1048-57-110 **Lenhard Ng***, Mathematics Department, Duke University, Box 90320, Durham, NC 27708. *Knot contact homology and string topology.*

I will discuss the current state of affairs regarding knot contact homology, a knot invariant defined through contact-geometric techniques. In particular, I would like to present a partial topological interpretation of knot contact homology in the language of string topology (in joint work with Kai Cieliebak, Tobias Ekholm, and Janko Latschev). (Received February 01, 2009)