Two new faculty members joined the Department in September, 2004. Dr. Alayne Ronnenberg is an Assistant Professor of Nutrition, with research interests in micronutrients and pregnancy outcome as well as other areas of women’s health. Dr. Ronnenberg received her MS in Clinical Nutrition from California State University in Chico and ScD in Reproductive Health from Harvard University. Sara Sabelawski, MEd, RD, LDN joined the faculty as a Lecturer and Undergraduate Program Director. Sara has served as a clinical and community nutrition practitioner for many years, with experience at Noble Hospital and the Veterans Administration, along with teaching experience at UMass Amherst and local community colleges. In addition, Judy Treu, MS, RD, joined the staff to help develop nutrition education programs for adult day health providers, through a grant funded by the Massachusetts Department of Education.

The Department welcomes additional members in September, 2005: Dr. Young-Cheul Kim joins the nutrition faculty as an Assistant Professor of Nutrition. Dr. Kim’s area of research is regulation of fat cells and metabolism in obesity and diabetes, as well as phytochemicals and gene expression. Dr. Kim was an Assistant Professor at Purdue University, and received his MS from Korea University and his PhD from the University of Tennessee.

Nadine Braunstein MS, RD, LDN, CDE, will be joining the Department as the new Director of the Dietetic Internship. She is replacing Rena Prendergast, who has served this role well for the past two years and will be missed. Nadine is a former President of the Massachusetts Dietetic Association who has over twenty years of dietetic experience in clinical nutrition, counseling, and diabetes and cardiovascular education.
With over $2.4 million of annual grant/contract expenditures, the Department of Nutrition is the leading department on campus in grant/contract expenditures per faculty member - over $600,000 per faculty in 2004. Our faculty and staff were principal or co-investigators in several new grants and contracts awarded in the past year, including the following:


**Brennan Olson R** and **Cohen N**. “Nutrition and Food Safety Education for Staff and Caregivers of ADH Programs.” Mass. Department of Education, $134,333. 6/30/05-3/30/06.

**Carbone E** and **Brennan Olson R**. (UMass subcontract) “Food Safety Education for High School and Transitional Special Needs Students.” USDA-CSREES NFSI Grant, $590,439 (total) $96,826 (subcontract). 7/1/05-6/30/08.

**Cohen N** and **Laus MJ**. “Improving Fruit, Vegetable, and Whole Grain Availability and Intake in Older Adults. USDA NE 1023 Regional Research Project, 10/1/04-9/30/09.

**Ronnemberg AG**. “Maternal Nutritional Status and Pregnancy Outcome in Minority Women.” UMass-Amherst Faculty Research Grant, $29,995. 4/05-3/06.

**Sabelawski S**. “Enhancing Student Learning of Clinical Nutrition by Incorporating Multimedia.” UMass-Amherst Faculty Teaching Grant, $500. 9/1/05-8/30/06.

**Sullivan-Werner L** and **Anliker J** (Co-PIs). “Family Nutrition Program.” USDA FNS, $2,437,093. 10/1/04-9/30/05.

Jean Anliker and Elena Carbone were in Puerto Rico in October, presenting several papers at the First Annual Conference on Working with Latinos/Hispanics in the USA. Topics included, Perceived Barriers and Facilitators in Diabetes Self-Management by Latino Patients and Their Providers; Information Processing Styles Among Low-Literate Hispanic Adults with Type II Diabetes; and CHOICES: Steps Toward Health - A Dialogue-based Nutrition Education Curriculum For Low-Income Latinos in Massachusetts. Research results and the curriculum from the CHOICES project were also presented at the 2004 Society for Nutrition Education conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the EFNEP national conference in Washington, DC. **Lynne Thompson** presented “Thinking Like a Designer” at the Bea Marks Communication Symposium at the 2004 Society for Nutrition Education conference.
Elena Carbone was in Boston in April, discussing, “Diabetes Self-Management Practices: Focus Group Findings from Puerto Rican Patients and Their Providers” at the Society of Behavioral Medicine’s 26th Annual Meeting.

Alayne Ronnenberg was in San Diego in April, presenting “Preconception B-Vitamin and Homocysteine Status and Subclinical Early Pregnancy Loss” at the annual Experimental Biology Meeting. Dr. Anliker’s research on nutrition interventions with American Indians was also shared at that time.

Drs. Anliker and Carbone also shared preliminary findings from their new $800,000 USDA grant, “Tween POWER,” on youth's food and beverage purchase decisions, with presentations at the Children, Youth and Family (CFYAR) conference in Boston in May, and Society for Nutrition Education conference in Orlando in July, as well as at the First Annual Investigators Meeting for the National Research Initiative Section on Human Nutrition and Obesity in Orlando, FL. Lynne Thompson and Rita Brennan Olson were also at the CFYAR conference, presenting, "Food Safety Concepts Transformed - Uniting Print & Web Design Principles."

Rita Brennan Olson shared preliminary results from a USDA-funded study with Elena Carbone on reaching low literate learners taking the food manager certification exam at the National Environmental Health Association Conference in Providence, RI, in June. Also at that meeting were Nancy Cohen and student Christine Slavkovsky who joined Rita to present results from a Massachusetts survey of refrigerator thermometer use, and Patsy Beffa-Negrini, who shared work with Rita Brennan Olson, Nancy Cohen, and Mary Jane Laus on food safety education for secondary teachers.

The Department hosted an information booth at the Fall Massachusetts Dietetic Association conference in November, where we met dozens of alumni from our undergraduate, graduate, and dietetic internship programs. Nancy Cohen conducted two roundtable discussions on omega-3 fatty acids and health with dietitians at this conference. Jean Anliker was in Boston in November, presenting, “UMass Nutrition Education Programs” to the Massachusetts Nutrition Board.

In January, Rita Brennan Olson was at the Growing Minds Through Massachusetts Agriculture Conference for Massachusetts elementary and secondary teachers, presenting a talk on "FAT TOM, Food Safety and Other Lessons from the Life Cycle of Bacteria."

Dr. Carbone was in Portland, Maine, in May as one of thirty people participating in the week-long Health Literacy Summer Institute.
Nancy Cohen and Mary Jane Laus shared updates of their research on nutrition education with older adults at the annual Northeast Regional Technical meeting for the USDA NE1023 project in Durham, NH in June.

Also in June, Rita Brennan Olson presented “How to Approach HACCP - What We Know Now,” at the MA Department of Education School Nutrition Professionals Conference in Marlborough, MA. In August, Rita gave a talk at the Northeast Regional Food Protection Seminar in Concord, NH, entitled, "Use of Refrigerator Thermometers by Pregnant Women, Elders, and Limited-Income Families."

Closer to home, Alayne Ronnenberg gave a talk on “Nutrition and Menopause” to the UMass Amherst Women’s Network in February, and Elena Carbone spoke at the Medical Grand Rounds at the Veteran’s Administration in Northampton in June. Jean Anliker presented a class to the STEP Program in Holyoke entitled, “Play it Smart in the Market Place,” in March.

Congratulations to Mokhtar Atallah, who was selected as a University TEACHnology fellow for 2004-5. Through this fellowship, Dr. Atallah explored online discussions and personal response technology to enhance learning in the large-lecture introductory course, Nutrition 130, which reaches approximately 1,500 students each year.

Elena Carbone was selected as one of six faculty members in the Five-College area to participate in the 2005-2006 Puerto Rico Studies Faculty/Community Seminar.

Kudos to Andrea Gulezian, Extension Educator in Brockton, who on behalf of the UMass Extension Family Nutrition Program in Brockton and the Brockton Public Schools, was awarded the 2005 Jeanne M Priester Award for county multi/county programs for the collaboration in the Family Health Nights, an evening nutrition education program for elementary school families. The Priester award recognizes outstanding programming in health; recipients were selected to receive the award at the April 2005 National Priester Extension Health Conference in Lexington, Kentucky.

Congratulations to Pat Bebo, Extension Educator in Fall River, who represented the Fall River NEP office in receiving a recognition award from the Healthy City Fall River Initiative for their work in the Fall River Public Schools, teaching second grade students in ten schools how to "Pick a Better Snack." The Fall River Nutrition Education Program was also recognized in cooperation with other community members to establish a model Farmers Market program in New Bedford.

The UMass Extension Family Nutrition Program was nominated for the Northeast Extension Director’s Award for Excellence in December.
Jean Anliker was elected chair of the Communications Division for the Society for Nutrition Education (2004-2005), and Andrea Gulezian, was elected to the Nominating Committee for the Massachusetts Dietetic Association.

John Cunningham, Deputy Provost and Professor of Nutrition, was appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the American College of Nutrition. Mary Jane Laus was appointed Managing Editor.

Rita Brennan Olson was one of only 19 national food safety educators invited to participate in the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's advisory committee meeting for the ServSafe Instructor Certification Program. Rita was also appointed to the steering committee for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Food Safety and Security Coalition.

Shibani Ghosh, PhD '04 and Peter Pellett, Professor Emeritus, received the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) Best Scientific Article Award for their paper, “Growth status of children in north west Syria: A comparison of three rural livelihood groups,” published in the Ecology of Food and Nutrition.

Alice O'Connor, Clinical Preceptor at Baystate Medical Center for the UMass Dietetic Internship, received the American Dietetic Association Educators Award at the annual Dietetic Educators meeting in Portsmouth, NH in April.

Several new publications were produced by the UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program (NEP) in 2004-5, including:


ONLINE EDUCATION

The Department has a new virtual home for its Online Nutrition Education for Professionals programs: www.UMassONE.net. Thanks to the design work of Lynne Thompson along with Extension web designers Andy Slocombe and Beth Armour, this site brings together the credit and noncredit courses for dietitians, teachers, and health professionals in one easy-to-navigate site. New online courses include:

- Basics in Exercise and Nutrition for Health and Human Performance
- Current Topics in Fats and Health
- Fitting Fats into a Healthy Lifestyle
- Food Safety FIRST
- Nutrition for a Healthy Lifestyle
- Nutrition in the Science Classroom
- Omega-3 Fatty Acids Cyberseminar
- Weight Management

Courses are credit and noncredit; some are available at no charge. Check the UMassONE website for further information.

CONFERENCES HOSTED

In December, the Department hosted a live conference, Omega-3 Fatty Acids - Remedies, Risks, and Recommendations, which was used for developing the online Cyberseminar of the same name. Over 100 dietitians, teachers, and students attended the event, which included speakers Elena Carbone and Nancy Cohen from Nutrition and Dr. Eric Decker from the Department of Food Science.

In April, Rena Prendergast, Jean Anliker, and Elena Carbone hosted approximately 100 dietetic interns from throughout Massachusetts in the first UMass Dietetic Internship seminar day. Other speakers included Alayne Ronnenberg, Rita Brennan Olson, Lisa Sullivan Werner, Mokhtar Atallah, and Nancy Cohen from Nutrition, along with Dr. Frank Mangan from the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

Also in April, the popular Virginia A. Beal Lecture and Dinner was held, with the focus on Metabolic Syndrome. Featured speakers were Dr. Frank Vinicor from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Dr. Ira Ockene from UMass Worcester.

STUDENT NEWS

In 2004-2005, UMass Nutrition Association (UMNA), under the direction of Elena Carbone and Sara Sabelawski, had its most active year ever. UMNA students developed and conducted nutrition booths at a Homecoming Weekend Health Fair in the fall and Diabetes Awareness Day in the spring, gave talks on campus and coordinated food drives for the Food Bank, produced monthly newsletters for all majors, and developing the first UMNA website linked to the Department website, www.umass.edu/sphhs/nutrition.
The UMass Medical Center in Worcester has become a new clinical rotation site for the 2005 Dietetic Internship, enabling the Internship to accept eight interns this year.

Sung-Eun Choi joined the Department as a post-doctoral researcher. She will be working with Jean Anliker on the project, “The Relationship of Taste Perception to Food Preferences, Dietary Intakes, and Risks of Obesity Among Massachusetts Hispanics and Asians.”

Graduate student Robin Cook and undergraduate Jeffrey Sautter were each awarded National American Dietetic Association Foundation scholarships, and Jessica Maillet received a scholarship from the Massachusetts Dietetic Association.

Congratulations, too, to this year’s Virginia A. Beal scholarship winners Robin Cook, Christine Slavkovsky and Elissa Kluiko, Helen Mitchell scholarship winners Kristin Lefebvre and Mary Bacon, and the Peter L. Pellett scholarship winner, Jai Ghanekar.

Kristin Lefebvre also won second place at the SPHHS 8th annual Research Day for her poster, “Evaluation of the Relevance and Cultural Appropriateness of the UMass Extension FNP After-School Nutrition Classes for Hispanic Children Aged 6-13 in Holyoke, MA.”

Jeanne Baranek, Extension Educator in Lawrence, MA, reports that undergraduates Sarissa Markowitz, Jessica Millard, and Nina Rocca were Winter Session interns working the Lawrence NEP office. The office also had four UMass nutrition majors as summer interns - Sheri Doucette, Katelynn Enis, Jessica Maillet, and Nina Rocca. Working with the FNP Nutrition Educators, they helped teach nutrition in schools, farmers markets, and summer feeding sites.

Professors Anliker and Carbone received a great deal of media attention last fall for their new $800,000 award from USDA for “TWEEN POWER,” a nutrition intervention for overweight children. They appeared on the local ABC affiliate Channel 40 news and WFCR radio, and were the focus of articles in the Springfield Republican, Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Greenfield Recorder, and Yankee Magazine.

An interview with Rita Brennan Olson appeared in the Boston Globe in December, covering nutrition and food safety of pork products.

Professors Anliker and Cohen were also interviewed by the Daily Hampshire Gazette for an article on the New Dietary Guidelines when they were released in February, 2005. This was also the subject of an interview by Dr. Cohen with a food editor from a W. Palm Beach, FL newspaper. Juices were the topic of a Men's Fitness interview by Nancy Cohen in June.

UMass Nutrition students working in the Lawrence NEP office were featured in the June 7, 2005 "The Daily Item" Lynn newspaper front page for their work in nutrition education with Farmers Markets and Lawrence Parks and summer feeding sites.
**PAPERS PUBLISHED:**


We are grateful for the many generous gifts directed to the Nutrition Department this year. This support has enabled us to begin renovating the Chenoweth Library to improve student work and study space, provide funds for students to attend conferences, and offer scholarships and special programs.

Through the generosity of Professor Virginia Beal, our students have a new opportunity. The Virginia A. Beal Fellowship was established in 2004 to provide a semester of support for a doctoral student in nutrition. The new PhD in Public Health - Nutrition Option began accepting its first students in 2005, and we are so grateful for Professor Beal’s support of current and future nutrition students.

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