2012. At the national level (Kirsten Smith and I attended the NSTA meeting in Las Vegas), science leaders are optimistic for the future of science education because of an increased emphasis we are now seeing being placed on science.

Other highlights of the year include the celebration of the 11th anniversary of “Building a Presence” (now known as “Science Matters”); the funding of another year of KICKS Institutes by the Federal Math-Science Partnerships focusing on life and physical sciences, inquiry, and content knowledge; and, the continuation of the K-16 Task Force for Teacher Preparation under the new leadership of Jon Pederson. The focus of the K-16 Task Force is to facilitate discussion across institutions and grade levels about closing gaps in teacher preparation.

Dr. Alan McCormick, NSTA president, gave a very interesting presentation on building imagination through scientific illusions, storylines, and historical events in keeping with our golden anniversary. Nebraska’s home-grown astronaut, Clayton Anderson presented a very special session about what life is like for an astronaut.

Recognition of Susan Hester and Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo as the 2010 Catalyst Award Winners for their contributions to Science Education in Nebraska also took place at the fall conference. Brenda Zabel, Westside High School, was recognized as the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching for Nebraska awardee for 2009. Joan Christen, Beatrice High School, and Alan Dappen, Omaha North Magnet High School, were recognized as 2009 Nebraska State Winners. Dan Sitzman, 2010 Past-President was the Pinnacle Award Winner sponsored by Gary Brown of the G.W. Brown Company. Dan received an antique microscope and a plaque for his contributions to Science education.

Serving as the 2009-2010 NATS president was both an honor and a privilege that allowed me to “give back” in some small measure the encouragement, camaraderie, and skills I received from my predecessors involved in this great organization. The strength of our organization resides in each and every one of us. Be involved. Volunteer yourself or nominate someone you feel would be a good leader for our organization to run for office. We want and need representation from across the state.



18 past-presidents attended the Thursday evening session. Front Row (L to R): Joe Dappen, Jim Landon, Jim McGahan, Ed Brogie, Jim Woodland, Jim Rynearson, Mark Brogie, Lois Mayo. Back Row: Bob Feurer, Kim Soper, Julia Polak, Dr. Pat Crum, Dr. Wanda Clarke, John Neimouth, Sheree Person-Pandil, Dr. Sally Harms, Dan Sitzman, Dr. Joan Christen. Aurietha Hoelsing and Ross Dinwiddie arrived later in the conference. Dr. Susan Koba was unable to attend due to her son's wedding.



Among the reminiscing by past-presidents Jim McGahan, Jim Rynearson repents by returning a banner signed by Senator Kerrey in 1992, Mark Brogie recalls the rediscovery of gravity in the dark-oh-thirty hour, and Joe Dappen shares a story about the early days.



Two years of Presidential Award finalists were recognized at the 2010 Fall Conference. 2009 Secondary finalists Brenda Zabel (Omaha Westside High and 2009 PAEST Awardee), Joan Christen (Beatrice High), and Alan Dappen (Omaha North High). The 2010 Elementary finalists just announced prior to the conference were Laura Callahan (Omaha Bancroft Elementary), Karen Humphrey (Omaha Adams Elementary), and Sheryl Ueling (Logan View Public Schools).



Catalyst Awardees were Susan Hester (pictured with Jim Woodland), for her contributions to and passion for Science Olympiad, both as district coordinator in the Bellevue Public Schools, and for her contributions across the state. President Joan Christen is pictured with representatives from Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo (CEO Dennis Pate and Education Director Elizabeth Mulkerrin). Tyler Berzina and Joan Anthony have a little fun at Sheree Person-Pandil's expense as the KICKS grant comes to a close.



Gayle Ellison reacts to the presentation of the final object used to note the "degression" of his teaching since he started "spoon feeding" students years ago.

Gary Brown presents a plaque and 1940's era microscope to outgoing Past-President Dan Sitzman as the 2nd annual Pinnacle Award.

Jim Woodland with the first Catalyst Awardees, Karen and Charles Messenger.



NSTA President Allen McCormick's Friday night presentation revolved around the magic of Science (with Joshua as a willing participant). Then Board Member Jay Keuker kept the raffle an entertaining affair with lots of winners.

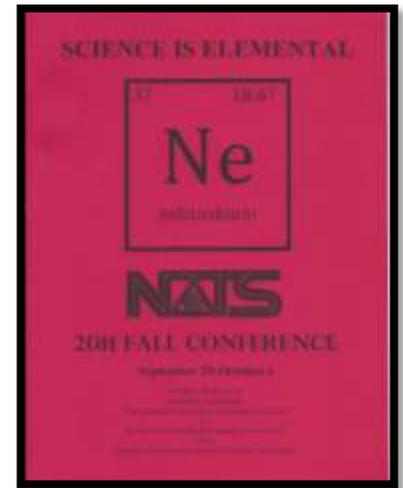


Left: A little rain doesn't stop the making of s'mores in the fireplace! Right: Ed Brogie presents a framed photograph to Jim Landon, who came in from Eastern Washington to join other past-presidents in honoring NATS 50th anniversary.

Below: Vanita Jarmon. Mixing it up in a session.



Dr. Kirsten Smith
NATS President 2010-11
Fall Conference Dates September 29-October 1, 2011



Top Row: Dr. Jeff Goldstein presents about his program to send student research into space; Dr. Jon Pederson begins the video tribute to Dr. Wanda Clarke
2nd Row: Dr. Joan Christen was recognized twice during the conference, first by Jim Woodland as a Presidential Awardee and then by Gary Brown for the Pinnacle Award
3rd Row: Dan Sitzman accepts the Catalyst Award from Dr. Kirsten Smith; Dr. Steve Waller accepts the Catalyst Award



Scenes from conference sessions:
a make it take it session; Emily Brown presents how the Omaha Zoo is supporting student research; out in the field; Julia Polak and Ross Dinwiddie's alter egos share some Halloween inspired lesson ideas; taking on the role of students to do classroom activities





Sharing conversation and checking out the t-shirts in the NATS Store: Leah Woodland (Omaha Zoo), Mark Seier (Newman Grove), LeeAnn Vaughan (Omaha Public Schools' Zoo Academy), Dr. Jon Pederson (UNL), Dr. Kirsten Smith (Lincoln Public Schools Science Coordinator)

Dr. Jon Pederson
 NATS President, 2011-12
 Fall Conference September 27-29, 2012



CLOCKWISE STARTING AT TOP LEFT: Megan Patent-Nygren gives the go ahead to launch a Lego car down a ramp carrying a ball as part of her 4-H Extension presentation on GEAR-Tech 21 during Thursday workshops. Using LabQuest 2 with probes at the Vernier workshop on Friday. Observing three different kinds of woodpeckers during a 10-minute observation during Lindsay Rogers' "Bridge to Birding" presentation on Friday. Launching paper rockets outside the dining hall as part of the workshop led by NASA's Angelo Casaburri on Friday. Posing with Lincoln Childrens' Zoo's 3-banded armadillo and CEO John Chapo after his Friday morning Keynote.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- the smiles of surprise on the three Elementary Presidential Award Finalists when each was presented with a \$500 check from the Nebraska Academy of Sciences to recognize their accomplishment of advancing to the national review
- the new deck/patio on the southeast corner of the dining hall, a perfect place to enjoy the steak fry, enjoy the fantastic early fall weather, and listen to the vocal, guitar and keyboard talents of entertainer and former English teacher, Daniel Christian
- standing room only crowd for John Chapo's Keynote on Friday morning, kicking off a fantastic Friday
- the first Silent Auction, replacing the traditional raffle, featuring a microscope, various gift cards, books, finger puppets and a Star Trek phaser, garnering almost double the proceeds collected in recent raffles.



2012 Catalyst Awards

(top left) Joan Christen receives her plaque from Sheree Person-Pandil



(bottom left) Kathy French accepts her plaque from Dr. Kirsten Smith.

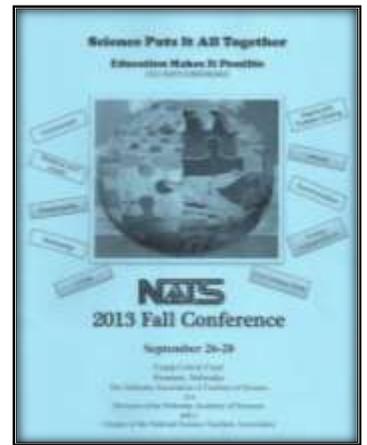


Presidential Awards for Excellence

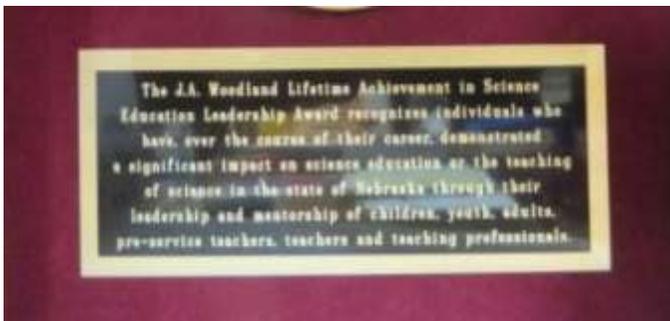
State Finalists in 2012: Kimberly Humphrey, Meadowlark Elementary, Kearney Public Schools, Kearney NE; Stephanie Kurz, Walnut Hill Elementary, Omaha Public Schools, Omaha, NE and Heather Dreibus, Bancroft Elementary, Omaha Public Schools, Omaha, NE. Pictured with NSTA President Dr. Karen Ostlund.



Mary Moser
 NATS President, 2012-13
 Fall Conference September 26-28, 2013



Clockwise from top left: Sheree Person-Pandil presents Tyler Berzina with the Catalyst Award, recognizing his work as a KICKS instructor and Physics Teacher; Jon Pederson speaks after accepting the Catalyst Award, then quickly shifts to presenting recently retired NDE Science Consultant Jim Woodland with the first J.A. Woodland Lifetime Achievement in Science Education Leadership Award; Woodland passes the torch to successor James Blake; Woodland shares the surprise with his son-in-law, daughter Sarah, wife Ruth, and daughter Leah; NATS recognized the three 2013 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching (front: Teresa Bender, Angela Bergman, and Sean Putnam) and two honorable mentions (Mary Herrington, and not pictured Joseph Kupper); Some of the 2012-13 NATS Board take a break from their duties for a group photo.



Thursday's workshop to bring weather and climate into the classroom, one of seven three-hour sessions on Thursday afternoon

Friday started and ended with large group keynotes: Drs. Victoria and Dennis Molfese from UNL presented on their brain research and its implications for learning. (she is with the Department of Child, Youth and Family Studies; he is the Director of the Center for Brain, Biology and Behavior). The evening Maiben Lecturer was Joe Brus, a Norfolk High graduate, who shared his experiences climbing to the highest points on each of the 7 continents, including his 2011 ascent of Mt. Everest. Daniel Christian for the second year provided musical entertaining prior to the Thursday night Steak Fry.



Left and above: conference attendees interact with exhibitors.
Below: KICKS2 workshop; setting up telescopes for star gazing; modeling watersheds in Nebraska on a big map.





GW Brown Pinnacle Award presented to Sally Harms (after she was retrieved from presenting at the just-concluded first-timers breakfast); for the 10th time, Nebraska Scientific Awards were distributed, recognizing 20 years of NATS membership (Neal Brenner from Nebraska Scientific, Dan Sitzman, Sara Morris , and Bob Curtright).

21 Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Science Teaching (and one PAE in Math Teaching) returned for the a reception recognizing the program's 30th anniversary. Each said a few words to the Friday evening assembly.



Front: Ed Brogie, Jim Rynerson, Angela Nickel, Joan Anthony, Carol Englemann, Jan Johnson, Bev Gruber, Mary Tusha, LeeAnn Vaughan, Lois Mayo, Laura Callahan, Susan Koba
 Back: Julia Polak, Bob Feurer, Katie Ramsey, Paul Clark, Roger Kassebaum, Bob Curtright, Chuck Lang, Joan Christen, Dan Sitzman

Katie Ramsey
 NATS President, 2013-14
 Fall Conference September 25-27, 2014



The silent auction included a Starship commander wearing the NATS vest. The vest, pins and buttons were not up for bid; Captain Kirk went to the highest bidder.



Top Row: Dr. Carolyn Hayes (NSTA President-Elect); Ted Willard (NSTA Program Director) provides an update on the Next Generation Science Standards; Katie Ramsey, NATS President, addresses the Thursday night gathering; Dr. Ramsey Musallam’s Maiben Lecture integrated video clips and humor into his presentation “Curiosity”
2nd Row: Phil “Doc Gizmo” and Susan Arnold enjoy the introduction to his Catalyst Award presentation ; Dr. Elizabeth Jones shares her experiences with UNL’s chapter of Engineers Without Borders; President Elect Joe Myers with 2014 Presidential Award finalists _____ and Karen Humphrey

Below: Dr. Kirstin Smith from Lincoln Pound Middle School received two honors at the 2014 Fall Conference: The GW Brown Company Pinnacle Award from Gary Brown and the Catalyst Award, presented by Katie Ramsey.



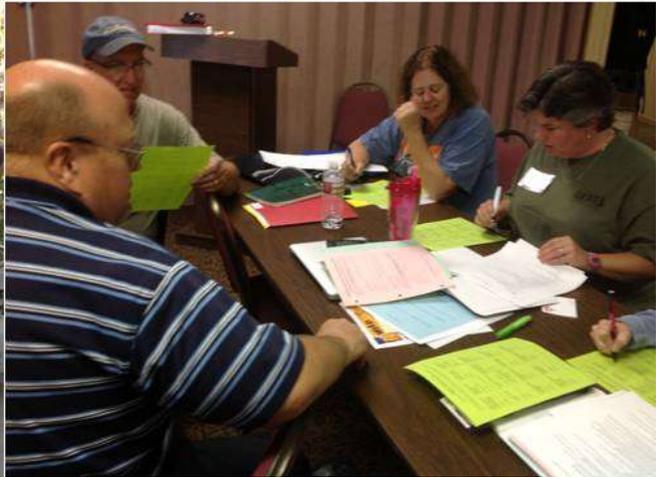
Clockwise from top left: Prior to their presentation, Grand Island students pose in front of the new NAS banner; interacting in the vendor area; 6:30 a.m. introduction to the annual Bird Walk with Ed Brogie; Nebraska Physiological Society members attract NATS attendees to their interactive display



Left: Nebraska Academy of Sciences President Dan Sitzman challenges NATS members to engage one or two students in a new challenge, such as Science Olympiad or Science Fair.

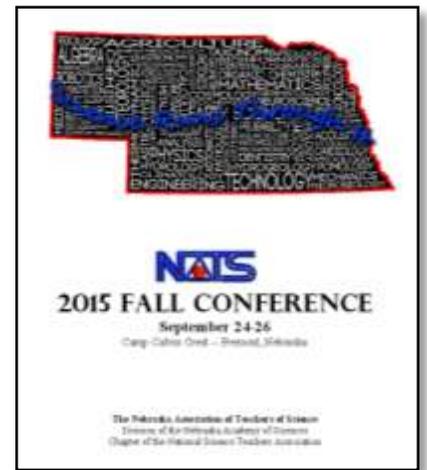
Right: 2015 National Science Olympiad co-director Jim Woodland encourages NATS members to demonstrate “Nebraska Nice” by volunteering for any of the many duties to make a successful tournament to be held at UNL City Campus May 15-16, 2015





Clockwise from top left: Thursday entertainer Joe Brogie prepares Stephanie Kurz to be a subject to his card trick; Joe amazes those gathered with his magic talents; KICKS3 participants collaborating on a Thursday activity; Past-presidents (and four-legged friend) frying up the steaks for the traditional Thursday dinner.

Joe Myers
NATS President, 2014-15
Fall Conference September 24-26, 2015



Katie Ramsey addresses the Friday morning general assembly



rain forced the Past-Presidents' Steak Fry under the overhang



some of the Silent Auction items



Rootbeer Gummi worms at the Ice Cream Social



"Want to see a turkey in a tree?" after the Friday morning Bird walk saw a barred owl for the first time in 27 years of NATS at CCC

Lee Brogie
NATS President, 2015-16
Fall Conference September 22-24, 2016



Science Matters Key Leaders put the finishing touches on their Argument "whiteboard" on Thursday morning in a session led by Dr. Todd Hutner from the University of Texas-Austin.



It was a hot day to get the Past-Presidents' Steak Fry sizzling; Dr. David Crowther, NSTA President Elect, earned his doctorate at UNL in the mid-90's. His keynote focused on transitioning to three-dimensional teaching and learning.



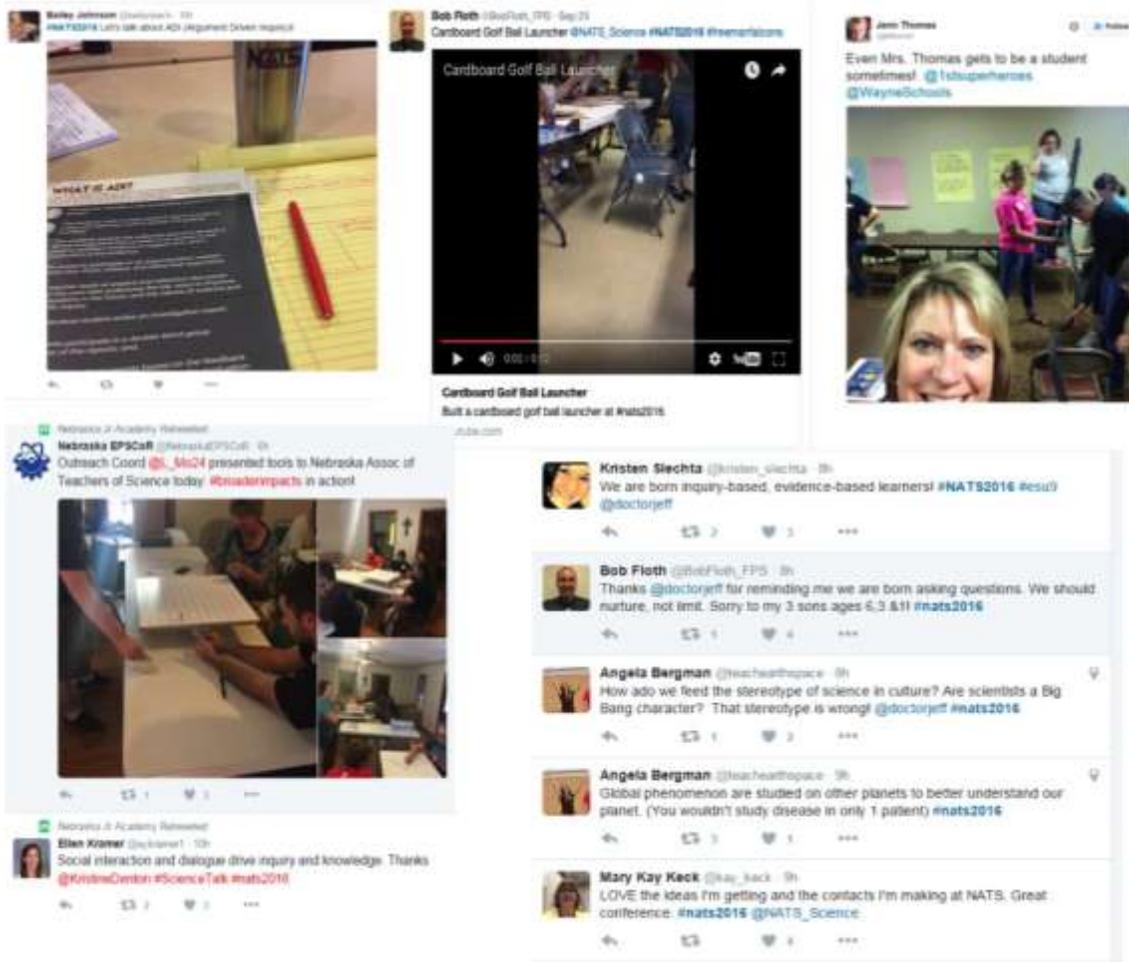
Investigating yeast systems with variables selected by participants; Katie Ramsey presents Deb Paulman with the Catalyst Award; Dr. Jeff Goldstein and NATS President Lee Brogie; Program Chair Shauna Roberson welcomes attendees on Friday morning.

A Thursday afternoon workshop sent participants' experiments into near space on Omaha Public Schools High Altitude Balloon



launch #38. Sunrise on Saturday morning found a storm moving toward Camp Calvin Crest





(above) Tweets from Friday.

Action during a Saturday morning session.



(bottom) First-time presenters Rachael Burns and Michele Ricard discuss citizen science opportunities.



CATALYST AWARD WINNERS

The CATALYST AWARD is given annually at the Fall Conference by the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science. The Catalyst Award recognizes “contributions to science education in Nebraska.”

Nominations for the Catalyst Award are due June 1 of each year to any current Board member or officer.

2016

Deb Paulman, ESU #16, Ogallala

2015

Katie Ramsey, Grand Island Public Schools

David Harwood, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2014

Kirsten Smith, Pound Middle School, Lincoln Public Schools

Phil Arnold, Doc Gizmo Science Demos

2013

Tyler Berzina, Millard West High School

Jon Pederson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2012

Joan Anthony, Spring Ridge Elementary, Elkhorn Public Schools

Kathy French, Education Coordinator, University of Nebraska State Museum

2011

Dan Sitzman, Omaha North High Magnet School

Steve Waller, CASNR Dean, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2010

Susan Hester, Bellevue Public Schools, Bellevue, NE

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo

2009

James Rynearson, Lincoln High School, Lincoln, NE

Nebraska Scientific, Omaha, NE

2008

Aurietha Hoelsing, Omaha Public Schools, Omaha, NE
Sheree Person-Pandil, ESU #3, Omaha, NE

2007

Gayle Ellison, Lewiston Consolidated Schools, Lewiston, NE
Cecelia Dorn, Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Lincoln, NE

2006

Wanda Clarke, Omaha Public Schools/Omaha, NE
Elizabeth Mulkerrin, Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, NE

2005

Suzanne Kirby, Clinton Elementary School/Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln, NE
Roxanna Jokela, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2004

Ron Bonnstetter, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
Ed Brogie, Laurel-Concord Public Schools, Laurel, NE

2003

Judy Williams (Nebraska Junior Academy of Sciences/former teacher at Central City)
Marla Smith Imperial, NE

2002

Susan Koba (Omaha Public Schools; NATS President, 2000; NSTA Board of Directors, 2001-2004)
Carol Mitchell (Omaha Public Schools Banneker 2000/CEMS Principal Investigator; University of Nebraska at Omaha education professor)

2001

Jim Woodland (Nebraska Department of Education; GNATS Chairperson, 1984; member of NSTA Board of Directors, 1996-97)
Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning, John Sutton and Deb Jordan

2000

Robert Curtright (Lincoln Northeast High School)
Al Musson (O'Neill High School)
Carolina Biological Supply Company

1999

Dave Gosselin (NESEN)
James McGahan (Grand Island Northwest High School, GNATS President, 1989, NAS President, 1997-98)

1998

Kathleen Jacobitz (Nebraska Junior Academy of Sciences)

Robert Reeder (Lincoln Public Schools, Science Teaching Chairperson, 1966; Co-chairperson, 1967, 1977-78)

Chuck Lang (Omaha Westside; GNATS Chairperson, 1983)

1997

Roger Carlson (University of Nebraska at Kearney)

Donn Carlson (University of Nebraska at Kearney)

1995

David "Skip" Anderson

Dr. Lee Simmons (Director, Henry Doorly Zoo)

1992

Bob Kerrey (U.S. Senate)

Joe Dappen (Lincoln Southeast; Science Teaching Section Co-chairperson 1974-75)

1996, 1993-94, 1991 and Earlier*

Betsey Keane (University of Nebraska–Lincoln)

Lois Mayo (Lincoln Public Schools)

Valerie Blake, NAS Office Manager

Gary Brown (G.W. Brown Company, long-time supporter of NATS)

Carl Wolfe (Nebraska Game and Parks)

Cecil William

Don McCurdy (NSTA President, 1980-81)

Mike Voorhies (Ashfall Fossil Bed)

Dale Rathe (Lincoln Public Schools; Science Teaching Co-chairperson, 1961, 1973-74, 1977-78, GNATS Chairman, 1980)

1986? First awarded: Karen and Charles Messenger (Nebraska State Museum)

* In many years, the Catalyst Award was kept secret until the presentation. Thus, conference programs did not include the name of the awardees.



GW Brown Company Pinnacle Award

Presented by Gary Brown to recognize outstanding leadership in Science Education. Each recipient receives a plaque and an antique microscope from Gary's collection, presented annually at the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science Fall Conference

2015

Ed Brogie

2014

Dr. Kirsten Smith

2013

Dr. Sally Harms

2012

Jim Woodland

2011

Dr. Joan Christen

2010

Dan Sitzman

2009

Ross Dinwiddie



Gary Brown with the first five recipients of the GW Brown Pinnacle Award