Raúl Pérez-Escamilla joined the NUSC faculty in 1994 after completing his doctorate and post-doctoral work at the University of California at Davis. He did not have traditional dietetics training and experiences one might expect. His undergraduate focus was in the area of chemical engineering. Then, he earned a master’s degree in food science and technology, where his thesis was on beer fermentation. His doctoral work was in nutrition with a focus on breastfeeding. Currently, he teaches courses in community nutrition, nutritional epidemiology, and nutrition during humanitarian emergencies. Since he arrived at UConn, his research has been primarily focused on the effectiveness of breastfeeding interventions, and on the epidemiology of infant feeding practices worldwide. He has also developed an outstanding research-based nutrition education extension program targeting Latino communities in Connecticut. This work has been developed in full partnership with the Hispanic Health Council in Hartford, CT. His multicultural skills and his genuine interest in improving the nutritional status of Latinos in Connecticut have enabled a great partnership to flourish over the years. One of the most successful programs was the production of a series of bilingual puppet shows emphasizing healthy food choices and food safety. The puppet show traveled with a troupe from the Connecticut Ballet and presented programs to many elementary schools across the state. Along with the connections at the Hispanic Health Council, he has also established collaborations with the faculty at the UConn Health Center and has a joint appointment with the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care. He has served as major advisor to four students who earned their MPH degrees with a focus on nutrition. He currently leads a research group formed by eight talented graduate students, and one postdoctoral researcher. Dr. Pérez-Escamilla’s research has had an impact within the USA and abroad. He has traveled extensively and has many active collaborations in Latin America, as well as in West Africa and Spain. For this reason he has been asked to serve as an expert advisor to projects funded by The United States Agency for International Development, The US Department of Agriculture, The World Health Organization, UNICEF, The World Bank, and the Mexican and Brazilian governments among others. He also serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Nutrition and the Journal of Human Lactation, and the executive committee of the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation (ISRHL). He is currently the president-elect of the Community Nutrition and Public Health Research Interest Section of the American Society for Nutritional Sciences. He has been on sabbatical leave during this academic year, and his focus has been to investigate the adaptation and validation of instruments to measure hunger and food security in developing countries, specifically in an urban context in Brazil and in a rural context in Senegal. Last fall semester was spent looking into the online distance education frontier with the assistance of the UConn College of Continuing Studies. He developed an online course, ‘Nutrition in Humanitarian Emergencies’, that he will be teaching during the summer. Since January, he and his family have been in Brazil. We were all jealous when we received electronic pictures of him in 90° tropical weather with Macaw parrots on his shoulders at the same time it was 10° and snowy here in Connecticut.

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

Greetings, colleagues, alumni, and friends.

After an unusually long and cold winter, now we are having an unusually cool and rainy spring. Regardless of the weather, the Storrs campus displays its usual splendor and beauty.

The year has passed very quickly, but it has been a very productive year. I am happy to report that the faculty have completed the review of the Departmental programs in instruction, research, and outreach/extension and produced a five-year strategic plan, which was approved and adopted by the faculty at a retreat on May 19. This plan aims at building a premier academic department by integrating instruction, research, and outreach programs to serve individuals, families, and the public. I wish to thank all of you for your suggestions, comments, and responses to our survey questionnaires and telephone calls. The information you provided has been extremely helpful in planning for the future of the Department.

In the past year, the University approved the renovation of the Jones building as one of three academic renovation projects on the Storrs campus. By the first week of June, renovations will be completed creating new offices for faculty and graduate students, a laboratory, and a conference room on the first floor. Drs. Ferris and Lammi-Keefe already have moved into their new offices with their staff and graduate students. As you will see in this edition of What’s Happening, the Department continues to be very productive with respect to publications, grants and awards. Ann Ferris and Carol Lammi-Keefe were recognized by the Board of Trustees for being among the top eight faculty for securing grants over one million dollars. We recently learned that Dr. Lammi-Keefe has been selected as one of four recipients of the University of Connecticut Research Fellow award for the 2003-04 academic year. Dr. McGann recently received a USDA NRI grant, which ranked 1st among 128 grant proposals submitted to the program. Dr. Rodriguez received an equipment grant from the same program. Faculty and graduate students presented fourteen posters in addition to oral presentations at the Experimental Biology 2003 meeting in San Diego in April, which was a record for the Department. Our thanks go to Connie Cantor for her hard work and assistance in producing high quality posters.

Dr. Maria Luz Fernandez has been promoted to the rank of full professor effective August 23, 2003. Congratulations to her on her promotion! Dr. Perez-Escamilla will be returning from his sabbatical leave at the University of Campinas in Brazil.
New Faces in NUSC

Christopher Carnworth joined Dr. Fernandez’ lab group in January. Chris received his B.S. in Biology from York College in May 2001. He has been employed by ProLab Nutrition since April 2002 as a customer service representative and international brand manager. He is interested in learning more about the endocrine responses to nutrition interventions. He recently competed in power lifting at the national level.

John Hayes studied Food Science and Technology at Colorado State University. He received his B.S. in 1999 and a M.S. in 2000. He has worked at the John B. Pierce Laboratory in New Haven as a research scientist in the area of taste research and psychophysics sensory methods since he graduated from Cornell. He began working with Dr. Dave Dzavec as a graduate assistant in January, and has been splitting his time between his work at Pierce and his graduate studies here. He will be defending his thesis on the analysis of the effect of vitamin A on metabolic gene expression in diabetic conditions. Dr. Brady Pear’s lab.

Lois Kelley joined the Family Nutrition Program administrative team in January. She refilled the position previously occupied by Lois Lindell, who retired in November. There have been questions raised about whether one has to be named Lois to get the job. Lois came here from Eastern CT State University where she worked as an academic advisor for a year and half. Lois also had worked as an academic advisor, but there are more questions. Prior to working at Eastern, she took a couple of years to attend to her children. Before full-time motherhood, Lois worked full time in Human Resources for the Fleet Financial Group for eight years, and for the Norwich Bulletin for one year. She has fit right into the groove here and seems to be having fun here at work.

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As mentioned in Dr. Koo’s greeting, there will be fifteen new students entering the graduate program this fall. Look for their introductions in the next issue in December.

In Memoriam

Hannah Eaton died on February 4, 2003, at Hartford Hospital at the age of 86. “Ham” Eaton retired from the Dept. of NUSC in 1977 after being at UCONN from 1947 to 1977. He started his research career in Animal Science, then transferred as Professor of Nutrition to the newly formed Dept. of Nutritional Sciences in 1970. Dr. Eaton became internationally known for his work, particularly in the area of cerebrospinal fluid dynamics and bone changes in vitamin A deficiency and toxicity. Those of us who worked with him will remember him as a brilliant researcher, who emphasised precision in all aspects of his work. He put on a gruff exterior but was always ready for a laugh. His family established a scholarship fund for research excellence in his honor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences. Many doctoral students have benefited from the Eaton Fellowship since 1977.

Members of the Department were also very saddened by the loss of Jan Brady, on April 30, 2003, to a battle with breast cancer. Jan served as a secretary in the Department from 1987-1997. She took the early retirement package which was then in place, but who knew that the $33,790, submitted 05/04/03. would will remember her indomitable spirit, kindness, humanity, and passion for life. These few words do not seem adequate to describe what’s that's happened.

What’s Happening

January 30
Carol Lamond-Leduc, P.A.D., RD
Professor, Dept of Nutritional Sciences (UCONN)
"AGS Graduate Program Recommendation"

February 7
Courtney Gann, RD - NUSC Graduate Student
"Assessment of Protein Turnover: Nitrogen Balance and Beyond"

February 18
Matthew Plaisance, M.A., K.D. - NUSC Graduate Student
"Studied Muscle Protein Turnover in Europa and Endurance Training: A Critical Analysis of Energy Deficit"

March 6
Barry Brum, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor, Dept of Exercise Science (UMASS)
"How Does the Sex Hormone Environment Mediate Gender Differences in Labrador Retriever's Metabolic Response: Adaptation Model?"

April 10
Alex Anderson, M.T.H. - NUSC Graduate Student
"Promoting Exclusive Breastfeeding Through Pair Counseling"

April 24
"Red or white wine...Which is a better for your heart?"
Janine Verrizotti, Capt. (USAF), M.D., K.D. - NUSC Graduate Student

May 8
The Italian Connection: Indul and Lipid Metabolism"

Page 2
NUSC Outreach Updates

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Program Core: Ann Ferris and Susan Beeman gave presentations at the New England Nutrition Research Conference held in Boston. A survey was completed by dietetic interns about food stamp recipient's computer access and computer and internet use.


Husky Nutrition Program: The CT WIC program recognized the innovative education programs of the UConn-FNP by designating our sites and program for virtual internships under the USDA funded WIC-RENEW grant. The workshops will start their rotations this fall. The Husky group published an information pamphlet on anemia prevention and treatment that is being used by Hartford area providers.

Husky Reads: Husky Reads is a New England Reach Out and READ (ROR) meeting. Kathy Wiley, an M.D. at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center and ROR coordinator, video taped UConn volunteers sharing to a meeting with other program providers.

4-H Summer Nutrition Education Program: Under the leadership of Umekia Taylor and Wanda Hamilton, a 4-HSNP nutrition curriculum was developed. The workshop was held in collaboration with public access TV, 75,000 households in the New Haven, Hamden, and West Haven market areas.

Food Security: Staff members began working with Mobile Foodshare, offering help to get coupons for food stamps for people in need. Additional efforts include: Food Security, Hartford Infant-Toddler Program, and projects include: Food Security, Hartford Infant-Toddler Program, and Hispanic Outreach Programs.

Advances in Nutrition Research


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Advances in Nutrition Research
molluscs is not influenced by phytosterols or polyunsaturated fatty acids.

San Diego, April 2003, Facs. J. 17, A456.17.

Piñol-Rossell, R., Ferrando, A.M. Exercise profoundly linked prevention prac-
tices and remedies for anemia are employed by low-income caretakers of
young children in Hartford, CT. Proceedings Nutrition Conferences, UDNPS/
WASHD/UNDP Washington D.C., 02/26/03, p. 84.

Piñol MA., Gaine PC., Martin WF., Marsé CM., Ferrando AA.,
Wolfe RR., Rodríguez NR. Endurance training affects muscle protein
synthesis in previously unfit men and women. San Diego, April 2003, Facs. J.
17, A459.17.

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4a,5a,12a-tetrahydroxy-doca-15-en-8-ene (15) is a more potent inhibitor
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Research and Development:

Pavlosen A.: "Fatty Acid Metabolism and Its Role in Cardiovascular Disease"
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Lisa Newby, B. F. A., D. M. D., E. M. C. F. M. developed key prevention prac-
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Pilosky, M. A., Gaine, P. C., Martin, W. F., Marsen, C. M., Ferrando, A.

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Lim NC., Braithwaite G., Judge MP. Sleep patterns of infants immediately after birth reflect circadian rhythms. San Diego, April 2003.


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Dr. Helley Freake was invited to the NIH on March 5, 2003 to give a seminar to the Department of Animal and Nutritional Sciences.


Rafael Pérez-Escamilla was invited by the American Association of Advancement of Science to present, “The Multiple Nutritional Benefits of Egg Consumption” at the conference of the Asociacion Nacional de Especialistas en Ciencias Avicolas (ANECA) in Veracruz, Mexico.

Charlotte deMarc is recipient of the Nutmeg IFT scholarship ($1000) and also a national fellowship for fall 2003 ($30000).

Mariana Högnäs was invited by the Egg Nutrition Center to present a seminar to the Department of Animal and Nutritional Sciences. She will receive the award at the 2004 UConn Baccalaureate Commencement.

Elizabeth Loosmore received a $2000 award for her poster presentation at the ACSM meetings in California City, MO on May 7, 2003.

Ralph Albanus has been serving as Chair of the University President’s Retirement Committee, “Protein in the Diets of Physically Active Men and Women,” at the American Society for Nutritional Sciences.

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Rachel Albus, New York Presbyterian Hospital, N.Y.C.

Priscilla Barr, Case Western Reserve, Cleveland, OH

Laura Hanley, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Ginny Gillis, Danbury Hospital, Danbury, CT (completed the didactic program, received placement)

Elizabeth McArthur Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT

Kate Moran Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT

Moni Ojeda St. Joseph College, West Hartford, CT

Mia Okomona New York Presbyterian Hospital, NYC, NY

Erin Pace University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Kendall Strand Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA

Erica Sweet Bethesda Hospital, Boston, MA

We had 100% placement for all students who applied for internships

Congratulations and best wishes to all of our baccalaureates.
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To Encourage Food Stamp Participants To Access The FOODLINK Website (2003) The University of Connecticut Extension. D.C. 02/25/03, p. 95.

NYS Extension Updates

Alumni News
Sunita Chernuk (Ph.D. ’99, major advisor: Carol Lammi-Keefe) gave birth to a baby boy, Arnav, on Sunday, May 25.

Karen Conde-Knaue (Ph.D. ’98, major advisor: Maria Luz Fernandez) provided the following information: "Our IIIrd Annual Symposium on Myocardial Stunning was on February 23, 2003 at the University of Florida Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences. She is packing up and moving to Boston for a postdoctoral fellowship at the Whittaker Cardiovascular Institute at the University Boston Medical Campus. Her mentor at BU is Dr. William Colucci, whose research area is heart failure. Shari is excited about the move and is also getting married this August. Her fiancé was also at UF and finished his Ph.D. in August ‘02, and is now an assistant professor at the University of New Mexico in Kinesiology. She hopes to visit UConn sometime soon to catch up with everyone.


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NYS Extension Updates
Research and Publications

New Grants Awarded

Page 2

Page 7

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Christopher Carnwath joined Dr. Fernandez’ lab group in January. Chris received his B.S. in Biology from York College in May 2001. He has been employed by Probol Nutrition since April 2002 as a customer service representative and international brand manager. He is interested in learning more about endocrine responses to nutrition supplements. He recently competed in power lifting at the national level.

John Hayes studied Food Science and Technology at Colorado State University where he graduated with a B.S. in 1998 and a M.S. in 2000. He has worked at the John B. Pierce Laboratory in New Haven as a research scientist in the area of taste research and psychophysical sensory methodology since he graduated from Cornell. He began working with Dr. Dave Dzurec as a graduate assistant in January, and has been splitting his time between his work at Pierce and his graduate studies here. He will be defending his dissertation in the fall of 2003.

Lois Kelley joined the Family Nutrition Program administrative team in January. She refilled the position previously occupied by Lois Lindell, who retired in November. There have been questions raised about whether one has to be named Lois to get the job. Lois came here from Eastern CT State University where she worked as an academic advisor for a year and half. Lois also had an academic advisor, but there are more questions. Prior to working at Eastern, she took a couple of years to attend to her children. Before full-time motherhood, Lois worked full time in Human Resources for the Fleet Financial Group for eight years, and for the Norwich Bulletin for one year. She has fit right into the groove here and seems to be having fun here at work.

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

Greetings, colleagues, alumni, and friends.

After an unusually long and cold winter, now we are having unusually cool and rainy spring. Regardless of the weather, the Storrs campus displays its usual splendor and beauty.

The year has passed very quickly, but it has been a very productive year. I am happy to report that the faculty have completed the review of the Departmental programs in instruction, research, and outreach/extension and produced a five-year strategic plan, which was approved and adopted by the faculty as a retreat on May 19. This plan aims at building a premier academic department by integrating instruction, research, and outreach programs to serve individuals, families, and the public. I wish to thank all of you for your suggestions, comments, and responses to our survey questionnaires and telephone calls. The information you provided has been extremely helpful in our planning for the future of the Department.

In the past year, the University approved the renovation of the Jones building as one of three academic renovation projects on the Storrs campus. By the first week of June, renovations will be completed creating new offices for faculty and graduate students, a laboratory, and a conference room on the first floor. Drs. Ferris and Lammi-Keefe already have moved in their new offices with their staff and graduate students.

As you will see in this edition of What's Happening, the Department continues to be very productive with respect to publications, grants, and awards. Ann Ferris and Carol Lammi-Keefe were recognized by the Board of Trustees for being among the top eight faculty for securing grants over one million dollars. We recently learned that Dr. Lammi-Keefe has been selected as one of four recipients of the University of Connecticut Research Fellow award for the 2003-04 academic year. Dr. McGann recently received a USDA NRI grant, which ranked 1st among 128 grant proposals submitted to the program. Dr. Rodriguez received an equipment grant from the same program. Faculty and graduate students presented numerous posters in addition to oral presentations at the Experimental Biology 2003 meeting in San Diego in April, which was a record for the Department. Our thanks go to Connie Cantor for her hard work and assistance in producing high-quality posters.

Dr. Maria Luz Fernandez has been promoted to the rank of full professor effective August 23, 2003. Congratulations to her on her promotion! Dr. Perez-Escamilla will be returning from his sabbatical leave at the University of Campinas in Brazil.

For the fall semester, we have accepted fifteen new graduate students, including four outstanding USDA National Needs fellows to be enrolled in our Ph.D. program. This means we will have a record high number of graduate students this fall. This reflects well on the faculty's scholarship and commitment to excellence. Despite anticipated budgetary constraints and faculty retirements due to the early retirement incentive program, we do not expect any major change in the Department's faculty and staff for the next year. We look forward to another successful academic year.

Thank you again for your constructive suggestions, comments, and continued support. Have a happy summer!

With best wishes... Sung I. Koo, Ph.D.

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Joe Maciokle retired! Yes, it's hard to believe that Joe and his wife, Ellen, who worked for the administrative team in the UConn Vice President's office for Student Affairs, both took early retirement incentive offered by the State on June 1. Joe came to the USA from Poland in 1966 to work on his uncle's poultry farm. After working 7 days a week for his uncle, he got a job at a UConn poultry farm in 1974 where he only had to work 5 days a week. He transferred to Nutritional Sciences in 1976, and took care of a wide variety of research animals and helped maintain the Department in many ways. Joe always has a smile for everyone, and a special talent for handling and caring for animals. Joe is very dedicated to excellence in his work and set high standards for himself and his colleagues. The last time the USDA inspector was here, he commented that Joe's area was so clean and well maintained that it should be set as the standard example for everyone else. Anyone who ever had the opportunity to interact with Joe will remember him fondly. When Joe was moved to the OARS department (Office of Animal Research Services) a few years ago, we still claimed him as a member of this Department. A reception was held May 27 to congratulate and thank Joe for his 29 years of service. NUSC colleagues and friends chipped in and bought a hammock and a case of beer as a parting gift. Joe will definitely be missed!!

In addition to Joe, approximately 30 members of the College of Agricultural and Natural Resources opted for the retirement incentive package. Joe was the only one from Nutritional Sciences.

Marlene Oppelt also retired on June 1. Marlene did a fabulously job keeping the Jones building clean for several years, and has been working at Jorgensen Auditorium since she left us. Best wishes to all the retirees as they begin a new phase of their lives.