



## In This Issue:

NUSC Faculty Secure Major Grants

Page 2

Graduate Students Completed

Page 3

New Graduate Students

Page 3

Grants and Awards

Page 4

Alumni News

Page 5

New Faces at NUSC

Page 6

Recent Publications

Page 6

Outreach Programs

Page 8

Faculty Spotlight

Page 12

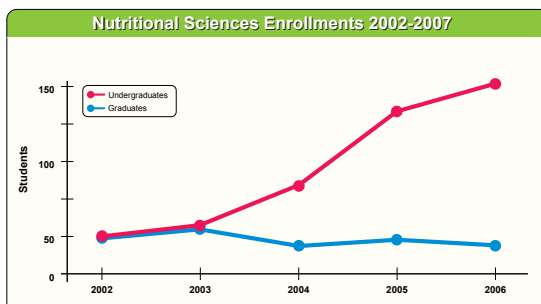
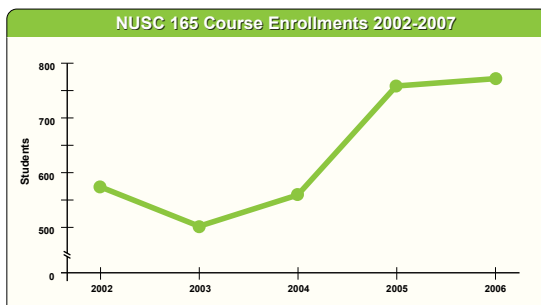
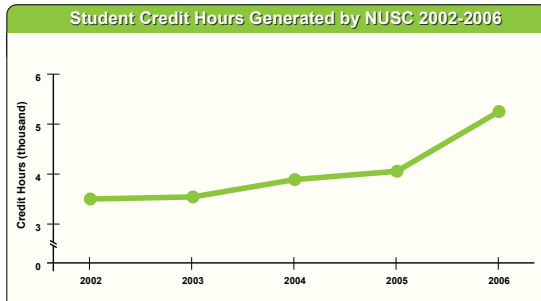
## From the desk of Sung I. Koo, Professor and Head, Department of Nutritional Sciences



Greetings! colleagues, alumni, and friends.

It has been two years since we last sent out our news letter, What's Happening. I am delighted to share many exciting accomplishments and developments in the Department.

As you will see in this issue, the Department's scholarly productivity continues to rise in all of its instructional, research, and outreach programs, as assessed by publications, grants, lectures, media presentations, professional and public service, and leadership roles of faculty in professional organizations. Our current undergraduate enrollment has risen to 153, which is record high, representing a 260% increase over that of 2002-03. Along with the marked increase in NUSC majors, there have been drastic increases in class enrollments including NUSC 165 and student credit hours generated by faculty. During the 2005-06 year, our graduate programs enrolled a total of 49 students (14 M.S. and 35 Ph.D.) and 5 M.S. and 7 Ph.D. degrees were conferred. The continued success of the graduate program is attributable to faculty's scholarly productivity and commitment to research and graduate education and the high quality of students.



Teaching programs within the Department continue to evolve to address the rising enrollment and student demand, and to develop new curricula and innovative teaching methods. The Department offers two undergraduate tracks, Dietetics and Nutritional Sciences (<http://www.canr.uconn.edu/nusci/ugprog.html>). At the same time, faculty is making significant efforts to enhance student-centered learning and critical thinking skills and to foster experiential learning by involving students in outreach and community programs. Faculty has been very successful in securing extramural funding to develop innovative teaching methods, support research, and to develop and administer outreach/extension programs. The 2005-06 income from extramural funding secured by faculty was record high with the total annualized income of over \$4.0 million. This exceeded the 2004-05 record by \$1.7 million. The increase was due partly to the two major grants from NIH for the Center for Eliminating Health Disparities among Latinos (Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, PI) and NSF for the Science and Technology Reaching Out to New Generations in Connecticut (STRONG CT) (Hedley Freake, PI), which have been highlighted in this issue. In the same year, faculty published 58 full-length articles in

Continued on page 2, From Department Head

## From the Department Head

refereed journals and presented 56 papers at national and international conferences. Faculty served as members of editorial boards and organizers of national conferences, and on state, regional, and federal committees and panels, which reflects well our faculty's scholarly reputation.

The Department continues to provide outstanding outreach programming and supports a broad range of research-based outreach programs reaching infants, toddlers, children, youth, and senior citizens, and those with limited resources in the State and beyond, as supported by USDA, NIH, and state agencies. One important aspect of the Department's outreach/extension programs is that the programs are well integrated with teaching and research. The outreach and extension programs involve both undergraduate and graduate students with community participants and have not only served the people well, but also led to the publication of excellent research-based articles in refereed journals.

Lastly, there have been some changes in our faculty. Dr. Rich Bruno joined us in August 2005, as featured under Faculty Spotlight in this issue. Dr. Christine Greene joined us in the fall 2006 as assistant professor in residence and teaches NUSC 160, 165, and 166. Dr. Donna Chapman has been appointed as assistant professor in residence to work with CEHDL and teach NUSC 200. Dr. Carol Lammi-Keefe retired from UConn in August 2006, and accepted a position of Professor and Head, Division of Human Nutrition & Food, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. We wish her well in her new position.

Thank you for your support, hard work, and commitment to excellence in fulfilling all areas of our mission.

Wish you all happy holidays!

---

## NUSC Faculty Secure Major Grants

### **The Connecticut Center of Excellence for Eliminating Health Disparities among Latinos**



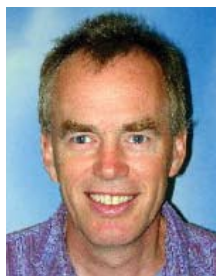
The NIH Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities has awarded Dr. Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, from the University of Connecticut Department of Nutritional Sciences, an \$8.25 million five-year grant to establish and direct The Connecticut Center of Excellence for Eliminating

Health Disparities among Latinos (CEHDL). The Center is structured as a consortium led by The University of Connecticut in close partnership with The Hispanic Health Council (Co-PI: Grace Damio), and Hartford Hospital (Co-PI Laurine Bow). CEHDL will have four cores and will oversee a type 2 diabetes randomized community trial. The Administrative Core will be based at UConn's Department of Nutritional Sciences with the goal of providing overall coordination and direction to CEHDL. The Center director will be advised by an internal and an external advisory board and will work in strong partnership with CEHDL's steering committee, deputy director, and assistant

director. The Research Core will be responsible for promoting scientific exchanges in the area of health disparities through a seminar series, an annual conference, interactive workshops, and an annual mini-grant competition. The Research Education & Training Core will concentrate on the recruitment, retention, and formation of underrepresented minorities in the area of health disparities. This will be achieved through high school recruitment, undergraduate and graduate curriculum development, cross-cultural community field experiences, summer stipends, and research assistantships. The Community Connections Core will be based at The Hispanic Health Council and will be responsible for developing and testing innovative training, applied research, and outreach partnerships with minority communities. In addition to the four cores, CEHDL will also conduct a randomized community longitudinal trial at Hartford Hospital examining the impact of home based peer counseling on disease management and health outcomes among inner-city Latinas with type 2 diabetes (n=208). In addition to its scientific contribution toward reducing health disparities, this study will serve as a prime mechanism for CEHDL's training and outreach activities.

*Continued on page 3, STRONG-CT*

## STRONG-CT: Science and Technology Reaching Out to New Generations in Connecticut



The National Science Foundation has recently funded a dynamic collaboration between the University of Connecticut and three neighboring community colleges, Manchester Community College (MCC), Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) and Three Rivers

Community College (TRCC) ---The Science and Technology Reaching Out to A New Generation in Connecticut STRONG-CT alliance. The new initiative, funded at 1.53 million dollars over five years, aims to increase enrollment, retention and graduation of first generation and historically underrepresented student populations in life science disciplines.

First generation students, many of whom are African American and Latino/a, often choose to go to community college as the primary way of accessing higher education. This proposal aims to enhance the number of first generation and historically underrepresented students taking science courses at these community colleges, and then encourage their transfer to complete bachelor's degrees in the life sciences at UConn. This will expand the historically limited access of these students to higher education opportunities and help diversify the student body at UConn.

Pooling resources across institutions, STRONG-CT will offer an academic development and leadership program focusing on: (1) rigorous individual and group academic support for the core science and math courses, (2) mentoring relationships in the sciences through undergraduate research opportunity initiatives, (3) leadership and identity enhancement activities to overcome stereotypes and self-esteem challenges, and (4) overall development of the professional identity of being a scientist through mentoring, research, and internships experiences. The program will be guided by a leadership team of Co-PI's (Hedley Freake and Damon Williams (UConn), Eleanor Weseloh (MCC), Melissa Phillon (QVCC) and Diba Khan-Bureau (TRCC)) and an executive oversight committee of senior officers drawn from all four schools and around the state.

## New Graduate Students

Al-Sarraj, Taif	PhD	Fernandez
Calle, Mariana	MS	Fernandez
Checchio, Tina	PhD	Clark
Dessalines, Michael	MS	Perez-Escamilla
Dugan, Christine	PhD	Bruno
Gaffney, Erin	PhD	Freake
Liang, Claudia	MS	Davis
Moura, Jose Oyama	PhD	Fernandez
Putnik, Predrag	PhD	Pérez-Escamilla
Ratliff, Joseph	MS	Fernandez
Sankavaram, Kavitha	PhD	Freake
Smith, Molly	PhD	Pérez-Escamilla
Soopan, Ranganaden	MS	Freake
Wei, Stephanie	MS	Ferris
Wetzel, Katherine	MS	Pérez-Escamilla
Yeung, Steven	MS	Bruno

## Graduate Students Completed

### Master's Defenses

Anju Balakrishnan	Dec. 2006
Nora Decher	Dec. 2006
Katie Jeffrey	May 2006
Elizabeth McArthur	Aug. 2006
Lisa Zola	Aug. 2006

### PhD Prospectus Defenses

Sudeep Shrestha	Feb. 2006
Amrita Dutta	Feb. 2006
Melissa Keplinger	Feb. 2006
Amber Courville	Mar. 2006
Gisella Mutungi	July 2006
Suzie Goodell	Sept. 2006
Moises Torres Gonzales	Sept. 2006

### PhD Dissertation Defenses

Dimple Aggarwal	May 2006
Charlotte DeMare	May 2006
Courtney Gaine	Aug. 2005
Christine Greene	May 2006
Michelle Judge	May 2006
HyeWon Kang	Aug. 2006
Richard Wood	May 2006

## Grants Awarded

### Richard Bruno

- Large Faculty Grant Program, Dietary g-Tocopherol In the Prevention of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis, 05/2005 - 06/2006, \$24,000
- UConn Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF), Green Tea Extract In The Prevention of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease, Summer 2006, \$3,500; Undergraduate Awardee: Dana DiNatale

### Maria Luz Fernandez

- A soluble fiber and plant sterol-containing cookie for lowering cholesterol: A randomized, double blind, placebo-controlled study, 05/2005 - 04/2006, \$63,000
- Raisin effects on biomarkers of coronary heart disease in elderly men and women, 04/2006 - 03/2007, \$74,565
- Potential of eggs in enhancing the cardioprotective effects of carbohydrate restricted diets in weight loss interventions, 07/2006 - 12/2007, \$112,862

### Ann Ferris

- USDA/CTDSS Food Stamp Nutrition Education grant, has received pre-award coding (6 months) pending receipt of final MOA from CTDSS, 10/06-9/07 \$781,266
  - Food Stamp Connections: Ann Ferris PI, Susan Beeman, Michelle Pierce, CO-PI's \$259,964
  - Food Stamp Administration: Susan Beeman PI, \$87,752
  - 4H Summer Nutrition Education: Umekia Taylor, PI, \$37,205
  - Hispanic Health Council, Rafael Perez-Escamilla, PI, \$332,778
  - Food Security, Linda Drake, PI, \$63,567

### Hedley Freake

- NSF-STEP, STRONG-CT, Science and Technology, Reaching Out to New Generations in Connecticut. 10/2005 - 9/30/10, \$1,999,905; CO-PIs: Damon Williams, Eleanor Weseloh, Diba Khan-Bureau and Melissa Pillion.

### Sung Koo

- NIH National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Hypocholesterolemic action of green tea extracts; 04/2004 - 03/2006

### Mary McGrane

- USDA National Research Initiative Competitive Grant, Vitamin A Regulation of Gene Expression in Liver: From a Single Gene to a Multi-Gene Profile, 09/01/03 - 08/31/07

### Rafael Pérez-Escamilla

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Breastfeeding Education and Support trial for Obese Women: Early Dyad Dynamics, 09/2006 - 09/2009, \$99,872 (direct: \$62,072, indirect: \$37,800)
- Breastfeeding Education and Support Trial for Obese Women (BESTOW) Donaghue Foundation, 01/2006 - 01/2009, \$239,695

- Latino Health Disparities NIH EXPORT Center NIH-NCMHD 10/2005 - 09/2010, \$8.2 million

### Nancy Rodriguez

- National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Role of beef-based diet in modulating skeletal muscle protein turnover and intracellular signaling events during acute calorie deprivation, 2006 - 2008, \$60,000
- Donaghue Nutrition Research Competition, Leucine as a bioactive nutrient: A pilot study, 2006 - 2007, \$32,000
- National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Mechanisms for regulation of skeletal muscle protein metabolism, 2005 - 2007, \$149,946

### Ellen Shanley & Colleen Thompson

- USDA - Innovative food safety education for low literacy food service employees using enhanced and interactive distance education 10/06 - 09/09 \$530,117
- UConn Dental School funded by the Connecticut Health Foundation titled A Pilot Study to Promote Maternal and Infant Oral Health; Shanley & Thompson's portion is \$60,000

## Awards

### Richard Bruno

- Alumnus In the Spotlight, Department of Human Nutrition, The Ohio State University, 2005

### Steven Davis

- Dannon Nutrition Leadership Institute Award, 2005

### Maria Luz Fernandez

- UCANRRA Teaching Award, 2005-2006
- Provost Award in Research, 2006

### Hedley Freake

- UConn Vice-Provost for Multicultural and International Affairs Diversity Award, Spring 2006.

### Rafael Pérez-Escamilla

- UConn Outreach Vice Provost Outstanding Engaged Scholar Award, 2006
- UConn Provost Diversity Award, Storrs, Spring 2006
- UConn "million dollar club" Research & Graduate School Vice-Provost grantsmanship recognition, 2005
- UConn's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Excellence in Research Award, 2004

### Nancy Rodriguez

- University of Connecticut Teaching Fellow, 2005
- American Dietetics Outstanding Dietetics Educator Award, Didactic Program in Dietetics Category, 2004
- Nominated for University of Connecticut Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award, 2005 & 2003


## Alumni News

- **Bridget Aidam**, PhD 2004 is currently Chief Nutritionist with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Silver Spring, MD. Her job entails lots of overseas travel. She has recently been working with the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health and The Role of Soy in ADRA Ghana's USAID Funded Integrated Food Security Project and presented at the WISHH Food Aid Conference and Workshop February 16, 2006 in Ghana.
  - **Jigna Dharod**, PhD 2005 is Research Associate II: PUBLIC HEALTH at the University of Southern Maine Muskie School of Public Service Institute for Public Sector Innovation in Augusta, ME. She works for the Maine Physical Activity and Nutrition program, funded by CDC and the Maine Nutrition Network, Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program funded by USDA.
  - **Nurgül Fitzgerald**, PhD (2004), RD is Assistant Extension Specialist in Health Promotion and Behavior at Rutgers' Family & Consumer Science Department in New Brunswick, NJ. Nurgül launched a needs assessment study about the knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and barriers toward achieving healthy lifestyles. The project involves Rutgers students in various phases of the study.
  - **Lauren A. Haldeman**, PhD 2001 is Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her research is focused on healthy eating among food insecure Latino/Hispanic families as well as disparities in health care. Her husband Tony Weaver is completing his PhD this fall in Higher Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at UNCG.
  - **Kristin Herron** got married to Mickey on August 19 in Park City, Utah. The wedding was beautiful and so was the bride. She continues being a Senior Scientist at Kraft Foods in Chicago.
  - **HyeWon Kang** is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, Boston, MA.
  - **Alex Kojo Anderson**, PhD, MPH 2005 is now an Asst Prof in the Department of Food and Nutrition at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. He is PI for the Infant Feeding & Body Composition Research Lab. He is currently working on a study focusing on the effects of infant feeding on body composition of infants and their mothers. The study will research both mothers who are breastfeeding and those who are formula feeding. Alex and his wife Mildred spent time visiting with their families in Ghana this summer.
  - **Ingrid Lofgren** was offered and accepted a tenure-track faculty position at University of Rhode Island. She got a very good start-up packet!!
  - **Stefania Paciello**, MS 2003 is Corporate Manager of Quality Assurance of Celebration Foods/Ice Cream Corp. in Rocky Hill, CT. Stefania manages all co-packers, vendors, customers (i.e. COSTCO, Walmart, etc.), FDA, Public Health Department, and Military audits assuring that Carvel's facilities adhere to the necessary QA standards.
- She also works with outside labs with the microbiological analyses. She also has supervisory responsibilities with the manufacturing facilities located in CA, MD and MA.
- **Tripu Ramjiganesh** had a second daughter at the beginning of August.
  - **Kelly Scribner** has a position as an Endocrinology Research Fellow at the Harvard Children's Hospital, Boston, MA.
  - **Dong-Ju Shin** is a Postdoctoral Scholar with Tim Osborne, Professor and Chairman, Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at the University of California, Irvine.
  - **Sonia Vega-Lopez** joined the Hispanic Council on September 1. She is the coordinator for the Diabetics Peer Counsel Intervention. She is now living in West Hartford.
  - **Kristy West** has moved to NC and is now a medical writer for PPD, Inc. a leading global contract research organization providing discovery development.


## In Other News

- Connie Cantor has moved to the Center for Public Health and Health Policy and serves as Publicity and Marketing Manager at the Center. Her 15-years' valuable contribution to the Department is gratefully acknowledged by faculty, staff and graduate students. Her current address: Connie Cox Cantor ([Ccantor@uchc.edu](mailto:Ccantor@uchc.edu)), Publicity/Marketing Manager, Center for Public Health and Health Policy, 99 Ash Street, 2nd Floor, MC 7160, East Hartford, CT 06108; 860-282-8538; fax: 860-282-8505.
- Donna Chapman, Ph.D., R.D. recently accepted the position of Associate Editor for the Journal of Human Lactation.
- Camilla Crossgrove is currently in the process of having her position audited for upgrade from Secretary I to Secretary II, with the eventual goal of upgrading to Administrative Assistant within 12-18 months.
- Judie Baker has joined the staff as Clerk Typist in the main office after the resignation of Julie MacDonald to accept a position at the Connecticut Small Business Development Center (Vernon Office). Judie comes to the Department from Parking Services. We welcome her to the Department.
- Ellen Shanley has been elected to the position of Speaker-elect of the American Dietetic Association (ADA). ADA is a 65,000 member association and is the nation's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. She began this position June 1, 2006 and will become Speaker June 1, 2007. In addition she serves as a member of the Executive Committee on the Board of Directors.

## New Faces at NUSC

-  **Cheryl Brown** is the UConn Coordinator for the STRONG-CT, Science and Technology Reaching Out to New Generations in Connecticut Program, described on page 3 of this newsletter. She comes to UConn with a strong background in advising and student support and is now providing these services to the UConn STRONG-CT students. In addition, she is responsible for student recruitment, coordination with the participating community colleges and overall grant management.

-  **Christine M Greene**, PhD, is currently working within the department as an Assistant Professor in Residence. She is teaching one section of NUSC 165 and the only section of NUSC 166. In the Spring semester, she will add the team taught NUSC 160 to her responsibilities.

-  **Kevin Noonan**, BFA, is a Graphic Artist with CEHDL & NUSC. Some of his responsibilities include development and maintenance of websites, production of brochures, posters, fact sheets, and seminar announcements as well as other needs of the project and the department.

-  **Sheila Taylor**, BA, is Program Assistant with CEHDL, working with Rafael Perez-Escamilla and Lisa Phillips in all aspects of administrating the Center's activities including scheduling of meetings and seminars, assisting with conference planning, ordering supplies, as well as coordination of the High School Summer Research Apprenticeship Program (HSSRAP).

## Recent Publications

### Book Chapters

- **RS Bruno**. (2006). Vitamin E: Antioxidant benefit of alpha and gamma tocopherols? In: *Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods*, 2nd Edition (Wildman REC, ed.). New York, NY: Taylor & Francis Group.
- **RS Bruno**, REC Wildman, SJ Schwartz. (2006). Lycopene: Source, properties and nutraceutical potential. In: *Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods*, 2nd Edition (Wildman REC, ed.). New York, NY: Taylor & Francis Group.
- RJ Sokol, **RS Bruno**, MG Traber. (2005). Vitamin E and vitamin K metabolism. In: *Physiology Of The Gastrointestinal Tract*, 4th Edition (Johnson LR, ed.). San Diego, CA: Elsevier.
- **Fernandez ML** & Wood R. 2006. Guinea pigs as models for human cholesterol and lipoprotein metabolism. Source book for models for Biomedical Research (in press).
- **Fernandez ML** & Vergara-Jimenez M. 2005. Associations between Carbohydrate Intake and Risk for Coronary Heart Disease, Insulin Resistance and the Metabolic Syndrome. In "Focus on Dietary Carbohydrate Research". Nova Science Publishers, Inc. Chapter 3.
- Mackey AD, **Davis SR**, Gregory JF. Vitamin B6. In: Shils ME, Shike M, Ross AC, Caballero B, Weinsier RL, Cousins RJ eds. *Modern Nutrition in Health and Disease*. 10th ed. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 2005: Chapter 26; 452-461.
- **Freake HC**. Iodine. In: *Biochemical, Physiological and Molecular Aspects of Human Nutrition*. 2nd edition. Stipanuk M, ed. Saunders Elsevier, St Louis, MO, pp 1068-1090. 2006.
- Berdanier, Carolyn and **Freake, Hedley** Nutrient Gene Interactions, Health Implications. In: *Encyclopedia of Human Nutrition*, 2nd edition. Editors Benjamin Caballero, Lindsay Allen and Andrew Prentice. Elsevier, 2005.
- Berdanier, Carolyn and **Freake, Hedley** Nutrient Gene Interactions, Molecular Aspects. In: *Encyclopedia of Human Nutrition*, 2nd edition. Editors Benjamin Caballero, Lindsay Allen and Andrew Prentice. Elsevier, 2005.

### Articles Submitted

- **RS Bruno**, Y Song, SW Leonard, DJ Mustacich, AW Taylor, MG Traber, E Ho. (2006). Dietary Zinc Restriction In Rats Alters Antioxidant Status And Increases Plasma F2-Isoprostanes. *J Nutr Biochem*; in press.
- K Nesaretnam, TH Koon, KR Selvaduray, **RS Bruno**, E Ho. (2006). Modulation of cell growth and apoptosis response in human prostate cancer cells supplemented with tocotrienols. *J Lipid Res*; submitted.

### Articles Published

- Wood R, **Fernandez ML**, Sharman MJ, Silvestre R, Greene CM, Zern TL, Shrestha S, Judelson DA, Gomez AL, Kramer W & Volek JS. 2006. Effects of a carbohydrate restricted diet with and without supplemental soluble fiber on plasma LDL-cholesterol and other clinical markers of cardiovascular risk (in press).
- Anderson AK, Damio G, Chapman DJ, **Pérez-Escamilla R.**

- Differential Response to an Exclusive Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Intervention: The role of Ethnicity. *J Hum Lact* (in press)
- Maria de Fátima Archanjo Sampaio, Anne W. Kepple, Ana Maria Segall-Corrêa, Julieta T. A. de Oliveira, Giseli Panigassi, Lucia Kurdian Maranhã, Letícia Marin-Leon, Sônia M. P. Bergamasco, **Perez Escamilla R.** (2006) Segurança Alimentar em populações rurais do Estado de São Paulo: grupos focais com assentados, agricultores familiares tradicionais, trabalhadores assalariados e quilombolas. *Rev Segur Alim Nutr* (in press)
  - Poehlitz PM, Pierce MB, and **Ferris, AM.** Delivering nutrition education in a service-learning course. Accepted by *J Nutr Edu Behav.* (in press)
  - Greene CM & Fernandez ML. 2006 The role of nutrition in the prevention of cardiovascular disease in women APJCN (in press)
  - **RS Bruno** and MG Traber. (2006). Oxidative stress, vitamin E and cigarette smoking. *Pathophysiology*; 13(3):143-9; Epub, Jun 28 2006. (Invited Review).
  - Anderson AK, Damio G, **Chapman, DJ, Pérez-Escamilla R.** Differential response to an exclusive breastfeeding peer counseling intervention: The role of ethnicity. *J Hum Lact* (in press).
  - Koo, S.I. and Noh, S.K. Green tea as inhibitor of the intestinal absorption of lipids: Potential mechanism for its lipid-lowering effect. *J. Nutr. Biochem.* (in press), 2006.
  - McGrane MM. Vitamin A regulation of gene expression: molecular mechanism of a prototype gene. *J Nutr Biochem* 2006, (In press.)
  - **RS Bruno**, SW Leonard, S-I Park, Y Zhao, MG Traber. (2006). Human vitamin E requirements assessed with the use of apples fortified with deuterium-labeled -tocopheryl acetate. *Am J Clin Nutr*; 83: 299-304.
  - **RS Bruno**, SW Leonard, R Ramakrishnan, J Atkinson, TJ Montine, TM Bray, MG Traber. (2005). Vitamin C supplementation prevents faster vitamin E disappearance in smokers. *Free Radic Biol Med*; 40(4):689-97; Epub Nov 15 2005.
  - AW Taylor, **RS Bruno**, B Frei, MG Traber. (2006) Benefits of prolonged gradient separation for HPLC-MS-MS quantitation of plasma 15-Series F2-isoprostanes. *Anal Biochem*, 350(1): 41-51, Jan 13; [Epub ahead of print].
  - JD Sowell, HM Conway, **RS Bruno**, MG Traber, B Frei, JF Stevens. (2005). Ascorbylated 4-hydroxy-2-nonenal as a potential biomarker of oxidative stress response. *J Chromatogr B Analyt Technol Biomed Life Sci*; 827(1):139-45; E-pub, Jul 14 2005.
  - **Chapman, DJ.** Does maternal diet contribute to colic among breastfed infants? *J Hum Lact.* 2006; 22:236-7.
  - **Chapman, DJ.** Randomized trial evaluating a unique lactation consultant intervention. *J Hum Lact.* 2006; 22:362-3.
  - **Chapman, DJ.** Is pacifier use protective against sudden infant death syndrome? *J Hum Lact* 2006; 22:129-30.
  - Wood RJ, Volek, **Davis SR**, Dell'Ova C, **Fernandez ML.** 2006. Carbohydrate restriction favorably affects plasma markers for cardiovascular disease. *Nutr & Met* 3:19.
  - Rúaño G, Windemuth A, Kocherla M, Holford T, **Fernandez ML**, Forsythe CE, Wood RJ, Kraemer WJ, Volek JS 2006. Physiogenomic analysis of weight loss induced by dietary carbohydrate restriction. *Nutr & Met* 3:20
  - **Fernandez ML**, Volek JS. 2006. Guinea pigs: A Suitable Animal Model to study Lipoprotein Metabolism, Atherosclerosis and Inflammation. *Nutr. Metab.* 3:17
  - Herron KL, **McGrane MM**, Lofgren IE, Waters D, **Clark RM**, Ordovas JM & **Fernandez ML.** 2006. ABCG5 polymorphism contributes to the individual response to dietary cholesterol and to carotenoids present in eggs. *J. Nutr.* 136: 1161-1165.
  - Aggarwal D, **Fernandez ML** & Soliman GA. 2006. Rapamycin, an mTOR inhibitor disrupts triglyceride metabolism in guinea pigs. *Met. Clin. Exp.* 55:794-802.
  - **Fernandez ML**, Wood R & Volek JS. 2006. Carbohydrate restricted diets alter the size, distribution and concentration of lipoprotein subclasses in men following a weight reduction program. <http://www.athero.org/commentaries/>
  - Torres-Gonzalez M, Volek JS, Sharman M, Contois JH & **Fernandez ML.** 2006. Dietary carbohydrate and cholesterol influence the number of particles and distributions of lipoprotein subfractions in guinea pigs. *J. Nutr. Biochem.* (published ahead of print).
  - Greene CM, Waters D, **Clark RM**, Contois JH & **Fernandez ML.** 2006 Plasma LDL and HDL characteristics and carotenoid content are positively influenced by egg consumption in an elderly population. *Nutr. Met* 3:6
  - **Clark RM**, Herron KL, Waters D & **Fernandez ML.** 2006. Hypo- and hyper-response to egg cholesterol predicts lutein and beta-carotene plasma concentrations in men and women. *J. Nutr.* 136:601-607.
  - Wood RJ, Volek JS, Liu Y, Shachter NS, Contois JH & **Fernandez ML.** 2005. Carbohydrate restriction alters lipoprotein metabolism by modifying VLDL, LDL and HDL subfraction distribution and size in overweight men. *J. Nutr.* 136:384-389.
  - Shrestha S, Volek JS, Udani J, Wood R, Greene C, Aggarwal D, Contois JH, Kavoussi B & **Fernandez ML.** 2006. a combination therapy including psyllium and plant sterol lowers LDL cholesterol by modifying lipoprotein metabolism in hypercholesterolemic individuals. *J. Nutr.* 136: 2492-2497
  - Herron KL, Lofgren IE, Adiconis X, Ordovas JM & **Fernandez ML.** 2006. Associations between plasma lipid parameters and APOC3 and APOA4 genotypes in a healthy population are independent of dietary cholesterol intake. *Atherosclerosis*: 184:113-120.
  - Aggarwal D, West KL, Zern TL, Shrestha S, Vergara-Jimenez M & **Fernandez ML.** 2005. JTT-130, a microsomal transfer protein inhibitor lowers plasma triglycerides and LDL cholesterol concentrations without increasing hepatic triglycerides in the guinea pig. *BMC Card. Dis.* 5:30
  - Lofgren IE, Herron KL, West KL, Zern TL, Brownhill R, Ilich-Ernst J, **Koo SI** & **Fernandez ML.** 2005. A weight loss program favorably modifies anthropometrics and reverses the metabolic syndrome and insulin resistance in premenopausal women. *Am J. Coll. Nutr.* 24:486-493.
  - **Fernandez ML.** 2005. Dietary cholesterol provided by eggs and plasma lipoproteins in healthy populations. *Curr. Op. Med Nutr. Met Care* 9:8-12.
  - Herron KL, **McGrane MM**, Lofgren IE, Waters D, **Clark RM**, Ordovas JM & **Fernandez ML.** 2006. ABCG5 polymorphism

*Continued on page 8, Publications*

## Publications

- contributes to the individual response to dietary cholesterol and to carotenoids present in eggs. *JNUTR* 136: 1161-1165
- Greene CM, Zern TL, Wood R, Shrestha S, Aggarwal D, Sharman M, Volek JS & **Fernandez ML**. 2005. Maintenance of the LDL cholesterol: HDL cholesterol ration in an elderly population given a dietary cholesterol challenge. *J. Nutr.* 135: 2793-2798.
  - Zern TL & **Fernandez ML**. 2005. Cardioprotective effects of dietary polyphenols 2005. *J. Nutr.* 135:2291-2294
  - West KL, **McGrane MM**, Odon D, Kelley BL & **Fernandez ML**. 2005 SC-435, an ileal apical sodium-codependent bile acid transporter (ASBT) inhibitor alters mRNA levels and enzyme activities of selected genes involved in hepatic cholesterol and lipoprotein metabolism in guinea pigs. *J. Nutr. Biochem* 16:722-728.
  - **Fernandez ML** & West KL. 2005. Mechanisms by which dietary fatty acids modulate plasma Lipids *J. Nutr.* 135: 2075-2078.
  - Zern TL, Wood R, Greene CM, West KL, Liu Y, Aggarwal D, Shachter NS & **Fernandez ML**. 2005. Grape polyphenols lower plasma lipids and apolipoproteins associated with increased risk for cardiovascular disease in pre and post-menopausal women. *J. Nutr.* 135:1911-1947.
  - Lofgren IE, Zern TL, Herron KL, West KL, Sharman M, Volek JS Shachter NS, **Koo SI** & **Fernandez ML**. 2005. Weight loss reduces the atherogenicity of LDL in premenopausal women. *Metabolism Clin. Exp* 54:1133-1141.
  - **Fernandez ML** & Vega-Lopez S. 2005. Efficacy and safety of  $\beta$ -sitosterol in the management of blood cholesterol levels. *Cardiovasc. Res.* 23:73-86.
  - Lofgren IE, Herron KL, West KL, Zern TL, Patalay M, **Koo SI** & **Fernandez ML**. 2005. Carbohydrate intake is correlated with biomarkers for coronary heart disease in a population of overweight premenopausal women. *J. Nutr. Biochem.* 16:245-250.
  - Ballesteros MN, Cabrera RM, Saucedo MS, Aggarwal D, Shachter NS & **Fernandez ML**. 2005. Identification of risk factors for chronic disease in a population of children from Northern Mexico
  - Wang, S., Noh, S.K. and **Koo, S.I.** Epigallocatechin gallate and caffeine differentially inhibit the intestinal absorption of cholesterol and fat in ovariectomized rats. *J. Nutr.* 136: 2791-2796, 2006.
  - Wang, S., Noh, S.K. and **Koo, S.I.** Green tea catechins inhibit pancreatic phospholipase A2 and intestinal absorption of lipids in ovariectomized rats. *J. Nutr. Biochem.* 17: 492-498, 2006.
  - Zou, W., Noh, S.K., Owen, K.Q. and **Koo, S.I.** Dietary L-carnitine enhances the lymphatic absorption of fat and  $\alpha$ -tocopherol in ovariectomized rats. *J. Nutr.* 135: 753-756, 2005.
  - Patalay, M., Lofgren, I.E., Freake, H., **Koo, S.I.** and **Fernandez, M-L**. The lowering of plasma lipids following a weight reduction program is related to increased expression of the LDL receptor and lipoprotein lipase. *J. Nutr.* 135: 735-739, 2005.
  - Lofgren, I., Herron, K., West, K., Zern, T., Patalay, M., **Koo, S.I.** and **Fernandez, M-L**. Relationships of carbohydrate intake and coronary disease biomarkers in a population of overweight premenopausal women. *J. Nutr. Biochem.* 16: 245-250, 2005.
  - Himmelgreen DA, **Perez-Escamilla R**, Bretnall A, Peng YK, Bermudez A. Birth Place, Length of Time in the U.S., and Language are Associated with Diet among Inner-City Puerto Rican Women. *Ecol Food Nutr* 2005;44:105-122
  - Ferrari Audi, C. A., Corrêa, A.M.S., Latorre, M.R.D.O., **Pérez-Escamilla, R**. Factors associated with infant feeding practices on the first day at home after hospital discharge. *Revista de Saúde Pública (Brazil)*, 2005;39:406-412
  - Aidam B, **Pérez-Escamilla R**, Lartey A, Aidam J. Factors associated with exclusive breastfeeding in Accra, Ghana. *European J Clin Nutr* 2005;59:789-796
  - Aidam B, **Pérez-Escamilla R**, Lartey A. Lactation counseling has an impact on exclusive breastfeeding in Ghana. *J Nutr* 2005;135:1691-1695
  - Anderson, AK, Damio G, Young S, Chapman DJ, **Perez-Escamilla R**. A Randomized Trial Assessing the Efficacy of Peer Counseling on Exclusive Breastfeeding in a Predominantly Latina Low-income Community. *Arch Ped Adol Med* 2005;159:836-41
  - Marín-León L, Segall-Corrêa AM, Panigassi G, Maranhã LK, Sampaio MFA, **Pérez-Escamilla R**. A percepção de insegurança alimentar em famílias com idosos em Campinas (Food insecurity perception in families with elderly in Campinas). *Cadernos Saúde Pública (Brazil)* 2005;21:1433-1440
  - Hromi-Fiedler AJ, **Pérez-Escamilla R**. Unintended pregnancies are associated with less likelihood of prolonged breastfeeding: An analysis of eighteen Demographic and Health Surveys. *Public Health Nutrition* 2006;9:306-12
  - Fitzgerald N, Himmelgreen D, Damio G, Segura-Pérez S, Peng Y-K, **Pérez-Escamilla R**. Acculturation, socioeconomic status, obesity, and lifestyle factors among low-income Puerto Rican women in Connecticut, 1998-1999. *Panam J Pub Hlth* 2006;19:306-13
  - Lima CP, **Davis SR**, Mackey AD, Scheer JB, Williamson J, Gregory JF (2006) Vitamin B-6 deficiency suppresses the hepatic transsulfuration pathway but increases glutathione concentration in rats fed AIN-76A or AIN-93G diets. *J. Nutr.* 136(8):2147-2136.
  - Wood RJ, Volek JS, **Davis SR**, Dell'Ova C, **Fernandez M-L** (2006) Effects of a carbohydrate-restricted diet on emerging plasma markers for cardiovascular disease. *Nutrition & Metabolism.* 3:19. Available online at <http://www.nutritionandmetabolism.com/content/3/1/19>.
  - **Davis SR**, Quinlivan EP, Stacpoole PW, Gregory JF (2006) Plasma glutathione and cystathionine concentrations are elevated but cysteine flux is unchanged by dietary vitamin B-6 restriction in young men and women. *J. Nutr.* 136:373-378.
  - Quinlivan EP, **Davis SR**, Shelnut KP, Henderson GN, Ghandour H, Shane B, Selhub J, Bailey LB, Stacpoole PW, Gregory JF (2005) Methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase 677C>T polymorphism and folate status affect one-carbon incorporation into human DNA deoxynucleotides. *J Nutr.* 135(3):389-96.
  - **Davis SR**, Quinlivan EP, Shelnut KP, Ghandour H, Capdevila A, Coats BS, Wagner C, Selhub J, Bailey LB, Stacpoole PW, Gregory JF (2005) Homocysteine synthesis is elevated but total remethylation is unchanged by the methylenetetrahydrofolate

*Continued on page 10, Publications*

## Outreach Programs Updates

Rafael Pérez-Escamilla is the recipient of the first “Outstanding Engaged Scholar Award” ever awarded by the University of Connecticut. This award, established by the Office of the Vice Provost for University Outreach recognizes Dr. Pérez-Escamilla’s outstanding contributions in building community nutrition and public health research and outreach capacity in Connecticut, Latin America and West Africa. In May, Dr. Pérez-Escamilla was a guest of the government of Brazil at the press conference announcing the release by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) of the national household food insecurity data collected from 120,000 households. This event was the culmination of three years of work of adaptation, validation and application of the USDA Household Food Security Module in Brazil. Drs. Pérez-Escamilla and Ana Maria Segall-Correa, from the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), have been the leaders in this project since its inception in the spring of 2003. The Connecticut Center of Excellence for Eliminating Health Disparities among Latinos ([www.cehdl.uconn.edu](http://www.cehdl.uconn.edu)), directed by Dr. Pérez-Escamilla, organized the conference “Type 2 Diabetes and Health Disparities in Connecticut: From Research to Action” on June 30 at UConn. Dr. Ana Lourdes Gómez was the conference chair. This conference brought together faculty, students, health care providers, community groups and state agencies to improve the state’s ability to deal with this epidemic. Dr. Pérez-Escamilla was invited to deliver the keynote address “Public Nutrition Research in Latin America” at the Human Nutrition International Colloquium organized by the University of Antioquia and The Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Nutrición (CIAN), Medellín, Colombia, August 10-11. 2006 marks the eighth anniversary of our partnership with the Department of Nutrition and Food Science at the University of Ghana-Legon under the leadership of Drs. Anna Larrey and Pérez-Escamilla. This summer four of Dr. Pérez-Escamilla’s students worked on projects in Ghana. Ghanaian graduate students Gloria Otoo and Mawunyo Timpo, and undergraduate honors student Kristine Folkerts conducted research projects. Doctoral student Amber Hromi-Fiedler visited refugee camps in Ghana with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. She will use this experience to enrich the “Nutrition during Humanitarian Emergencies” online course that she is teaching. All four students also participated in the Africa Nutrition

Epidemiology Conference, University of Ghana–Legon, August 15-18. Rafael Pérez-Escamilla attended the NCI/NIH Cancer Health Disparities Summit and the NIH EXPORT Centers directors meeting, Bethesda, Maryland, July 17-18.

Linda Drake, State EFNEP Director, is Chair of the CT Food Policy Council. In May, the CFPC sponsored a conference, Home Plate – Putting Local Food on the Menu, to increase the use of local food in institutions. Over 100 chefs, school and institutional food service staff, farmers, dietitians, government and industry representatives, food distributors and educators attended and enjoyed presentations including the keynote by John Turenne, formerly executive chef at Yale University, and Senator Don Williams, a leader in supporting legislation for increasing agricultural viability as well as healthy food options in schools. The luncheon featuring local foods was a bit hit, as were the tours of the UCONN Dairy Bar and the Agro-Husky Eco Garden.

In June, the CFPC hosted representatives from northeastern state legislatures as they learned about food policy councils and how they can help address issues and concerns in the food system. Participants went on several tours of preserved farmland, dairy farms – including “The Farmers’ Cow” Connecticut milk, Mansfield public schools to see farm-to-school programs in action, and Hartford’s downtown farmers’ market that helps improve access to local foods in the inner city.

Drake has been busy on several national committees including the EFNEP Task Force and the Obesity and Public Policy Education committee of CSREES/USDA. She presented a poster, “Community Food Security in Connecticut – a town-by-town evaluation,” at the Society for Nutrition Education annual conference in San Francisco in July, 2006. The publication is available at the website of the CT Food Policy Council: [www.foodpc.state.ct.us](http://www.foodpc.state.ct.us) – click on “publications” at the bottom of the home page. This document has sparked interest in several communities to do something to improve food security in their towns.

*Continued on page 11, Outreach*

## Publications

- reductase 677C>T polymorphism and by dietary folate restriction in young women. *J Nutr.* 135(5):1045-1050.
- **Davis SR**, Quinlivan EP, Shelnut KP, Maneval DR, Ghandour H, Capdevila A, Coats BS, Wagner C, Selhub J, Bailey LB, Stacpoole PW, Gregory JF (2005) Effects of the MTHFR 677C>T polymorphism on plasma one carbon metabolites and red blood cell folate concentration and distribution in women after dietary folate restriction. *J Nutr.* 135(5):1040-1045.
  - **E.L. Shanley**, MBA, RD, CD-N; K. Jeffrey, BS; **N.R. Rodriguez**, PhD, RD; C.A. Thompson, MS, RD; Assessing the Effectiveness of a Self-Directed Food Safety Education Program for Secondary School-Aged Students. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association.* 2006;106(8); A-52.
  - **E.L. Shanley**, MBA, RD, CD-N1; C.A. Thompson, MS, RD1, S. S. Fiore, MS, RD2; Vending in Schools: Addressing Concerns about the Obesity Epidemic. *Culinary Arts and Sciences V: Global and National Perspectives: ICCAS 05.* Worshipful Company of Cooks Research Centre: Poole, England. June 2005. (146-155)
  - Aggarwal D, **Freake HC**, Soliman GA, Dutta A, **Fernandez ML**. Validation of using gene expression in mononuclear cells as a marker for hepatic cholesterol metabolism. *Lipids Health Dis.* 15:22, 2006.
  - Kim YJ, Lee MS, Lee HJ, Wu Y, **Freake HC**, Chun HS, Kim Y. Hormones and nutrients regulate acetyl-CoA carboxylase promoter I in rat primary hepatocytes. *J Nutr Sci Vitaminol* 51,124-128, 2005.
  - Patalay M, Lofgren IE, **Freake HC**, **Koo SI** and **Fernandez ML**. The lowering of plasma lipids following a weight reduction program is related to increased expression of the LDL receptor and lipoprotein lipase. *J Nutr*135, 735-739, 2005.
  - Lim NC, **Freake HC** and Bruckner C. Illuminating zinc in biological systems. *Chem Eur J* 11, 38-49, 2005.
  - Lim NC, Schuster JV, Porto MC, Tanundra MA, Yao L, **Freake HC** and Bruckner C. Coumarin-based chemosensors for zinc(II): toward the determination of the design algorithm for CHEF-type and ratiometric probes. *Inorg Chem* 44, 2018-2030, 2005.
  - **Freake Hedley** Zinc. Berdanier, Catherine and Freake, Hedley Nutrient Gene Interactions, Molecular Aspects. Berdanier, Catherine and Freake, Hedley Nutrient Gene Interactions, Health Implications. All in: *Encyclopedia of Human Nutrition*, 2nd edition. Editors Benjamin Caballero, Lindsay Allen and Andrew Prentice. Elsevier, 2005.
  - Zeisel SH, **Freake HC**, Bauman DE, Bier DM, Burrin DG, German JB, Klein S, Marquis GS, Milner JA, Pelto GH, Rasmussen KM. The nutritional phenotype in the age of metabolomics. *J Nutr.* 135, 1613-6, 2005.
  - Lim NC, Schuster JV, Porto MC, Tanundra MA, Yao L, **Freake HC** and Bruckner C. Coumarin-based chemosensors for zinc(II): toward the determination of the design algorithm for CHEF-type and ratiometric probes. *Inorg Chem* 44, 2018-2030, 2005.
  - Lim NC, **Freake HC** and Bruckner C. Illuminating zinc in biological systems. *Chem Eur J* 11, 38-49, 2005.
  - Scribner KB, Odom DP and **McGrane MM**. Nuclear receptor binding to the retinoic acid response elements of the phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase gene in vivo. *J Nutr Biochem* 2006; May 17 [Epub ahead of print].
  - Herron K, **McGrane MM**, Odom DP, **Clark RM Fernandez ML**. ABCG5 polymorphism contributes to the individual response to dietary cholesterol and to carotenoids present in eggs. *J. Nutr* 2006; 136:1161-5.
  - West KL, **McGrane MM**, Odom D, Keller B, **Fernandez ML**. SC-435, an ileal apical sodium-codependent bile acid transporter inhibitor alters mRNA levels and enzyme activities of selected genes involved in hepatic cholesterol and lipoprotein metabolism in guinea pigs. *J Nutr Biochem.* 2005 Dec;16(12):722-8. Epub 2005 Aug 9.
  - Scribner KB, Odom DP, **McGrane MM**. Vitamin A status in the mouse affects the histone code of the phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase gene in liver. *J. Nutr.* 2005; 127:1274-8.
  - Crowell R, **Ferris A**, Wood RJ, Joyce P, Slivka H. (2006) Comparative effectiveness of zinc protoporphyrin and hemoglobin concentration in identifying iron-deficiency in a group of low-income preschoolers: The practical implications of recent illness. *Pediatrics.* 118:224-232.
  - Pierce, MB, Crowell, RE, **Ferris, AM** (2006) Differing perspectives of inner city parents and pediatric clinicians impact management of iron-deficiency anemia. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior.* 38:169-176.
  - Weinstein, J. **A.M. Ferris**, V. Phillips, and M. Arsenault. (2006) A Universal Product Code Scanner is a Feasible Method of Measuring Household Food Inventory and Food Usage Patterns in Low Income Families. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association.* 106:443-5.
  - Crowell, RE, Pierce, MB, **Ferris, AM**, Slivka, H, Joyce, P, Bernstein B, Russell-Curtis, S. (2005) Managing anemia in low-income toddlers: barriers, challenges and context in primary care. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved.* 16 (4) 791-807.
  - **Ferris, A. M.** and G. Marquis. (2005). Bioethics in scientific research: conflicts between subject's equitable access to participate in research and current regulations. *J. Nutr.* 135(4): 916-7.
  - Pierce MB, Crowell RE, **Ferris AM**. (2006) Differing perspectives of inner city parents and pediatric clinicians impact management of iron-deficiency anemia. *J Nutr Edu Behav.* 38:169-76.

## Presentations

- Chapman DJ, **Pérez-Escamilla R**. Wide variation in breastfeeding practices among Latina subgroups. Poster presentation at International Society for Research on Human Milk and Lactation. Sept, 2006, Niagra-on-the Lake, Canada
- Beeman SJ, Pierce MB, Furbish S, **Ferris AM**. (2006) Mass mailings to food stamp recipients: less bang for the buck. 39th Ann Soc Nutr Edu, San Francisco, CA.
- **Beeman SJ**, (2006) Panel: Different Levels of Audits: State, FNS Regional, EFNEP/FSNE Regional conference, Wilmington, Delaware,

## Conference Proceedings

- **RS Bruno**, Y Song, SW Leonard, AW Taylor, MG Traber, E Ho. (2006). The role of dietary zinc restriction on antioxidant status and oxidative stress. *Federation of American Societies*

for Experimental Biology; San Francisco, CA. FASEB J ; 20: Abstract 404.10.

- **RS Bruno**, SW Leonard, S-I Park, Y Zhao, MG Traber. (2005). Vitamin E Bioavailability Following A Novel Technique of Vacuum Impregnation of Apples. Diet and Optimum Health; Portland, OR.
- AW Taylor, **RS Bruno**, MG Traber, B Frei. (2005). LC-MS Quantitation of F2-isoprostanes: Is slower better? American Society for Mass Spectrometry; San Antonio, TX.
- Pierce MB, Sawyer V, **Ferris AM**. (2006) Black, overweight, preadolescent girls from inner-city, low-resource families desire a smaller body size to improve peer interactions and physical abilities. J Am Diet Assoc 106(Suppl 2): A40.
- Goodell LS, Pierce MB, Bravo CM, **Ferris AM**. (2006) Parental perceptions of preschool overweight: a qualitative examination. FASEB J. (Abstr. 7078).

## Outreach Programs

FSNE received approval of the Food Stamp Nutrition Education grant for Fiscal Year 2007 on September 28, 2006. Ann Ferris is overall Principal Investigator and there are 5 individual UConn projects, each with their own Principal Investigator, target audience, goals, objectives and program plan.

4H Summer Nutrition trains older youth to teach nutrition to younger children participating in summer nutrition programs in New Haven during the summer months. Preparation is beginning for next summer's program.

This semester we have 51 students in the Husky service-learning programs. As service providers, the students have the opportunity to engage with persons from many different backgrounds. We, and our community collaborators, greatly appreciate their commitment throughout the semester.

For the second semester, Husky Nutrition is funded by USDA's Higher Education Challenge Grant to teach a service-learning class in the prevention of childhood overweight to build participating students leadership skills and cultural competence.

Sue Beeman and Linda Drake attended the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic EFNEP/FSNE Conference in Wilmington, DE on November 8-10. Despite the contents of our door prize being stolen, and Linda's crab cakes being spoiled, they had a mahvelous time.

## Dr. Robert Gordon Jensen Memorial Symposium

Dr. Robert Gordon Jensen passed away on July 9<sup>th</sup> 2006. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, a memorial symposium was held in his honor to remember his life and his legacy.

In April 1956, Dr. Robert Gordon Jensen and his family came to Storrs when he accepted an assistant professorship in Dairy Manufacturing in the Department of Animal Industries at the University of Connecticut.

Fourteen years later in July 1970, he played an important role in the creation of the Department of Nutritional Sciences, which he ultimately joined. As a member of this new department, Dr. Jensen was instrumental in obtaining funds to build a Lipid Lab.

When Dr. Jensen retired in January of 1991, he had served as the major advisor of thirty graduate students. Twenty one received MS and nine PhD degrees. All received financial support. He considered these students to be his most important legacy. He took great pride in their academic and professional accomplishments. Likewise, these students have not forgotten the guidance, inspiration and dedication Dr. Jensen shared with them. To honor Dr. Jensen, his career and his life, three of these students made presentations as part of the symposium.

Dr. Robert Pitas, M.S. University of Connecticut 1974, is the Senior Investigator at the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) as well as a Professor of Pathology at UCSF.

Dr. Roger Newton, M.S University of Connecticut 1974, is the Senior Vice President of Pfizer Global Research and Development and Director, Esperion Therapeutics, a Division of Pfizer Global Research and Development.

Dr. Tom Brenna, B.S University of Connecticut 1980, is a Professor in the Division of Nutritional Sciences and a member of the Graduate Fields of Chemistry and Chemical Biology and of Geological Sciences at Cornell.

## Faculty Spotlight

Although he's no longer a new face in the department, Richard S. Bruno, Ph.D., R.D. joined the faculty in Fall 2005 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Bruno earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Delaware. Subsequently, he earned his doctorate from The Ohio State University under the guidance of Dr. Tammy Bray. During this period, he also completed a dietetic internship to become a registered dietitian.

Dr. Bruno's doctoral work was entitled *The Role Of Oxidative Stress And Vitamin C On Vitamin E Utilization In Humans*. By conducting a series of studies in humans, he determined that vitamin E metabolism was substantially altered by cigarette smoking such that smokers need to consume "a little extra" vitamin E on a daily basis to compensate for the increased metabolic burden smoking puts on the body (of course, Dr. Bruno recommends that they just quit smoking). Other findings indicated that the diet and blood levels of vitamin C were also important. In fact, supplementing smokers with vitamin C prevented the rapid disappearance of vitamin E that otherwise occurs in smokers. Thus, this demonstrated that the antioxidants, vitamin C and vitamin E, work together in the humans as part of an "antioxidant network" to potentially protect us from damage causing free radicals.

Prior to joining our department, Dr. Bruno was a Postdoctoral Research Associate working with Dr. Maret Traber at the Linus Pauling Institute at Oregon State University. During that time, he continued his work on vitamin E and conducted studies in the areas of vitamin E bioavailability and metabolism in humans using sophisticated stable isotope and mass spectrometry techniques. In addition, he conducted studies to understand how zinc deficiency regulates antioxidant status and oxidative damage. He also collaborated on studies aimed at developing new analytical procedures and biomarkers for determining the presence of

oxidative stress in humans. For Dr. Bruno's and his colleagues' contribution to the vitamin E metabolism field, their work was named by the NIH's Office of Dietary Supplements as being among the top 25 dietary supplement papers published worldwide in 2005.

At UConn, Dr. Bruno's research laboratory is focused on understanding how antioxidants such as vitamin E and plant polyphenols can promote optimal health. Dr. Bruno's research is targeted at evaluating dietary strategies that will be effective in reducing oxidative stresses that are caused by cigarette smoking and obesity. Collectively, these stresses are believed to contribute to the development and progression of various diseases including cardiovascular disease and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. Dr. Bruno recognizes that this area is no small task to tackle. Thus, he looks forward to working with other faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates at UConn to comprehensively investigate the roles that antioxidants have in regulating the oxidative stresses that are implicated in the development of these diseases.

To date, Dr. Bruno has authored or co-authored 21 articles or book chapters in the area of his research. In line with his expertise, he is a member of several scientific societies including the American Society for Nutrition, the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine, the Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine, and the American Dietetic Association.

Although Dr. Bruno has lived in numerous parts of the country, he is no stranger to the New England area. He was born in Queens, NY, attended grade school in Holmdel, NJ, and spent many winter family vacations skiing the slopes in Vermont. In addition, Dr. Bruno has an interest in track and field and was a pole vaulter during his high school and university years, and was a volunteer pole vaulting coach at a high school in Oregon before moving to UConn.

Please join us in providing a long overdue welcome to Dr. Bruno to UConn!

FRS #250903



University of  
Connecticut

Department of Nutritional Sciences  
University of Connecticut  
3624 Horsebarn Rd. Ext., Unit 4017  
Storrs, CT 06260-4017

Email: [kevin.noonan@uconn.edu](mailto:kevin.noonan@uconn.edu)

Check out the NUSC website:  
[www.cann.uconn.edu/nusci](http://www.cann.uconn.edu/nusci)