Greetings from the Department Head

Our Department had many exciting activities and achievements this fall semester. The second biennial Research Frontiers in Nutritional Sciences Conference was held on the University of Arizona main campus October 22-23rd. This Conference focused on obesity, cancer, diabetes, and nutrigenomics. Conference participants included over 140 people from Arizona and several other states. Innovative research being conducted in our Department, other Departments at the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and Universities throughout the country, at the National Institutes of Health, and in industry was showcased in the Conference faculty presentations and at the posters sessions. The Conference was led by a steering committee of faculty members from our Department including Dr. Burd, Dr. Going, Dr. Limesand, Dr. Romagnolo, Dr. Thomson, and Dr. Stump, from the College of Medicine who is also a Joint Appointed faculty member in our Department. Details of the Conference are included in this newsletter.

This fall there were 390 Nutritional Sciences undergraduate majors. The number of undergraduate students who are majoring in Nutritional Sciences has doubled over the last five years. This rapidly increasing student enrollment creates challenges and opportunities for our Department.

The Nutritional Sciences Graduate Program (NSGP) welcomed a new class of graduate students this fall. The NSGP has 7 Masters students and 17 Doctoral students. The NSGP received the honor of being ranked 6th in the nation in the 2007 Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index. In 2005, the NSGP was ranked 10th in the nation by this index. The NSGP include faculty in our Department and 17 faculty members from the College of Medicine, College of Public Health, College of Science, and the Arizona Cancer Center who have Joint Faculty appointments in our Department.

The Departmental Cooperative Extension Outreach Programs are focusing on nutrition and physical activity education and research projects with children, adolescents and their families. These Programs promote healthy nutrition and physical activity practices aimed at helping people prevent chronic diseases including obesity, osteoporosis and cancer.

I am pleased to announce that Darren Shevchuk has joined our Departmental staff as Business Manager, Senior.

More Information on our Departmental faculty, staff, students and our Instruction, Research and Cooperative Extension Outreach Programs is available on our Departmental website at: http://nutrition.arizona.edu/.

For the past five years I have had the opportunity to be the Head of the Department of Nutritional Sciences. During this time our faculty, staff and students have made new discoveries, educated many people, launched students in careers and have helped improve the quality of lives of many people. This will be my last newsletter as Department Head, I have accepted a new position as an Associate Director of Cooperative Extension in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. I will be starting this new position in February, 2008. Dr. Winzerling will become the interim Department Head and a national search will be conducted to hire the next Department Head. This new leadership will foster continued excellence for all of the Departmental Programs.

Best wishes for a healthy, heartwarming holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

New and Renewed Grants

Dr. Going

Exercise and Bone Development in Young Girls.
Principal Investigator: Scott Going
Funded by: National Institutes of Health

Dr. Meuillet

Novel Inhibitors of Akt Signaling in Pancreatic Cancer.
Principal Investigator: Emmanuelle Meuillet
Funded by: University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Dr. Misner

The Extension Food and Nutrition Education Program-USDA Smith-Lever Act Reauthorization.
Principal Investigator: Scottie Misner
Funded by: U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program.
Principal Investigator: Scottie Misner
Funded by: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dr. Romagnolo

Epigenetics of Breast Cancer and Chromatin Remodeling of the BRCA-1 Gene.
Principal Investigator: Donato Romagnolo
Funded by: Arizona Biomedical Research Commission

Epigenetic Silencing of BRCA-1 and Protective Effects of Dietary Components.
Principal Investigator: Donato Romagnolo
Funded by: Susan G. Koman Foundation

Dr. Thomson

Food, Attitudes and Body Study (FAB).
Principal Investigator: Cynthia Thomson
Funded by: Jenny Craig/Nestlé

Anemia and its Relationship with Sarcopenia, Physical Function and Mortality.
Principal Investigator: Zhao Chen
Co-Investigator: Cynthia Thomson
Funded by: National Institutes of Health

Efficacy of Vegetables to Reduce Oxidative Stress & Inflammation in Overweight Women: A Dose Response Study.
Principal Investigator: Cynthia Thomson
Funded by: U.S. Department of Agriculture
**FACULTY PUBLICATIONS**

**DR. BURD**


**DR. HOUTKOOPER**


**DR. HOWELL**


**DR. MEUILLET**

**DR. ROMAGNOLLO**

**DR. THOMSON**


**JOINT APPOINTED FACULTY**

**DR. WATSON**

**NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAM**

Congratulations to the following Graduate Students who will be graduating this fall.

**Master of Science**
Jessica Miller

Jessica will be entering the Ph.D. Program in Nutritional Sciences.

**Doctor of Philosophy**
Stephanie Degner

Stephanie has accepted a position as a post doctorate at the Scripps Research Institute, Department of Immunology in La Jolla, CA. We wish her well.

**Congratulations**

The Department of Nutritional Sciences would like to congratulate Nicole Stendell-Hollis for receiving the following Scholarships and Awards:

• American Dietetic Association Foundation’s 2007 Loyal E. Horton Memorial Graduate Studies Scholarship
• The Ruth Cowden Graduate Studies Scholarship
• W.T. and Winifred McClelland Graduate Studies Scholarship
• Mary C. Zahasky Memorial Continuing Education Award to attend the International Lactation Consultants Association 2007 Conference and Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.
• Travel Grant Award to the American Institute for Cancer Research Conference on Food, Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Prevention of Cancer in Washington, D.C.
**PRESENTATIONS, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND POSTERS**

**DR. HOUTKOOPER**


**DR. HONGU**


**DR. MCCUNE**

Seminar: Dr. McCune, research associate joined more than 50 professionals and graduate students from university nutrition and food science departments throughout the U.S. to participate in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) first intensive practicum in Dietary supplement research. This was held in Bethesda, MD, May, 2007.

**DR. MEUILLET**


**DR. MISNER**


Conference: Dr. Misner attended the W-1003 Multi-State Research Group in Spokane, WA. Fourteen participants attended and focused on completing their project: Parent and Household influences on calcium intake among early adolescent. The end of the meeting was devoted to completing a new proposal for 2008-2013. November, 2007.

**DR. THOMSON**


**DR. WINZERLING**


**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

The Department of Nutritional Sciences and Dr. Going would like to express their gratitude to Dean Colin Kaltenbach and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for their generous support and contribution towards the purchase of a Peripheral Quantitative Computive Tomography Scanner (pQCT). This pQCT purchase was funded through a National Institutes of Health grant and a generous donation from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. This instrument is the only one of it’s kind in the State of Arizona and will be available to department researchers and other researchers campus wide. The pQCT measures bone density and bone geometry in children.

**FACULTY IN THE NEWS**

**DR. GOING**

Congratulations to Dr. Going who was featured in the Bio5 Institute on-line E-News-letter in May, 2007. Dr. Going is one of five University of Arizona professors with projects that are among a 23 statewide split. These projects will be sharing approximately $3.75 million in Science Foundation Arizona’s competitive advantage awards this year. The awards are designed to give seed money to researchers with proposals that hold promise for federal funding. Dr. Going’s study is on exercise and bone development in young girls.

**DR. MEUILLET**

Dr. Meuillet was featured in the UA Bio5 News with an article titled “UA Bio5 Researchers Pursing Three First-in-Class Cancer Therapies”. Dr. Meuillet is among three researchers at The University of Arizona’s Bio5 Institute and the Arizona Cancer Center who has discovered novel therapeutic strategies to treat cancer.

**NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATES**

Nutritional Sciences students were recently honored by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the Honors Convocation held on October 19, 2007. The following students were recognized for outstanding academic achievement.

**Highest Academic Distinction**

Randi Byrd Lisa Hamilton
Tyler Maly Kristen Scheckel
Adam Womack

**Academic Distinction**

Mina Batubar Lauren Colick
Kathryn Elofson Shannon Eshelman
Leah Neff Stephanie Tammen
Sarah Tarabichi Elisa Travailo
Aubrey Uhling Jessie Zepeda

**National Merit Scholar**

Jessie Zepeda

**Congratulations**

Jamie Wise has been selected to receive a University of Arizona/NASA Space Grant Undergraduate Research Internship for the 2007-2008 academic year. She will be working on nutrition and physical activity research with her mentor, Dr. Hongu, Assistant Professor and Nutrition Extension Specialist. Jamie and Dr. Hongu, with the help of two other Space Grant interns, will be working on research aimed at finding ways to promote a healthy lifestyle. Specifically, this research will be aimed at improving eating habits and increasing the overall amount and frequency of physical activity using new and emerging location-based technology, i.e. global positioning system (GPS) and geographic information systems (GIS). Jamie and the other interns will be presenting their research results at the annual AZ/NASA Space Grant Statewide Symposium to be held April 18-19, 2008. For more information about this award see the following link: http://spacegrant.arizona.edu/fellowships/programs/internships/07_interns.shtml.
Walk Across Arizona
Walk Across Arizona is a State-wide physical activity program that encourages individuals and families to increase their participation in activities that promote a healthy lifestyle. Two teams from the Department of Nutritional Sciences have been registered to compete with more than 100 teams from Pima County. This event takes place November 2007 - March 2008. If you would like more information on Walk Across Arizona, or would like to captain a team, please visit website http://cals.arizona.edu/walkacrossaz/ or contact Linda Block at 520-626-5161 or email lblock@ag.arizona.edu.

Research Frontiers in Nutritional Sciences Conference
The second biennial Research Frontiers in Nutritional Sciences Conference was held October 22-23, 2007, at the University of Arizona, Student Union Grand Ball Room.

Goals for the conference were:
- Discuss novel research approaches to the treatment and prevention of obesity, cancer and diabetes.
- Describe the influence of diet and nutrition on genomics, proteomics, and metabolomics in the setting of obesity, cancer and diabetes.
- Develop and facilitate interdisciplinary interactions leading to collaborations among participating scientists and clinicians.
- Foster growth of junior investigators and graduate students.

Congratulations to the top four Student Poster Award winners, Rebecca Hurst from the University of Utah, Jan Egan, Laura La Bonte and Daniel Link from the University of Arizona.

A special thank you to our conference sponsors:
- Department of Nutritional Sciences
- Arizona Cancer Center
- Bio5 Institute
- Center for Physical Activity and Nutrition
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
- Eurofresh Farms
- Novo Nordisk
- Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center

Kelly Jackson, M.S., R.D.
David Cox, The Bart Cardon Associate Dean for Academic Programs for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and especially the Department of Nutritional Sciences extend congratulations to Kelly Jackson. Kelly received the 2007 Alpha Zeta Fraternity A+ Advisor Award at the CALS Honors Convocation held on Friday, October 19, 2007.

Her contributions to the teaching, advising and learning environment in CALS and our Department are very important and appreciated. The quality of our undergraduate program and the positive outcomes for our students depend upon the excellent work done by Kelly and her colleagues.

Kay Hongu, Ph.D., R.D.
Congratulations to Dr. Hongu, Assistant Professor and Nutrition Extension Specialist. She along with Linda Block, Pima County Extension Associate Agent, Sharon Hoelscher Day, Coordinator, Maricopa County Community Health Programs, Robert Armstrong, Extension Support Systems Analyst and Robin Harris, Public Health Associate Professor of the Arizona Cancer Center received the 2007 NEAFCS Western Regional Communication Award for Internet Education Technology for Walk Across Arizona. Dr. Hongu took first place in the Western Region and third place Nationally.

Jeanne Klingenberg Herman, R.D.
Jeanne graduated from the University of Arizona in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Human Nutrition. She was in the first University of Arizona/Good Samaritan Hospital (Phoenix) Dietetic Internship Program. She completed the internship along with Caryn Goodfriend Patton ('71), Robyn DeBell ('68), and Sheryl Fong Chan ('72). While the other 3 interns went on to complete their Master Science degrees, Jeanne went instead for her “Mrs.” degree and followed her husband David Thomas Herrman ('71) to California where she began her career as a registered dietitian, wife and mother for the next 36 years. Initially, she was a therapeutic dietitian for 4 years at Hawthorne Community Hospital where she was promoted to Chief Clinical Dietitian. This led her into a career path as the director of several hospital food service operations, the last being at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, California.

In the 1990’s, the climate of the industry and the profession was changing. It was at this time Jeanne developed her own consulting firm, JK Consultants, providing individualized nutrition support to a diverse client base ranging in age from newborns to geriatrics. In addition, she has provided food safety and menu/recipe analysis in a variety of settings; the most recent being in Assisted Living and Alzheimer facilities. She continues to keep her clinical nutrition skills current by also working at the Eden Medical Center and Laurel Grove Rehabilitation Facilities in Castro Valley, California.

She has been active in local Dietetic Associations through the years. Her foundation of nutrition knowledge gained at the University of Arizona has always proven valuable. In addition to working nearly full time since graduation in 1971, she has enjoyed raising a family, son, Bryant, and two grandchildren, Alex and Joey.