The following is a brief overview of recent accomplishments from the Nutrition Department. It is impossible to capture all of the exciting awards, presentations, research projects, and special events from all of our faculty, extension staff, and students that deserve recognition. New news happens daily, which is one reason why this is a dynamic and exciting place to work and to learn. Just this week I received word of a new award given to one of our students and a new job offered to another. I received notice about an upcoming faculty trip to Vietnam and learned about another’s work in Korea. I signed off on a master’s thesis defense, corresponded on a doctoral proposal defense, and prepared for MPH students to graduate or to work on their projects or practicums. As I write this in summer, it is a quieter time for undergraduate activities, but curriculum planning is underway, along with preparation for upcoming site visits from the American Dietetic Association (CADE) to reaccredit our undergraduate and dietetic internship programs. The work that we do could not occur without the support of numerous donors, field preceptors, research and teaching collaborators, and other contributors. We are once again so appreciative of this support.

The Department is continuing its rapid growth in undergraduate and graduate majors interested in pursuing a degree in Nutrition. As of fall 2011, we expect 215 undergraduates in the nutrition major, a 16% growth over last year. The Department anticipates 25 graduate students in our on-campus MS and PhD programs in fall 2011, with approximately 60 distance students expected in the MPH in Nutrition Online program.

In the past year, we have completed renovation of new faculty offices plus added air conditioning and new computers for students. We are currently planning further office renovations to accommodate an anticipated new faculty hire. The Department is currently seeking an assistant professor who will be among the campus’ first cohort of Commonwealth Honors College faculty, to teach, advise honors...
students and nutrition majors and conduct research. A second tenure-track assistant professor position is open as well, to perform research and teaching related to chronic diseases. Further information on these positions is described on our home page, www.umass.edu/sphhs/nutrition.

At the same, we are renovating our undergraduate curriculum. We have submitted a proposal to Faculty Senate to develop three undergraduate tracks to better accommodate the diverse interests of those who pursue the nutrition major. Several new courses have been recently added as electives, including Nutritional Genomics; Culture, Nutrition and Health; and Nutrition and Food Policy.

As part of a larger UMass Extension administrative restructuring initiative, the UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program (NEP) website has a new url, www.extension.umass.edu/nutrition. The NEP website features handouts, recipes, and nutrition and food safety educational materials for preschool and school-age children, teachers, food workers, and families in multiple languages.

In 2010, the Department of Nutrition ranked seventh on campus in grant and contract expenditures per faculty member. The Department obtained a total of $3.1 million in grant funding in 2010. The following is a list of grants and contracts awarded or active in 2010 and early 2011.


Changing the Health Trajectory for Older Adults Through Effective Diet and Activity Modifications. USDA CSREES NE-1522 Regional Research Project. Cohen N (PI-Massachusetts project). 10/1/09-9/30/14.


Last summer, Elena Carbone traveled to the Medical University at Novgorod, Russia to discuss a UMass-Novgorod dual degree program, collaborative publications, and new grant opportunities. Dr. Carbone plans to travel to Russia again in summer 2011 to examine further collaborative opportunities, along with collaborative work in Vietnam with the UMass Institute for Global Health. She also traveled to Barcelona to chair a program session at EDULEARN10, the annual International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies, in July 2010. At the conference, she presented data she collected from instructors of UMass Amherst online courses.
OUT AND ABOUT:

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Young-Cheul Kim traveled to Jeju and Jecheon, Korea in September 2010 to give presentations at three different conferences. Dr. Kim presented “Metabolic Functions of Phytochemicals” at the 5th Annual Meeting and International Symposium on Development of Functional Foods for Managing Metabolic Syndrome; and “Ginseng: Anti-Diabetic Efficacy and Implication of Fermentation” at the International Symposium on Fermented Medicine (ISOF). He also gave an invited talk on herbal medicine at the 2010 World Oriental Medicine Bio Expo. He plans to return to Korea in summer 2011 for further collaborative work and presentations.


In October, 2010, Alayne Ronnenberg was in Brazil where she gave a presentation for the Nutrition faculty of the University of Sao Paulo about the UMass Nutrition undergraduate program and dietetic training. Richard Wood attended a meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil in October 2010 sponsored by Danone on the topic of "New Advances In Micronutrients In Early Ages and Repercussions For Seniors". He spoke on the topic of "Calcium and Vitamin D in Children and Chronic Disease Risk". He also helped organize and attended a joint meeting of the American Society for Nutrition and the Irish Nutrition Society in Cork, Ireland in June 2011. The topic of the meeting was "Vitamins in Early Development and Healthy Aging: Impact on Infectious and Chronic Disease", and Dr. Wood chaired a session on immunity and chronic disease.

A number of Nutrition faculty members presented at professional conferences across the country in 2010 and 2011. Elena Carbone was in Washington, DC in April, 2011, where she gave a preconference workshop titled “Training for Evidence-Based Behavioral Practice: Best Practices for Individuals and Communities” at the Society for Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting. Lorraine Cordeiro presented a poster entitled, “Adolescent diets in the context of household food security status” at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in Denver, CO in November, 2010. Dr. Cordeiro also presented “The Role of Medicinal Plants in Food Security and Nutrition” at the Annual Conference of the American Council for Medicinally Active Plants (ACMAP) at Rutgers University in New Jersey in July, 2010.

Young-Cheul Kim was also at ACMAP presenting his findings on the effects of the isoflavone daidzein on adipocyte differentiation and insulin sensitivity as well as an invited talk titled “Medicinal Activities of Bioactive Phytochemicals.” Dr. Kim was a coauthor on two posters presented at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in Anaheim, CA in April 2010 and one poster at the 14th Annual Supply Side West International Trade Show and Conference in October in Las Vegas. Dr. Kim also received an Outstanding Abstract
Award for his paper on the role of antioxidants in adipogenic and osteogenic differentiation of human mesenchymal stem cells, presented at the June, 2010 Endocrine Society Meeting in San Diego, CA.

**Jerusha Peterman** was a panel presenter in Minneapolis in June, 2010, addressing, “The ethics and politics of research with immigrant populations: the Massachusetts experience.” She was in Reno, NV in July 2010, presenting a poster on past food deprivation related to current dietary practices and weight in Cambodian refugee women at the annual Society for Nutrition Education conference.

**Claire Norton** traveled to Seattle, WA for the Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine Annual Meeting, where she presented a poster titled “Comparison of Family-Based vs. Individual Therapy in Adolescents with Anorexia Nervosa: A Retrospective Cohort with Historic Control.”

**Patsy Beffa-Negrini** and **Nancy Cohen** attended the American Dietetic Association’s FNCE conference in November, 2010, presenting evaluation data from the UMass Online MPH in Nutrition Degree program. Nancy Cohen also presented a poster, “The UMass Health and Nutrition Diversity Scholars Program (HANDS): Recruitment, Support and Training of Multicultural Nutrition Students”. **Srimathi Kannan** was also in attendance at this meeting, where she and current and former undergraduate students **Kristina Secinaro, Rebecca Smith, Alyssa White, and Lauren Cullati** presented four posters on early child nutrition education as well as nutrition website development.

**Richard Wood** participated in two NIH Grant Review Panels this spring semester. He also organized and chaired an Education Forum at Experimental Biology 2011 in Washington DC in April, 2011 on the topic “Integrating Nutritional Genomics into the 21st Century Nutrition Curriculum.” **Nancy Cohen** presided over a minisymposium on “Evidence-based Nutrition Education” at the EB 2011 meeting. **Joyce Faraj**, a doctoral student working with **Alayne Ronnenberg** was also at EB 2011, presenting a poster of her UMass master’s research, entitled, "Iron Status, Inflammation and Anemia in Bangladeshi Women Exposed to Arsenic". **Young-Cheul Kim** displayed a poster at the meeting as well, entitled, "Antioxidative Effects of Polyphenol-Enriched Red Ginseng Extracts on Hydrogen Peroxide-Induced Oxidative Stress in C2C12 Cells". Another paper at the EB 2011 annual meeting was presented by **Jerusha Peterman** addressing, “Characteristics Associated with Household Food Security Status Among Cambodian Refugee Women in Lowell, MA”. 

**OUT AND ABOUT:**

**NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Jerusha Peterman**

**Alyssa White and Srimathi Kannan**

**Young-Cheul Kim**
**LOCAL AND REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

Andrea Gulezian, Extension FNP Project Leader with the Brockton Office, presented a workshop to 49 preschool teachers and paraprofessionals at the Brockton Schools Gilmore Early Childhood Center on November 2, 2010. The workshop included information from MyPyramid for Preschoolers. Following this workshop, monthly nutrition and physical activity education was provided for teachers to present in their classrooms. A parent workshop was also provided to 18 parents at the Gilmore School. The workshop “Raising Healthy Children” highlighted healthy growth and eating tips for children. Throughout the year, The Brockton NEP office presented workshops to all Brockton Public Schools; Kindergarten, 1, 6, 8 and 9th grade students in the city.

Lorraine Cordeiro and Alayne Ronnenberg gave a presentation entitled, “Collaboration with Higher Education Institutions” at the Western Massachusetts Hunger Summit on September 29, 2010 in Springfield, MA.

In November, 2010, Claire Norton presented, “Food is the Medicine You Need: Treating Adolescent Anorexia Nervosa” as part of Baystate Medical Center’s Pediatric Grand Rounds. Congratulations to Richard Wood, who was one of 38 faculty members awarded tenure in June, 2010, and to Alayne Ronnenberg and Young-Cheul Kim, who were promoted to Associate Professor and awarded tenure in June, 2011.

**AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS**

We are proud to recognize the many department members who received awards in the last year. Congratulations to Patsy Beffa Negrini, who received the first ever SPHHS Outstanding Online Teacher Award, and to Pat Bebo, who received the 2010 Ounce of Prevention Outstanding Contribution to Community Health and Equity Award. Alayne Ronnenberg was a nominee for the Center for Teaching’s 2010-2011 Distinguished Teaching Award, as were teaching assistants Jennifer Swick and Heather Morin.

Lorraine Cordeiro was named a Family Research Scholar by the Center for Research on Families (CRF) for the 2010-2011 academic year. Through the Family Research Scholars Program, the CRF supports faculty in developing proposals for external grant funding for family-related research. Dr. Cordeiro plans to assess associations between food security and diet among pregnant and postpartum Cambodian women living in Lowell and Lynn, Massachusetts.

Young-Cheul Kim was the recipient of the 2010-2011 Lilly Teaching Fellowship. The award program, established by the Center for Teaching, allows junior faculty to improve their teaching skills by participating in a collaborative assessment of their teaching, attending bi-weekly seminars, and working with a senior faculty mentor. Dr. Kim also received a career development grant in the amount of $12,500 from the Scientific Advisory Committee for The 2010 World Oriental Medicine Bio Expo.

continued
We are very excited to congratulate Nicole Guerin on becoming the first graduate of the online MPH in Nutrition program in May 2011. Nicole is a nutrition and wellness consultant in California, and resided there while she completed her MPH. This program has grown from 5 students when it began in September, 2008, to over 60 students in Fall, 2011.

Congratulations to the following winners of Department scholarships: Brianna Gray, Virginia A. Beal Graduate Scholarship; Molly Fellows, Jacqueline Joyner, and Allison Sciallis, Virginia A. Beal Undergraduate Scholarship; Valerie Willyard, Helen S. Mitchell Graduate Scholarship; and Christy Maxwell, Peter L. Pellett Graduate Scholarship. We also congratulate incoming doctoral student, Catherine Wickham, who is among the first group of students to receive the SPHHS Dean’s Doctoral Fellowship, and Joyce Faraj, who received a Northeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate assistantship.

Congratulations to undergraduate student Thony Tran, who is a recipient of the Massachusetts Dietetic Association’s (MDA) Outstanding Dietetic Student Award as well as 2011 scholarships from Big Y and the MDA. Congratulations, too, to masters student Brianna Gray, who was awarded the Janette Smith Memorial Scholarship from the American Dietetic Association Foundation. Kudos as well to doctoral candidate Nilofer Safdar, who was elected President of the Pakistan Nutrition and Dietetic Society for the 2011-13 term.

Essays written by junior nutrition majors Jacqueline Lacasse and Umber Shafiq will be included in The Student Writing Anthology 2011-2012, a required text in First Year Writing courses at UMass Amherst. Both students developed the essays in Reed Mangels’ Junior Year Writing in Nutrition course and were honored during the Celebration of Writing, which took place on May 4, 2011.
A number of graduate students in the Nutrition Department participated in the 2010 and 2011 UMass SPHHS Research Days, held in April each year. In 2010, posters included:

- Kim YO, Hong HD, and Kim Y-C. Differential Effects of Ginsenosides Rb1 and Rg3 on Adipogenic and Myogenic Differentiation.

Posters presented at the 2011 SPHHS Research Day are listed below. Congratulations to Jennifer Swick, who won the 2nd place award for her poster.

- Faraj JM, Christiani DC, Kile ML, Wood RJ, Ronnenberg AG. Iron status, Inflammation, and Anemia in Bangladeshi Women Exposed to Arsenic.

UMass dietetic interns attended the MDA Annual Spring Convention in Norwood, MA in March 2011 and the following interns presented posters:

- Allison Vanasse: Usefulness of Marketing in Introducing a Non-Traditional Food to School-Aged Children
- Daniel Camerota: Nutrition Promotion in College Environment—Literature Review
- Sarah LeBlanc: Effect of DASH Diet on Hypertension—Literature Review
- Sarah Brezinski: Reevaluating the Effectiveness of Soy Protein in Reducing Risk of Cardiovascular Disease
- Allison Lamma: Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy: An Effective Option for Bariatric Surgery
- Jamie Farrell: Cardiac Health Protection using Omega-3 FAs—Literature Search
- Alissa White: Food-Themed TV Advertising—Effect on Children’s Diets
- Ashley Durgin: Fish Oil and Perinatal Depression
CONFERENCES HOSTED

The 23rd Annual Virginia A. Beal Lecture and Dinner was held on April 5, 2011 at the UMass Amherst Student Union Building. The audience enjoyed discussions on sodium reduction by two speakers. The first talk, “Population-wide Sodium Reduction: The Bumpy Road from Evidence to Policy,” was given by Dr. Lawrence Appel of Johns Hopkins University. After dinner, Kathleen Foell, MS, RD, delivered the second talk, entitled, “Sodium Reduction: A Public Health Imperative.” About 60 students, faculty and alumni attended the very interesting event.

IN THE NEWS

Pat Bebo was a guest on the Calley Crossley Show on WGBH radio in March, 2010 and on the FRED-TV Fall River local cable access cooking show, “Look Who’s Cooking.”


A feature story about the SPIN (Strength and Power In Nutrition) program, developed by Drs. Carbone and Anliker, appeared in The Boston Globe on March 23, 2011. The title of the article was “Making better food choices—but fun comes first.”

Nancy Cohen provided several newspaper and magazine interviews over the year, including interviews with Whole Living Magazine, the Daily Hampshire Gazette, everydayhealth.com, Medill Reports, and Environmental Nutrition.

ALUMNI NEWS

Nutrition alumna Hillary Wright ’84, has written The PCOS Diet Plan: A Natural Approach to Health for Women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome. The book was released on November 9, 2010, by Ten Speed Press, a division of Random House. The PCOS Diet Plan delivers a nutrition-based approach that advocates diet and exercise to manage this lifelong disorder.

The School of Public Health and Health Sciences (SPHHS) hosted a day-long Homecoming Celebration in October, 2010. Professor emeritus Peter Pellett received an award for service to the SPHHS at the event. Later in the day, nutrition alumna Joan Buchbinder gave an inspiring talk to students addressing her journey from dietetic intern to nutritionist for the Celtics, Patriots, and other elite athletic teams and athletes.
ALUMNI NEWS

In November, 2010, the Department hosted an alumni reception at ADA’s FNCE conference in Boston. It was great to see so many area alumni as well as out of state alumni, current students, faculty, interns, and Extension staff at this popular event.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Nutrition faculty and staff published 25 peer-reviewed articles in professional journals between May 2010 and May 2011; they are listed below in order of most recently published.

Carbone ET, Zoellner J. Nutrition and health literacy: a systematic review to inform nutrition research and practice. [in press]


Olson RB, Carbone ET. Examining the exam: Implications for participants and policy makers of the food manager certification exam. Food Protection Trends. 2011 Feb;31(2):93-103.


Black MM, Arteaga SS, Sanders J, Hager ER, Anliker JA, Gittelsohn J, Wang Y. College Mentors: A view from the inside of an intervention to promote health behaviors and prevent


Bertone-Johnson ER, Chocano-Bedoya PO, Zagarins SE, Micka AE, Ronnenberg AG. Dietary
RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS


BOOKS AND EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

The Dietitian’s Guide to Vegetarian Diets: Issues and Applications, Third Edition was published by Jones and Bartlett Learning in 2011. The book, written by Nutrition Department Lecturer Reed Mangels, PhD, RD, FADA, along with coauthors Virginia and Mark Messina, highlights the trends and research on vegetarian diets and translates the information into practical ideas to assist dietitians and other health care providers in aiding their clients.

Nutrition faculty and students in the Online Masters of Public Health in Nutrition (MPHN) program developed a workbook to accompany the text, Community Nutrition in Action, by Marie Boyle, an instructor with the online MPH Nutrition program, and David Holben. The Community Nutrition Needs Assessment Workbook, coauthored by Patricia Beffa-Negrini, Director of the Online MPHN program, and MPH Nutrition students Nicole Guerin, Denine Stracker, and Amanda Sylvie, provides tools for developing and implementing a needs assessment of community nutrition issues and priorities. The workbook is published by Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010.

PEOPLE

In June, 2011, Dr. Jean Anliker retired as Professor and Program Leader of the Extension Nutrition Education Program (NEP), after serving in this position for over 10 years. We will miss her many talents, such as providing creative nutrition training sessions and developing innovative curricula and materials. She will be continuing part-time to assist NEP with program development in the upcoming year.

A postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Jeongsook Noh, joined Young-Cheul Kim’s lab in October 2010. Dr. Ok-Hwan Lee, a former postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Kim’s lab became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Food Science and Biotechnology at Kangwon National University, S. Korea.
GIFTS

We are very grateful for the many generous gifts directed to the Department of Nutrition this year. This support has enabled us to improve space for student work, upgrade student computers, provide funds for students to attend conferences, and offer scholarships, fellowships, and special programs.

Many thanks to the following individuals for their recent donations:

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