Support DNS
The Division launched its Endowment Initiative in 2001, and we are very thankful to the faculty, students, alumni and friends who have supported DNS through contributions to the Endowment Fund and the Annual Fund. Contributions of all amounts are greatly appreciated. DNS would like to ask that you consider taking this opportunity to help secure our brilliant future by making a new contribution or an additional contribution to your alma mater.

Project DEED
Project DEED is an effort to increase the DNS endowment fund by $250,000. These endowment funds will provide permanent support for the recruitment and retention of the best graduate students and strengthen the educational experience of all DNS students. To donate to Project DEED, use account #773001.

Giving Options
- DNS Excellence Endowment Fund/Project DEED (#773001): Provides permanent funding for the recruitment and retention of the best graduate students and enhanced research and professional development experiences for all DNS students
- DNS Excellence Fund (#336514): Provides current funding for research and professional development opportunities for DNS students
- DNS Annual Fund (#332894): Provides unrestricted support for DNS
- David H. Baker Nutrition Scholar Award Fund (#771806): Recognizes students who display excellence in research as documented through peer-reviewed publications, awards and research grants
- James L. Robinson Nutrition Impact Award Fund (#772698): Recognizes students who display excellence in professional service through activities in the NSGSA or to promote and enhance DNS and/or nutrition at the campus, state or national level
- Frank W. Karl Memorial Award Fund (#773054): Provides travel awards to DNS students to present their scientific findings at professional meetings, such as Experimental Biology
- Toshiro Nishida Research Award Fund (#772251): Provides support for travel to national and international scientific conferences to DNS Students
- William C. Rose Award Fund (#770331): Provides travel awards to DNS students to attend scientific conferences in the field of nutritional sciences

Giving Back
Greetings from the College of ACES Alumni Association!
As a graduate of the Division of Nutritional Sciences, you can benefit from staying connected to your department and college as a proud alumnus from Illinois. With over 33,000 living alumni, ACES’ strong ties span the nation and the globe. You are an important part of our past, present and future! These are the top 5 ways to stay connected:

1. Share your email address with the ACES Alumni Association. Let us help you stay connected about college and departmental events, alumni activities and college news.
2. Attend an “ACES in Places” event near you. The ACES Alumni Board of Directors hosts activities throughout Illinois and once a year in Washington, D.C. This is a great opportunity to network with Illini in your area and hear campus updates. Watch the calendar of events: http://www.acesalumni.uiuc.edu/site/events.
3. Share your news. We want to hear from you! Have you had a recent marriage or family addition, a new job or promotion, an award or recognition? Let us know the details so we can share your news in our Class Notes blog.

Five Steps to Staying Connected
1. Connect via social media. Do you tweet? Are you on Facebook or LinkedIn? Stay connected through ACES’ numerous social media channels.
2. Nominate an alumnus. The College of ACES seeks outstanding alumni to nominate for college awards. We sponsor the Outstanding ACES Young Alumni award, ACES Award of Merit, and ACES Faculty Spirit awards. Check out the nomination process and deadlines online: http://www.acesalumni.uiuc.edu/site/awards.
3. For more information, please contact me at vealh@illinois.edu or 217-333-7747.

Once an Illini, Always an Illini,
Tina Veal
Director of Alumni Relations
B.S. ’93 ACES, M.S. ’01 ACES
Stay connected:
Twitter: twitter.com/acesalumni
Facebook: www.facebook.com/acesalumni
LinkedIn: go.illinois.edu/ACESAlumniLinkedIn

Recent and Upcoming Events
External Advisory Committee Meeting September 25-26, 2013 Urbana, IL
I-TOPP Symposium October 3-4, 2013 Urbana, IL
NSGSA Nutrition Quiz Bowl October 16, 2013 Urbana, IL
ACES December Graduation Reception December 20, 2013 Urbana, IL
DNS Recruiting Weekend March 6-7, 2014 Urbana, IL
ACES Funk Awards Ceremony April 14, 2014 Urbana, IL
NSGSA Nutrition Symposium April 23, 2014 Urbana, IL
Experimental Biology Meeting April 26-30, 2014 San Diego, CA
ACES Spring Commencement May 17, 2014 Urbana, IL
DNS Regulatory Affairs Summit TBA: May 2014 Washington, DC

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In the Spring 2013 edition of The Edge I mentioned the professional development component of our graduate program but didn’t have space to do it justice. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to elaborate a bit more and tell you why DNS is committed to maintaining a robust professional development program for our students. In DNS, students earn a degree by completing course requirements, conducting research, and writing and defending a dissertation. Beyond fulfilling these requirements, there is no obligation for students to participate in other activities that facilitate professional development. Nonetheless, DNS dedicates significant resources to professional development so students can choose to make it an integral part of their program.

This is a strategy that was initiated by previous leaders in DNS, and continues today. For example, students in DNS can attend a regulatory affairs summit in Washington D.C., gain valuable leadership experience by participating in the Nutritional Sciences Graduate Student Association, interact with members of our External Advisory Committee and invited seminar speakers, attend national and international meetings with funds from our Margin of Excellence Program, complete an internship, gain valuable teaching experience, and even earn a Certificate in Business Administration. These and many other activities that teach leadership, communication, ethics, and responsible conduct of research are available to our students, if only they will take advantage of them. Our approach to graduate education is to combine an interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary curriculum and nutrition-related research experience, with a professional development program that prepares graduates for leadership in academia, industry, government, and non-government organizations.

Go Illini!

Red Johnson
Focus on Research

Research Spotlight

Scientists learn how soy foods protect against colon cancer

“The genetic information you inherit from your parents is not the whole story. Our dietary choices, our exposure to environmental toxins, even our stress levels, affect the expression of those genes.”

Focus on Faculty

Faculty Updates

Margarita Teran-Garcia accepts her Faculty Award at the 2013 Quiz Bowl (pictured with Lauren Corlino).

2013 New DNS Faculty

Brian Berg
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Brian was a 2004 graduate of the Division, is the Principle Scientist in Global Discovery at Mead Johnson Nutrition and holds an appointment as Adjunct Professor at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

His research is focused on developmental nutritional neuroscience and the novel neurobiological activities of nutrients under consideration for addition or modification to pediatric nutrition products.

He has over seventeen years of nutritional neuroscience pre-clinical research experience and a personal commitment to a career focused on improving the health and development of infants and children.

University of Illinois scientists have evidence that lifelong exposure to genistein, a bioactive component in soy foods, protects against colon cancer by repressing a signal that leads to accelerated growth of cells, tumors, and eventually malignant tumors.

“In our study, we report a change in the expression of three genes that control an important signaling pathway,” said Hong Chen, a U of I professor of food science and human nutrition and a member of the Division of Nutritional Sciences.

The cells in the lining of the human gut turn over and are completely replaced weekly, she noted. “However, in 90 percent of colon cancer patients, an important growth-promoting signal is always on, leading to uncontrolled growth and malignancies.

Our study suggests that the aberrant Wnt signaling during the development of colon cancer can be regulated by soy-rich diets.”

The good news is that a diet rich in soy genistein represses those signals through epigenetic modifications at the regulatory regions of those genes,” said Yukun Zhang, a doctoral student in Chen’s laboratory.

Promising human data shows that soy isoflavones, which are naturally present in soy foods, can reduce inflammation, lower cholesterol, and lower the risk of breast cancer.

Chen’s team conducted a study that showed that rats that were fed a genistein-enriched diet had fewer large, pre-cancerous growths and were at less risk of developing cancer.

In order to better understand the mechanism of action of dietary genistein in the colon, the researchers tested it in different experimental models, including a cell line and an experimental model of the murine colon.

The researchers found that genistein suppressed the expression of three genes and repressed this signaling process that is associated with abnormal cell growth and cancer development. Chen said.

“The genetic information you inherit from your parents is not the whole story. Our dietary choices, our exposure to environmental toxins, even our stress levels, affect the expression of those genes.”

By Phyllis Picklesimer
Congratulations DNS Fellows!

 fall 2013

New DNS Students

Kathryn Ahamed
MS Candidate
BS in Biology
Advised by Kelly Swanson

Kirsten Berding
MS Candidate
BS in Health & Human Performance
Advised by Sharon Donovan

Richard Bukanya
PhD Candidate
MS in Human Nutrition
Advised by Juan Andrade

Natasha Cole
PhD Candidate
MPH
Advised by Sharon Donovan & Soo-Yeon Lee

Kristen Dilihippo
PhD Candidate
MS in Dietetics
Advised by Karen Chapman-Novakofski

Diego Hernandez
PhD Candidate
BS in Pharmaceutical & Biological Chemistry
Advised by Yuan-Xiang Pan

Julia Kim
MPH-PhD Candidate
BS in Clinical Nutrition
Advised by Sharon Donovan

Brian Leyshon
MS Candidate
BS in Biological Sciences
Advised by Rodney Johnson

Tzu-Wen Lui
PhD Candidate
MS in Nutritional Sciences
Advised by Kelly Swanson

Natalie Mass
PhD Candidate
MS in Nutritional Sciences
Advised by Kelly Swanson

Natalie Masis
PhD Candidate
MS in Nutritional Sciences
Advised by Karen Chapman-Novakofski

Marissa Pailotto
MS Candidate
BS in Animal Sciences
Advised by Kelly Swanson

Matthew Panasevich
PhD Candidate
MS in Animal Sciences
Advised by Ryan Digator

Albert Towers
MS Candidate
BS in Biology
Advised by Gregory Freund

Focus on Students

2013-2014 Fellowship Recipients

Administration for Children and Families Graduate Student Research Fellowship:
DiPt Dev

CONACYT Scholarship:
Annabel Brinute
Diego Hernandez

I-TOPP Fellowship:
Natalia Cole
Julie Kim
Kate Page

JBT (ACES):
Allyson Bower
Brian Leyshon
Brigitte Townsend

Kraft Foods Human Nutrition Fellowship:
Virginia Luchini
Courtney Marques

University Fellowship:
Brian Leyshon
Courtney Marques
Natalie Masis

USAID BHEARD Fellowship:
Richard Bukanya

USDA NIFA Fellowship:
Anthony Wang

Student Recognition

Winners of the 2013 Quiz Bowl. Pictured (l to r): Dr. Michael Miller, Lauren Conlon, Peter Fitschen, Annabel Brinute and Allyson Bower.

2013 NSGSA Nutrition Symposium

April 23, 2014
Guest Speaker:
Dr. David A. Levitsky
Professor
Department of Nutrition Science
cornell University, New York

“The Weigh to Control Body Weight: the Only Way”

Mini-Symposium
“Nutrition, Cognition, and Exercise: Connecting the Themes”

Faculty Presenters:
Rodney Johnson
Justin Rhodes
Neil Cohen
Jeffrey Woods

2013 DNS Students on the UIUC List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent

Spring 2013 - FSHN 220 Principles of Nutrition
Whitney Aije
James Naberhuis

Spring 2013 - FSHN 260 Raw Materials for Processing
Michelle Johnson

Spring 2013 - College of Medicine 604: 622
Morgan Moon

Results for the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent” are based on Instructor and Course Evaluation (CCE) questionnaire forms maintained by Measurement and Evaluation, UIUC Center for Teaching Excellence.

Nutritional Sciences Graduate Student Association Officers

Fall 2013

Officers (l to r): Trisha Gibbons, Brett Loman, Kristy Du, Virginia Luchini and Lauren Conlon; Front row: Morgan Moon, Josh Smith and Matthew Panasevich

Winners of the poster competition at the 2013 Nutrition Symposium. Pictured (l to r): Back row: Dr. Fleet, Courtney Marques, Josh Smith and Pablo Torres; Front row: Krystle Zuniga, Matt Panasevich, Carlyn Getty, Katie Page, Djik Der, Jane Naberhuis and Anthony Cam (FSHN)

Awards, Service and Personal Achievements

• Brigitte Townsend received first place in the Graduate Student, Dietary Bioactives RIS poster competition with her poster “Sulforaphane Activates a Protective Nrf2 Response and Reduces Inflammatory Markers in Microglia Cells.”

• Brendon Smith was selected as a Beckman Institute Graduate Fellow for 2013-2014 and was a finalist in the New Investigator Award Competition at the 2013 American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine Annual Convention.

• Josh Smith received second place in the Graduate Student, Dietary Bioactives RIS poster competition with his poster “Testosterone Alterations in Tomato Carotenoid-fed CMO1-/- Mice May be Due to Impaired Steroidogenesis but Not Reduced Testicular Cholesterol Availability.”


• Jeremy Webber won the top prize at the 2013 DNS Symposium for his poster “Caffeine Induces Behavioral Impairment in Mice”.

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Congratulations 2013 Grads!

Spring commencement ceremony (l to r): Back row: Kelly Swanson, John Erdman and Kelly Tappenden; Front row: Kristy Du, Claudia Lueve-Coteras, Rose Ann Mathai, Jennifer Barnes, Krystle Zuniga and Ginger Reeser.