

Highlights of Recent Nutrition Student, Faculty, and Staff Honors, Awards, and Achievements

Graduate Students and Undergraduate Students

Bradley S. Ferguson, PhD candidate (mentor Dr. Ron Morrison), was awarded a Keystone Symposia Travel Award to attend **"Obesity & Type II Diabetes, Insulin Resistance and Metabolic Dysfunction"** on Jan 12-17, 2011, in Keystone, Colorado.

PhD candidate, Kristina Martinez (mentor Dr. Michael McIntosh), was the 2nd place winner of the Nutrient Gene Interaction RIS Poster Competition held on April 9, 2011 at Experimental Biology 2011 in Washington, DC. Kristina's presentation was entitled, **"The Diacylglycerol Kinase Inhibitor R59022 Attenuates Trans-10, Cis-12 Conjugated Linoleic Acid (CLA)-Mediated Inflammatory Signaling and Insulin Resistance in Primary Human Adipocytes"**. Kristina was also awarded a travel scholarship to attend the "Lipid Biology and Lipotoxicity" meeting in Killarney, Ireland, May 15-20, 2011.

PhD candidate, Heesun Nam (mentor Dr. Ron Morrison), was the Recipient of the American Society of Nutrition (ASN) Wrigley Predoctoral Fellowship for 2011. Recognition was for excellence of her proposal entitled: **"Molecular Mechanisms Regulating the Development of Obesity-induced Inflammation in Adipocytes"**. The award was presented at the ASN Awards Ceremony, Experimental Biology 2011, Washington, DC.

Irene Acheampong, MS student, (mentor Dr. Lauren Haldeman), was awarded the first 2011 First International Nutritionist/Dietitian (FIND) Fellowship for Study in the USA. She will be recognized for this award at the Foundation's Gala dinner during ADA's Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo on Monday, September 26, 2011, in San Diego, CA. Irene also received a scholarship from the Society for Nutrition Education Foundation. She will receive her award at the SNEF Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony, July 25, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, MO.

MS student and Dietetic Intern, Sara Himmelrich, was the winner of a scholarship from the Society for Nutrition Education Foundation. She receives her award at the SNEF Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony on July 25, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, MO.

Kerri Lindberg, undergraduate student, was selected as a member of the Golden Chain Honor Society. She also won a UNCG Student Excellence Award, UNCG's highest academic honor for undergraduates. The award was presented to Kerri at the Honors Convocation in April, 2011.

Avis Murphy, undergraduate student, won a UNCG Student Excellence Award. This is UNCG's highest academic honor for undergraduates. Avis received the award at the Honors Convocation in April, 2011.

Awards Presented at the Human Environmental Sciences (HES) 2011 Honors Convocation

The following students were presented with the respective honors during the 2011 HES Honors Convocation:

- **Annette L. Moore Scholarship:** Abigail Smith; Allyson West

- **Betty Rowe Penny Endowed Scholarship:** Jessica Brown; Gail Gutierrez; Avis Murphy; Alice Royer
- **Carolyn Willis Cunningham Endowed Scholarship:** Anna Austin
- **Charles C. and Charlyene J. Moyer Scholarship in Nutrition:** Monica Oakley
- **Cultural Diversity Enhancement Scholarship:** Felicia Faison
- **Doris & Perry Teeter Endowed Scholarship:** Courtney Fowler
- **Dorothy Elliot Sink Scholarship:** Sarah Howle
- **Elizabeth P. “Lib” McPherson Graduate Scholarship in Nutrition:** Ioana Scripa
- **Elsa A. McMullen and Naomi G. Albanese Undergraduate Scholarship:** Brian Matthews
- **Helen A. Shaw Scholarship:** Rachel Sheldon
- **Jefferson Pilot Corporation Fellowship Fund:** Chia-Chi Chuang; Heesun Nam; Danielle Nunnery; Wan Shen
- **Kappa Omicron Nu Scholarship:** Stephanie La
- **M. Elisabeth Mallison Moore and Karen Grace Carville Memorial Scholarship:** Kristina Martinez
- **Mildred B. Davis Scholarship Fund in Nutrition and Foodservice Systems:** Courtney Andrews; Laura Smith
- **Mose Kiser Scholarship:** Meaghan Reardon
- **Mrs. John A. Kellenberger Scholarship:** Jessica Lennon
- **Naomi G. Albanese Doctoral Fellowship:** Amber Halvorson
- **Nell Wilborn Thayer Scholarship:** Keshia Ramseur
- **North Carolina Food Service Association Scholarship:** Megan Moore
- **Ronny and Natalie Bell Scholarship:** Jonathan Messer
- **Rosemary Smith Gaddy Nutrition Scholarship:** Janet McNamara
- **Rossie Henley Lindsey Graduate Fellowship in Nutrition in the Excellence Foundation:** Leigh Ellen Laster
- **Sam A. and Cornelia Lowe Rankin Undergraduate Scholarship:** Haley Anderson; Amanda Cerra; Dana DeSilva; Hannah Nichols
- **Sarah and David Stedman Scholarship:** Megan Hadley; Amanda Herbert; Janelle O’Hearn
- **Sue Ramsey Johnston Ferguson Scholarship:** Rebecca Allen
- **The Rev. and Mrs. G. D. Albanese Scholarship:** Steven Fordahl

Staff

Lisa Walker, Nutrition Department Office Manager, received both the Human Environmental Sciences (HES) Staff Excellence Award and the UNCG 2011 Staff Excellence Award.

Faculty

Mrs. Babbi Hawkins joined the UNCG Nutrition Department in July, 2011 as a permanent, full-time Academic Professional Instructor after teaching NTR 203 evening classes for the past two semesters. Babbi comes to the Nutrition Department from Moses Cone Health System where she was the Clinical Nutrition Manager for thirteen years. She will serve as Director of the CADE-Accredited Dietetic Internship program.

Dr. Wei Jia was appointed to North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue's China Advisory Committee to advise her and the Department of Commerce on strategies for building strong and lasting ties with China, increasing Chinese foreign direct investment, and helping our businesses increase their trade with Chinese industry. Wei presented "**A Metabolomics Approach to Understanding Human Metabolic Variations and Nutritional Intervention**" at the Seminar for the Bioinformatics Department, October 1, 2010, at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, NC. He was the Key Note speaker at the International Conference on Translational Medicine and Cancer in Hangzhou, P. R. China, October 21, 2010. His Keynote Speech was titled "**Metabolomics in Translational Medicine and Cancer Research**". He also moderated the afternoon session of the conference. Also in October Wei presented "**Modernization of TCM Using Metabolomics**" at the Seminar at the School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong. In February, 2011, he presented "**Cancer Metabolomics: Identifying Biomarkers and Druggable Targets**" at the Gentris Corporation Seminar in Morrisville, North Carolina. As Keynote Speaker at the April 23, 2011, Oriental Science Forum in Shanghai, China, Wei presented "**Metabolomic Study of Metabolic Disorders**". He was invited to give the Plenary Speech "**Joining Forces for a Healthier Tomorrow – Multidisciplinary Approaches to Modern Therapeutics**" at the Metabolomics in Translational Medicine and Medicinal Plant Research, May 25, 2011 in Montreal, Canada. June 4-8, Wei presented "**Metabolomics in Botanical and Translational Research**" at the Herbal Medicines: In Vitro and Clinical Validation, 2011 InVitro Biology Meeting, Raleigh, North Carolina. Also in June, 2011, Dr. Jia gave the Plenary Speech entitled "**Metabolomics Study of Colorectal Cancer**" at the International Conference of the Metabolomics Society (Metabolomics 2011) in Cairns, Australia.

Dr. Deborah Kipp, Department Chair, received the 2011 Outstanding Contributions to the School of Human Environmental Sciences award.

Dr. Cheryl Lovelady received the Outstanding Research Award from Get Healthy Guilford Coalition. The award is for a community member who completed research that contributed to our understanding of obesity, nutrition, exercise, or approaches to reducing and preventing obesity.

Dr. Michael McIntosh presented seminars to members of the Linus Pauling Institute and the Department of Food Science at Oregon State University on March 9, 2011 entitled "**Anti-inflammatory Properties of Grape Polyphenols**". These seminars were sponsored by the Oregon Wine Research Institute directed by Dr. Neil Shay.

Mrs. Burgin Ross joined the Nutrition Department as a full-time Academic Professional Instructor in August, 2010. She was a self-employed consultant dietitian who worked with Continuing Care Retirement Communities, Specialty hospitals, long term care facilities, and Hospice/Palliative Care organizations since 1991. Burgin also had 13 years of experience prior to that in contract food service management. She currently serves on the NC BOARD OF DIETETICS/NUTRITION, having been appointed by the Speaker of the House for two 3-year terms.

Dr. Margaret Savoca presented "**The Meal Pattern Timeline: Viewing Eating within the Context of Daily Life**" seminar at the North Carolina Dietetic Association's 78th Annual Meeting and Expo in Winston-Salem, NC in April, 2011.

Mrs. Amy Strickland, Academic Professional Instructor, completed her Master of Business Administration degree through the Joseph M. Bryan School of Business and Economics at

UNCG. Amy was also promoted to Academic Professional Assistant Professor, effective July 1, 2011.

Dr. Martha Taylor was a recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Contributions to the School of Human Environmental Sciences award.

Dr. Zhanxiang Zhou joined the faculty as a Professor and as the Co-Director of the **UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components** in August, 2010. Zhan brought with him to the Center two National Institutes of Health grants entitled, ***“Adipose Tissue Lipolysis and Alcoholic Fatty Liver”*** and ***“Zinc Inhibition of Endotoxemia in Alcohol-Induced Liver Injury.”***