I am pleased to be back in the Department after a two-year hiatus serving as interim dean of the School of Public Health and Health Sciences and on sabbatical. Many thanks to Drs. Mokhtar Atallah and Elena Carbone for serving as interim heads during that period. Much has changed in the last two years: Our University has a new chancellor and provost, and our School has a new dean, with bold visions for future success of this institution. Departmental faculty and student numbers have both grown, allowing us to offer new courses and programs, in-person and online. New faculty members bring new expertise, and we have a growing and diverse body of laboratory and community research programs in progress. The listing below, while extensive, only partially captures the exciting achievements of our faculty, staff and students, and could not occur without the support of numerous donors, field preceptors, collaborators, and other contributors. Thank you all so much for your support.

The Department is continuing its rapid growth in undergraduate and graduate majors interested in pursuing a degree in Nutrition. As of fall 2009, 176 undergraduates had declared nutrition as their major, a 50% growth in only 4 years. The Department has 16 graduate students in its on-campus MS and PhD programs, including 7 doctoral students in the PhD in Public Health/Nutrition option. The MPH in Nutrition Online began in FY 2008 as the nation’s first fully-online part-time MPH in Nutrition degree program, offered through the Division of Continuing and Professional Education. As of January 2010, 33 MPH students are matriculated into this program, including dietitians, physicians, and nurses from throughout the US. Dr. Patsy Beffa-Negrini is serving as director for the program.
Several new faculty members joined the Department in 2009. In January, Dr. Richard Wood came to us as an Associate Professor after serving for 18 years as a Scientist I and Director of the Mineral Bioavailability Laboratory with the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center (HNRC) on Aging at Tufts University, and as an Associate Professor at the School of Nutrition at Tufts. Prior to joining the Tufts faculty and HNRC, Dr. Wood served as an Assistant Professor and Associate Director of the Clinical Nutrition Research Center at the University of Chicago. Dr. Wood’s research emphasizes the metabolism of vitamin D, calcium, and iron as they relate to bone health and chronic disease risk. His research examines factors that influence calcium absorption, including calcium-zinc interactions, vitamin K status, pH, vitamin D-dependent intestinal transport, and other molecular factors.

Two new lecturers also joined the faculty in 2009. Claire Norton, MS, RD, LDN began in September as the Didactic Program in Dietetics and Undergraduate Program Director. Claire has over 20 years of experience as a nutritionist for WIC, Baystate, the Elder Nutrition Program, and in private practice. Judy Dowd, MA, RD, LDN began in August as the Dietetic Internship Director. She has served for many years as a clinical dietitian at Baystate Medical Center, as the Bariatric Surgery program coordinator at Baystate, and in private practice specializing in weight management, eating disorders, wellness programs, and medical situations such as diabetes and heart disease. Both the undergraduate program and dietetic internship are accredited by the American Dietetic Association.

In September, Dr. Lorraine Cordeiro joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor, with research interests in international nutrition, adolescence, food security, and food/nutrition policy. Dr. Cordeiro received her MPH in International Health and Development from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and a Ph.D. in Food Policy and Applied Nutrition from Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. Her domestic research focuses on food security, health and mental health among adolescents and emerging adults in the Cambodian American community. Dr. Cordeiro’s international work includes research on food security, nutrition and behavior among adolescents in Tanzania.

Jerusha Peterman, PhD, RD, joined the Nutrition Department faculty in January 2010 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Peterman received her PhD from Tufts University in Food Policy and Applied Nutrition, and has served as a nutrition educator with the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association in Lowell and as Nutrition Education and Training Coordinator with the Utah State Department of Education. Her research focuses on dietary behaviors and nutrition knowledge in multicultural and refugee populations, including studies of food practices and beliefs among Cambodian refugee women in the Lowell area.

Through a new memorandum of understanding between the Nutrition Department and the Chungbuk Oriental Medicine Center in South Korea, researchers are now exploring Asian medicinal herbs as a tool for managing the global epidemic of Type II diabetes and obesity.
Through this agreement, Young-Cheul Kim, Assistant Professor, will study molecular-level biological function of certain medicinal herbs such as the vetch, Astragalus, also known as milk vetch or huang chi. Dr. Kim’s laboratory will use his well characterized fat cell differentiation model to test vetch and a number of phytochemicals for potential anti-obesity and anti-diabetes properties, first in *in vitro* cell culture, then in whole animals and finally in humans.

In October 2009, The UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). In FY 08, EFNEP enrolled 1,860 limited income families and 3,458 youth in nutrition education programs and workshops throughout the state, with 96% of graduates reporting positive changes to improve their diets.

The Department of Nutrition ranks #3 on campus in grant and contract expenditures per faculty member in FY 09. Department faculty expended over $2.5 million in grant and contract funding in FY09, with 16 funded projects ongoing. The following is a listing of grants and contracts awarded or active in 2009:

- Family Nutrition Program FY10 (Contract funded by USDA through Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance) USDA FNS. Sullivan-Werner L and Anliker JA (Co-PIs). 10/1/09-10/1/10.


RESEARCH UPDATE


• Dietary Flavonoid Quercetin Prevents Adipogenic Differentiation of Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells and Mouse Pre-adipocytes. Collaborative Biomedical Research Program. Kim Y-C (PI) at UMASS and Saby Sen (PI) at Baystate Medical Center. 9/1/2009-8/31/2010.


• Epidemiology and Transmission Dynamics of MDR/XDR Tuberculosis. National Institutes of Health. 1U19AI076217-01. Ronnenberg AG (PI) of UMass subcontract. Murray M (PI) at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. 9/1/07-8/31/12.

• Changing the Health Trajectory for Older Adults through Effective Diet and Activity Modifications. USDA CSREES NE- 1522 Regional Research Project. Cohen N (PI) of Massachusetts project. 2009-14.


OUT AND ABOUT:

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Jean Anliker and Elena Carbone traveled to Portugal in June, presenting two talks at the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity in Lisbon on their work investigating a marketing-based nutrition and physical activity intervention for adolescents. Srimathi Kannan was in Dublin, Ireland in August, presenting a poster at the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, entitled "Socio-Cultural Influences on Obesity and Inflammation among 2-Year Old Puerto-Rican Children at Risk for Asthma Development". She also traveled to India in January 2010, to present work on diet and
OUT AND ABOUT: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Physical activity patterns and diabetes risk in multicultural populations at the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) in Chennai. Young-Cheul Kim was in Korea in September as an invited speaker at the International Symposium on Oriental Fermented Medicine in Jecheon.

The nutrition faculty was well-represented at the American Public Health Association’s 137th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA in November. Lorraine Cordeiro presented, "A descriptive study of undernutrition, gender and sexual maturation among adolescents in Kilosa District, Tanzania". Nancy Cohen and Patsy Beffa-Negrini described the development of the online Masters of Public Health in Nutrition degree program in a poster session, and Srimathi Kannan was a co-author on an oral presentation addressing a culturally centered biomedically oriented community health promotion curriculum. Dr. Kannan was also an invited panelist in a workshop, “How to Publish in JNEB” at the Society for Nutrition Education (SNE) Annual Meeting in New Orleans in July. Nancy Cohen was a co-author on a presentation at SNE as well, entitled, “Whole grain foods: Older adults’ attitudes and behaviors.” New Orleans was also the site of the annual Experimental Biology (EB) conference in April, where Young-Cheul Kim was a co-author on presentations addressing the effect of quercetin and puerarin on adipocyte cells, along with student Jennifer Swick. Nancy Cohen represented the department at the annual Nutrition Department Heads meeting at EB. Jean Anliker also traveled to Louisiana in May, providing a workshop, “The 12 Steps of Grantwriting,” for Extension Nutrition staff and faculty at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Dr. Anliker was also in Connecticut in June as the keynote speaker for the 40th anniversary of EFNEP celebration at the University of Connecticut, and in Alaska for a project to facilitate healthy eating campaigns in remote villages. Alayne Ronnenberg was a co-author on numerous presentations in Europe and throughout the US in 2009, based on the UMass Vitamin D Status Study, which addresses vitamin D and B vitamins and premenstrual syndrome, as well as diet quality and bone mass in young women.

OUT AND ABOUT: REGIONAL AND LOCAL PRESENTATIONS

David Nyachuba provided four talks across the state for fruit and vegetable growers on Good Agricultural Practices and farm food safety in spring and summer 2009. He was also speaking at the Northeast Regional Annual Food Protection conference in Northampton in August. Lorraine Cordeiro, along with two UMass students Pete St. Claire and Michael Close, spoke in Springfield in January 2010, addressing underserved populations, racial disparities, food security and hunger. Alayne Ronnenberg was a member of a Global Health panel discussion for Amherst College’s Public Health Collaborative group in November 2009, speaking on her NIH-funded study on TB and vitamin D in Peru.

On campus, Elena Carbone and Jean Anliker were featured speakers at the all-Extension conference in June, and Srimathi Kannan spoke on Healthy Oils at a campus session with graduate student Shannon Seguin and UMass Dining Services dietitian Dianne Sutherland.
Congratulations to Jean Anliker on her promotion to full Professor in June 2009. Congratulations are also extended to Young-Cheul Kim, who received a Student Choice Award in May 2009. This award is given by the Residential First Year Experience Program for a significant impact on the college experience including inspiring students to learn and giving interesting and motivating lectures. Kudos to those who received 2008 awards as well: Alayne Ronnenberg, upon receiving the UMass School of Public Health & Health Sciences 2008 College Outstanding Teacher Award, and Postdoctoral Fellow Ok-Hwan Lee for winning the postdoctoral poster competition award on "Dietary Bioactive Components" at the 2008 Experimental Biology Meeting in San Diego, CA.

Department faculty and staff are involved in many professional activities off campus. In 2009, Jean Anliker served as an ad hoc member of a CDC Disease, Disability, and Injury Prevention and Control Special Emphasis Panel held in Atlanta, GA in January. Young-Cheul Kim was selected as a Scientific Advisory Committee Member for the 2010 World Oriental Medicine Bio Expo in Jecheon, Korea. Elena Carbone was selected as a panel member to review grants submitted to the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Program of Human Nutrition and Obesity, and as an invited member of the Practitioner Advisory Council for Evidence-Based Practice, sponsored by NIH and the Society for Behavioral Medicine. Srimathi Kannan served as an invited panelist for the GO Grant Biomedical Innovation Applications Review in Washington DC in July 2009 and for the Wellcome Trust Biomedical Scientific Grant Applications Review, Child Nutrition International Health Division. She also served as an invited reviewer for the Scientific Program of the 12th World Congress on Public Health, held in Istanbul, Turkey.

Many of us in the Department are active within our professional associations as well. Here are just a few of the activities this past year: Srimathi Kannan served on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior. Alayne Ronnenberg serves on the Editorial Board of Nutrition Reviews. Nancy Cohen served on several committees with the American Society for Nutrition (ASN), including the Position Paper Development and Public Information Committees, and as chair of the Nominating Committee for the Elvehejm and Journalism Awards. Richard Wood is also very active with ASN, serving on the Scientific Advisory and Scientific Program Committees, as chair of the Graduate and Professional Education Committee, and chair of the Osborne & Mendel Award Committee. Extension educator Andrea Gulezian serves on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Dietetic Association as Liaison to Areas and Dietetic Practice Groups.
STUDENT NEWS

The Nutrition Department continues to recruit underrepresented students to join the nutrition major as Health and Nutrition Diversity Scholars (HANDS). Through a USDA-funded grant, the department is able to provide $6000 scholarships for up to 5 nutrition majors. 2009 HANDS Scholars included Alan Chua, Paloma Suarez, Anna Kay Thompson, Tam Tran and Thony Tran.

Several undergraduate majors received $1000 research grants from Commonwealth College to fund their honors research. 2009 recipients included Jennifer Swick, studying the effects of dietary quercetin on fat cell differentiation (advisor Kim), Christine Foley and Alissa White for their work on the Project FruitZotic for Head Start preschoolers to try new fruits (advisor Kannan), and Molly Fellows for her research work with advisor Alayne Ronnenberg.

Congratulations to Christine Foley who was awarded the William F. Field Alumni Scholarship for outstanding academic achievement in May. Kudos, too, to the winners of the 2009 departmental scholarships: Michelle Gray and Stacey Nelson, Virginia A. Beal Undergraduate Scholarship; Katherine Lundy, Helen S. Mitchell Undergraduate Scholarship; Joycelyn Faraj, Virginia A. Beal Graduate Scholarship; and Ann Micka, Peter L. Pellett Graduate Scholarship. In addition, Lindsay Moyer, a new Masters of Science student, was awarded a Graduate Fellowship from UMass.

Many of our students participated in two campus research conferences in 2009: The School of Public Health and Health Sciences Research Day in April and the 15th annual UMASS Undergraduate Research Conference in May. Posters included:


- Addo A, Bertone-Johnson E, Zagarins SE, Ronnenberg AG. Are dietary intakes of calcium, vitamin D or dairy products associated with adiposity in young women?

STUDENT NEWS


- Swick J, Lee OH, O’Fallon K, Clarkson M, Kim Y-C. The anti-adipogenic effect of quercetin is associated with coordinated changes of antioxidant responses during differentiation of 3T3-L1 adipocytes.

- Swick, J, Lee OH, Kim Y-C. A flavonoid quercetin blocks fat cell development in 3T3-L1 adipocytes.

A hearty congratulations goes to doctoral student ShanShan Chen for her recent wedding to Zhi Yang, a graduate student at the University of Alabama, Huntsville. ShanShan and Zhi were wed in the Chenoweth Library with friends, fellow students, faculty and staff attending. It is the Nutrition department’s first in-house wedding!

CONFERENCES HOSTED

The 2009 Annual Beal Lecture and Dinner was held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, Northampton, MA. An audience of about 60 students and area professionals participated in the program, which included speaker Dr. Maureen Black, addressing “Hungry Mothers, Hungry Children” and Dr. John Cook, discussing “Food Insecurity in the U.S.”

In recognition of EFNEP’s 40th anniversary, the UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program planned a full-day training program, “Celebrating 40 years of Growing Healthy Together in Massachusetts in August. Numerous staff and administrators from throughout the state were there to celebrate.

IN THE NEWS

Research and activities from department faculty have been highlighted in local and national media outlets. Drs. Anliker and Carbone’s research, “Can Marketing Prevent Obesity?” was highlighted in the USDA Innovations Newsletter in September. Dr. Kim’s activities related to the new collaboration with the Chungbuk Oriental Medicine Center in South Korea was featured on the UMass and several science news websites, as was his research on how soy reduces diabetes risk. His studies were also the focus of two Frost & Sullivan research alerts, highlighted on www.frost.com. David Nyachuba provided several interviews related to food safety and local foods, including the Berkshire Eagle, Prevention Magazine, and the Boston Globe. Nancy Cohen was interviewed on diet and nutrition by several magazines, including the Ladies’ Home Journal and American Baby, as well as the website, www.everydayhealth.com. Dr. Kannan’s research on obesity and air pollution was covered widely in the press, appearing in more than 100 scientific and news media outlets.
Nutrition faculty published 18 peer-reviewed articles in professional journals in 2009, including the following publications.


continued
RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS


Several new nutrition and food safety curricula and materials were completed in 2009, including the following publications. The UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program also completed its new website this year, with additional materials and helpful food safety and nutrition information for diverse groups: www.umassextension.org/nutrition.


- Anliker J. Become a Food Explorer, a series of Monthly Fruit & Vegetable Posters for Middle and High School Students, with a corresponding parent handout, 2009.

- Anliker J. 220 Tips for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity, a calendar of daily tips for teachers, administrators, or physical education teachers to read to the students each day. UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program, 2009.


2009 was an active year for staffing changes in the Department. In addition to welcoming three new tenure-track faculty (Drs. Wood, Cordeiro and Peterman) and two new lecturers (Claire Norton and Judy Dowd), the department hosted a visiting scholar from Korea, Dr. Hee-Do Hong, and welcomed a postdoctoral fellow, Yong Ook Kim, who joined Dr. Kim’s lab group.

Faculty, staff and students also bid a fond farewell to several colleagues who retired this year, with almost 100 years of UMass experience combined. Dr. Mokhtar Atallah retired in January after serving 32 years as a nutrition faculty member and 36 years at UMass. In August, Bruce Krasin retired from his position as a departmental laboratory technician, serving 33 years. Patricia Culross, Extension Educator and Nutrition Program Leader of the Central Region office in Worcester retired in January 2010. Pat served the citizens of Worcester County for 29 years, providing nutrition education to low income families.

Two other staff members departed in summer 2009. Sara Sabelawski resigned from her position as Lecturer, Undergraduate Program Director and Didactic Program in Dietetics Director, and welcomed her third child Madeline Rose into her family in August. Nadine Braunstein, Director of the Dietetic Internship, moved to Maryland to begin a new position as Director of Allied Health at Towson University.

We wish them all the best!
We are once again grateful for the many generous gifts directed to the Department of Nutrition this year. This support has enabled us to continue 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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