



## Recent and Upcoming Events

**External Advisory Committee Mtg.**  
September 14-15, 2011  
Urbana, IL

**Inaugural I-TOPP Symposium**  
October 6-7, 2011  
Urbana, IL

**NSGSA Nutrition Quiz Bowl**  
October 19, 2011  
Urbana, IL

**DNS-NSGSA Fall Holiday Party**  
December 8, 2011  
Urbana, IL

**ACES December Graduation Reception**  
December 16, 2011  
Urbana, IL

**DNS Recruiting Weekend**  
March 8-10, 2012  
Urbana, IL

**NSGSA Nutrition Symposium**  
April 18, 2012  
Urbana, IL

**Experimental Biology Meeting**  
April 21-25, 2012  
San Diego, CA

**ACES Graduation Ceremony**  
May 12-13, 2012  
Urbana, IL

**DNS Regulatory Affairs Summit**  
May 2012  
Washington, DC



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## \$4.5 million grant creates transdisciplinary program to train scholars in child obesity prevention

A five-year \$4.5 million USDA grant to University of Illinois researchers will establish the Illinois Transdisciplinary Obesity Prevention Program (I-TOPP) an innovative research-based program that will combine a PhD with a master's in public health (MPH) degree focused on child obesity prevention.

"This exciting new program allows us to develop novel hypotheses and approaches as researchers come together from their individual areas of expertise to solve the problem of child obesity," said Sharon Donovan, the Melissa M. Noel Professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition and I-TOPP director.

Students in the new program will be taught to think broadly about child obesity because research has shown that no single approach adequately addresses the problem, said Donovan.

"None of us as individuals has the expertise to cover the entire landscape," she noted.

I-TOPP scholars who receive this new degree will benefit from a blend of transdisciplinary and translational research, Donovan said.

"By combining training in research and public health interventions, these students will be uniquely qualified to develop, implement and evaluate programs targeting childhood obesity prevention," she added.

I-TOPP co-director and head of the university's MPH program David Buchner said the result will be a uniquely trained group of people who use both research and public health practice skills to address one of our country's most urgent public health problems. The MPH program is housed in the College of Applied Health Sciences.

The new PhD MPH degree will integrate innovative research in nutrition, child development and family studies, physical activity, public health science and practice, economics, practices in child care centers, and the effects of media. Students will develop and test

transdisciplinary interventions to prevent childhood obesity, Donovan said.

I-TOPP will build on the transdisciplinary projects currently underway in the university's Synergistic Theory and Research on Obesity and Nutrition Group, also called the STRONG Kids program, a cells-to-society approach that examines how genes, family, community, child care provider, culture, and media contribute to the development of childhood obesity. The project team involves investigators from five colleges and seven departments.

According to I-TOPP co-director Barbara Fiese, the program has been set up in a very deliberate way so that students will have multiple advisors. Faculty will help students create new types of research programs that just wouldn't exist otherwise.

"We can't yet envision the research programs of the next generation of scientists. They'll learn to ask the kinds of questions and think in ways that we haven't been trained to do. This program really puts us on the cutting edge of what graduate education should look like," said Fiese, the director of the U of I's Family Resiliency Center and holder of the Pampered Chef Ltd. Endowed Chair in Family Resiliency.

Fiese said that her generation of scientists has had to bootstrap themselves to become good transdisciplinary collaborators. Because I-TOPP will have a strong evaluation component, the scientists will now learn whether this kind of collaboration is something that students can be taught to do.

There are 15 I-TOPP investigators from various departments at the University of Illinois. Nine of the investigators are DNS faculty: Sharon Donovan, Diana Grigsby-Toussaint, Craig Gundersen, Kristen Harrison, Charles Hillman, Rodney Johnson, Juhee Kim, Soo-Yeun Lee, and Margarita Teran-Garcia.

To read the full I-TOPP press release contributed by Phyllis Picklesimer visit: <http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/news/stories/news5718.html>

449 Bevier Hall  
905 S. Goodwin Ave.  
Urbana, IL 61801

## DNS Employees



**Dr. Rodney Johnson**  
Director



**Dr. Jessica Hartke**  
Program Coordinator

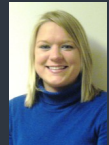


**Arena Jackson**  
Office Support Specialist



**Danielle Schaffrath**  
Student Intern  
Managing Editor - *The Edge*  
Senior in Agricultural  
Communications - Advertising

## New faces in DNS



**Roberta Burris**  
Media and Marketing  
Specialist

Roberta is coordinating creation of the new DNS website and in the future will assist with DNS special events and communication/marketing needs. An ACES alum, she completed her BS in Agricultural Communications at the University of Illinois.



**Donna Whitehill**  
Visiting Project Coordinator  
I-TOPP

Donna oversees many aspects of the day-to-day implementation of I-TOPP and serves on all I-TOPP committees. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Higher Education Administration. Prior to joining DNS, she served as the Coordinator of Senior Odyssey, a large community-based translational research program funded by the NIH.

## Other Contributors to *The Edge*

**Phyllis Picklesimer**  
Media/Communications Specialist  
ACES Information Technology  
and Communication Services



## A Word from the Director

As you may know, the 2010 National Research Council Assessment of Doctoral Programs ranked the Division among the top 5 nutrition programs in the U.S. The rankings were determined using 20 variables, including citations, grants, student support, time-to-degree, post-graduate employment, and racial and ethnic diversity. Congratulations to all past and present students, faculty and staff for this significant achievement!

It would be easy to become complacent about our continued ranking as one of the nation's premier graduate nutrition programs. However, in order to maintain the DNS standard of excellence, we must recognize and embrace opportunities for improvement, implement meaningful changes when appropriate, and continue to cultivate a graduate program that combines a state-of-the-art interdisciplinary curriculum, an innovative interdisciplinary research experience, and a dynamic professional development program. Many consider these characteristics to be the *Illinois Signature*. To this end, since the NRC rankings were released, we have implemented several new programs and given some old ones a fresh look. For example, on the professional development side, in May 2011 ten DNS students spent 3 days in our nation's capital learning about nutrition policy and regulations; and next semester we will offer a course on food and nutrition regulations for the first time. To enhance the nutrition footprint on campus, we helped develop a MPH/PhD joint degree program, and with support from the College of ACES, we launched DNS Vision 20/20, an innovative program to support interdisciplinary nutrition research. Our courses and curriculum committee completed a curriculum review and we now look to implement a few small recommended improvements.

Finally, the NSGSA gave the annual Nutrition Symposium a major makeover. You would be impressed! So rest assured we will not succumb to complacency! We continue to work towards making the Division something we all can be proud of. You can learn more about these and other exciting developments in this issue of *The Edge*.

Go Illini!

*Rod Johnson*

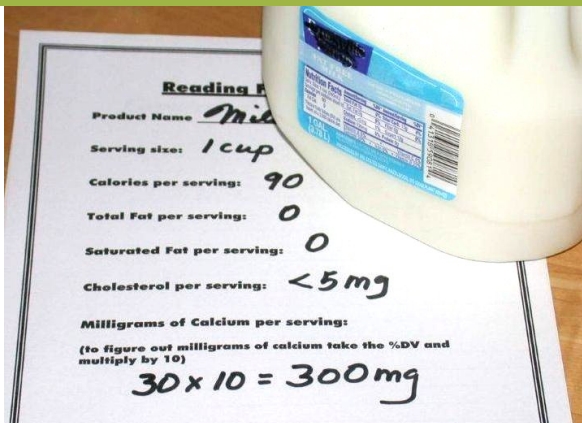
### DNS Launches Vision 20/20

To catalyze unique nutrition-related research on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus, the Division of Nutritional Sciences and the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences have partnered to create *DNS Vision 20/20*. The program awarded \$120,000 in funding to six interdisciplinary projects this spring and recently issued its 2<sup>nd</sup> RFP seeking proposals from interdisciplinary teams for projects with the potential to provide new transformative innovations in nutrition or solutions to nutrition-related diseases. This funding opportunity is open to all UIUC faculty, but one or more of the project personnel must be a member of the Division of Nutritional Sciences.

### Inaugural DNS Regulatory Affairs Summit

Ten DNS students attended the first DNS Nutrition Policy and Regulatory Affairs Summit in Washington, DC May 24-26, 2011. During this 3-day regulatory affairs and policy blitz, students were able to meet with representatives of FDA-CFSAN, USDA-CNPP and FNS-WIC, the National Academies, the Congressional Research Service for the Library of Congress, and had just enough time to tour some of the major sights in our nation's capital. Planning is underway for the spring 2012 Summit-watch for more details in the next issue of *The Edge*!

Special thanks to Kraft Foods and ILSI North America for making this valuable experience possible for DNS students!



## Research Spotlight

*Before you start bone-building meds, try dietary calcium and supplements*

*by Phyllis Picklesimer*

Has a bone density scan placed you at risk for osteoporosis, leading your doctor to prescribe a widely advertised bone-building medication? Not so fast! A University of Illinois study finds that an effective first course of action is increasing dietary calcium and vitamin D or taking calcium and vitamin D supplements.

“For many people, prescription bone-building medicines should be a last resort,” said Karen Chapman-Novakofski, a U of I professor of nutrition and co-author of a literature review published in a recent issue of *Nutrients*.

The study reported adults who increase their intake of calcium and vitamin D usually increase bone mineral density and reduce the risk for hip fracture significantly. These results were often accomplished through supplements, but food is also a good source of these nutrients, she said.

“I suspect that many doctors reach for their prescription pads because they believe it’s unlikely that people will change their diets,” she noted.

The scientist said prescription bone-building medications are expensive, and many have side effects, including ironically an increase in hip fractures and jaw necrosis. They should be used only if diet and supplements don’t do the trick.

“Bisphosphonates, for instance, disrupt normal bone remodeling by shutting down the osteoclasts—the cells that break down old bone to make new bone. When that happens, new bone is built on top of old bone. Yes, your bone density is higher, but the bone’s not always structurally sound,” she said.

A bone density test measures quantity, not quality, of bone. “Although the test reports that you’re fine or doing better, you may still be at risk for a fracture,” said Chapman-Novakofski.

A woman in midlife can get enough calcium in her diet without gaining weight, said lead author Karen Plawecki, director of the U of I’s dietetics program and DNS alum (PhD 2009).

“Menopausal women should consume 1,200 milligrams of calcium a day. Three glasses of 1 percent to skim milk will get you up to 900 milligrams. The rest can easily be obtained through calcium-rich and calcium-fortified foods,” Plawecki said.

According to Plawecki, the number of foods fortified with calcium and vitamin D is increasing expo-

nentially. Examples are soy milk, orange juice, yogurt, crackers, cereal, bread, breakfast bars, and even pancakes.

The researchers also looked at the effects of dietary protein, vitamin K, soy, and sodium in their literature review. The new USDA dietary guidelines recommend Americans decrease their sodium intake.

“Following a low-sodium diet does seem to have a positive effect on bone density. Some people have the habit of adding a generous sprinkle of salt to most foods before eating, but there’s more involved here than learning not to do that. You have to choose different foods,” Plawecki said.

Smoked or processed meats, bacon, lunch meat, and processed foods all contain a lot of sodium and could sabotage bone health. “Cheese is also very high in sodium so try to get your calcium some other way more often,” Plawecki said.

She recommends a “portfolio diet” that contains a number of nutrients, not just extra calcium and vitamin D. For bone health, the researchers also encourage consuming adequate protein, less sodium, and more magnesium and potassium.

“That can be done by following a diet that’s high in fruits and vegetables, has adequate calcium and protein, and is light on salt,” she said.

Chapman-Novakofski noted the National Osteoporosis Foundation recommends more physical activity. She suggests a combination of aerobic, strength, balance, and flexibility exercises with a focus on improving your core muscles so you can catch yourself if you start to fall.

Whatever sort of exercise you’re doing, you have to introduce new forms of activity every so often because your bones will stop responding to the same old routine and rebuilding will slow, she said.

Plawecki and Chapman-Novakofski set out to determine the impact of dietary, supplemental, and educational interventions over the last 10 years and reached their conclusions after reviewing 219 articles in scientific journals.

**“I suspect that many doctors reach for their prescription pads because they believe it’s unlikely that people will change their diets.”**

## About Professor Karen Chapman-Novakofski



Dr. Chapman-Novakofski’s research interests focus on identifying and changing food habits of groups of people. Using behavioral theories, her interventions have included reducing cardiovascular disease risk in women and in Hispanic low-income groups, as well as identifying modifiable beliefs women have about calcium and osteoporosis and improving diabetes care knowledge through a statewide program. Part of the research examines the theory of choice, primarily using the Health Belief Model, the Theory of Reasoned Action or the Stages of Change. The Chapman-Novakofski lab uses needs assessment, theoretical-based program development and outcomes or impact evaluation in all nutrition education interventions. “Outcomes” may be framed as knowledge change, attitude change, dietary change or as a “marker” for change, such as change in blood sugar or bone density. Validity and reliability of evaluation instruments is another avenue of the Chapman-Novakofski lab’s nutrition education research.



New DNS Students

**Whitney Ajie**  
MS candidate  
BA in Anthropology  
Advised by Elizabeth Jeffery

**Kristy Du**  
MS candidate  
BS in Biological Sciences  
Advised by Lee Beverly

**Caitlyn Getty**  
PhD-DVM candidate  
Veterinary Medical Scholar  
BS in Animal Sciences  
Advised by Ryan Dilger

**Katie Paige**  
PhD-MPH candidate  
I-TOPP Scholar  
BS in Dietetics  
Advised by Margarita Teran-Garcia

**Pablo Torres**  
MS candidate  
BS in Food Science  
Advised by Juan Andrade

**Brigitte Townsend**  
PhD candidate  
MS in Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences  
BS in Biology  
Advised by Rodney Johnson



Student Recognition

Winners of the poster and oral presentation competitions at the 2011 NSGSA Nutrition Symposium with Keynote Speaker Brian Wansink. (front l-r) Jenna Cramer, Ping Deng, Dr. Brian Wansink, Jodee Johnson, Kimberly Cephas, Rita Strakovsky, Hannah Holscher, Dipti Dev, Yingying Wang, Sonja Volker (back l-r) Nathan Pratt, Gabe Wilson, and Gabe Chiu.

2011-2012 Fellowship Recipients

**CONACYT Scholarship:**  
Lillian Diaz Rios  
Claudia Luevano Contreras  
Evelia Milan Noris

**Egg Nutrition Center Fellowship:**  
Gabriel Wilson

**JBT (ACES):**  
Peter Fitschen  
Brett Loman  
Brigitte Townsend

**National Cancer Institute Fellowship:**  
Krystle Zuniga

**NIH Predoctoral Fellowship:**  
Jennifer Barnes  
Gabriel Chiu  
Shelly Davis

**USDA National Needs Predoctoral Fellowship:**  
Jodee Johnson  
Nathan Pratt  
Henna Muzaffar

**University Fellowship:**  
Whitney Ajie  
Caitlyn Getty

**Kraft Foods Human Nutrition Fellowship:**  
Whitney Ajie

2011 Margin of Excellence Research Fund Recipients

Lauren Conlon  
Amy Elsen  
Peter Fitschen  
Jodee Johnson  
Michelle Johnson  
Katherine Kerr  
Naiman Khan  
Nathan Pratt  
Emily Tomayko  
Sonja Volker  
Anthony Wang  
Yingying Wang  
Krystle Zuniga

*Research funds support research conducted by students and provide them with experience in preparing research proposals. Students are selected by the quality of the proposed research and are provided \$400 to \$1,000.*

2011 Endowed Student Award Recipients

**David H. Baker Nutrition Scholar Award:** Emily Tomayko

**James L. Robinson Nutrition Impact Award:** Hannah Holscher

**Toshiro Nishida Research Travel Award:** Michelle Johnson and Jin Lu

**William C. Rose Research Travel Award:** Amy Elsen, Shelly Hester, Naiman Khan, Fang Yang

**Frank W. Kari Memorial Travel Award:** Rose Ann Mathai, Rita Strakovsky, Anthony Wang, Yingying Wang

DNS Students Receive Awards at 2011 EB

**Kraft Foods Predoctoral Fellowship**  
Krystle Zuniga

**MARC Travel Award**  
Ryan Grant  
Krystle Zuniga

2011 NSGSA Bake-Off



Winners (l-r): Michelle Johnson, Amy MacInnes, Lauren Conlon, Nathan Pratt, and Jill Burdette

2012 NSGSA Nutrition Symposium

April 18, 2012

**Guest speaker - Dr. James Hill**  
Professor of Pediatrics & Medicine  
Director, Center for Human Nutrition  
University of Colorado, Denver

Watch for more details!



New Students (l-r): Pablo Torres, Katie Paige, Brigitte Townsend, Kristy Du, Caitlyn Getty, and Whitney Ajie

Fall 2011 New DNS Students



## Student News

DNS students and staff traveled to Washington, DC for the 2011 DNS Regulatory Affairs Summit. (From l-r) ILSI administrative staff member Jackie Bessette, Ann Liu, ILSI Intern, Jodee Johnson, ILSI North America Director and former DNS EAC member Dr. Eric Hengtes, Rose Ann Mathai, Shelly Hester, Fang Yang, Krystle Zuniga, Brendon Smith, Jing Li, Dr. Jessica Hartke, Chris Moulton, Emily Tomayko, Dr. Rodney Johnson

## Awards, Service, and Personal Achievements

- **Jen Barnes** was named to the list of Teachers Ranked as Excellent Spring 2011 for her role as a discussion leader for FSHN 220.
- **Dipti Dev** received a Illinois Transdisciplinary Obesity Prevention Program (I-TOPP) Seed Grant and two travel awards; Margin of Excellence and Graduate College. Dev won the Most Outstanding Team Award for the Research Apprentice Program (RAP) I PepsiCo where she was a team leader. She presented poster presentations at the NSGSA Nutrition Symposium and at Experimental Biology.
- **Peter Fitschen** received a Jonathan Baldwin Turner Fellowship and a Margin of Excellence Grant (for January and August). Fitschen is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, University of Illinois Chapter.
- **Hannah Holscher** received the James L. Robinson Nutrition Impact Award, won 1st place for her poster presentation at the Nutrition Symposium, won a travel award for Experimental Biology Conference from the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation (ISRHML), and was named on the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent Spring 2011 for her role as a Discussion Leader for FSHN 220.
- **Michelle Johnson** received the 2011 Toshiro Nishida Research Travel Award, as well as Margin of Excellence Research and Travel awards. Johnson continues to serve on the NSGSA Fundraising Committee and had a poster at the 2011 Institute of Food Technologists Annual Meeting and Food Expo in New Orleans, LA.
- **Ghazal Naseri Kouzehgarani** was named to the list of Teachers Ranked as Excellent Spring 2011 for her role as TA for Crop Sciences (Statistics) 440 ad 542.
- **Amy MacInnes** received a Illinois Transdisciplinary Obesity Prevention Program (I-TOPP) Seed Grant and currently serves on the NSGSA Professional Development Committee.
- **Emily Radlowski** was named to the list of Teachers Ranked as Excellent Spring 2011 for her role as discussion leader for FSHN 220 & Summer 2011 for her role as Instructor in FSHN 120.
- **Brendon Smith** was elected into Gamma Sigma Delta Agricultural Honors Society, received a Margin of Excellence Travel Award, and attended the first DNS Regulatory Affairs Summit in Washington, DC. Smith serves as the NSGSA Student Representative to Faculty.
- **Emily Tomayko** was named to the list of Teachers Ranked as Excellent Summer 2011 for her role as a TA for FSHN 120.
- **Gabriel Wilson** received 1st place at the NSGSA Graduate Student oral presentation competition and the Egg Nutrition Center/American Egg Board Graduate Fellowship renewed his fellowship.
- **Krystle Zuniga** is a Student Blogger for the American Society for Nutrition. She currently holds a Predoctoral Fellowship with the National Cancer Institute and the Kraft Foods Fellowship through the American Society for Nutrition.

## Research Funding

Dipti Dev received a Head Start Graduate Student Research grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for her project titled "Role of Head Start and Child Care Settings in Early Childhood Obesity: A Cumulative Risk Model". The project is funded at \$25,000/yr for 2 years.

## 2011 Business Administration Certificate Students

*Sponsored by Abbott Nutrition*

Shelly Hester  
Jin Lu  
Jane Naberhuis  
Yingying Wang

## 2011 DNS Graduates

### May Graduates

- **Jing Li: MS**  
Advised by Juan Loor
- **Annamarie Masinelli: MS**  
Advised by Kenneth Wilund
- **Shannon Cope Thorum: MS**  
Advised by Sharon Donovan
- **Radhika Sudhir Ganu: PhD**  
Advised by Lawrence School
- **Rita Strakovsky: PhD**  
Advised by Yuan-Xiang Pan

### August Graduates

- **Ryan Grant: PhD**  
Advised by Kelly Swanson
- **Ann Liu: PhD**  
Advised by John Erdman
- **Jin Lu: MS**  
Advised by Sharon Donovan



Officers (l to r): Josh Smith, Brendon Smith, Naiman Khan, Amy MacInnes, Nathan Pratt, Elizabeth Reznikov, Jane Naberhuis, Amy Elsen, and Gabe Chiu

## NSGSA Officers

- **Nathan Pratt**  
*Chair*
- **Jane Naberhuis**  
*Co-Chair*
- **Amy Elsen**  
*Treasurer*
- **Josh Smith**  
*Co-Treasurer*
- **Amy MacInnes**  
*Secretary*
- **Elizabeth Reznikov**  
*Media Representative*
- **Brendon Smith**  
*Student Representative to Faculty*
- **Naiman Khan**  
*Grievance Committee Representative*
- **Gabe Chiu**  
*Networking Chair*



## 2011-2012 DNS Executive Committee

**Alan M. Diamond**  
Professor  
Dept. of Pathology  
College of Medicine  
University of Illinois—Chicago

**Sharon M. Donovan**  
Professor of Nutrition/  
Melissa M. Noel Chair in  
Nutrition and Health  
Dept. of Food Science and  
Human Nutrition  
College of ACES

**John W. Erdman, Jr.**  
Professor of Nutrition  
Dept. of Food Science and  
Human Nutrition  
College of ACES

**Gregory G. Freund**  
Professor and Head  
Department of Pathology  
College of Medicine

**Kelly A. Tappenden**  
Professor of Nutrition and  
Gastrointestinal Physiology  
Dept. of Food Science and  
Human Nutrition  
College of ACES

**Matthew A. Wallig**  
Professor of Comparative  
Pathology  
Dept. of Pathobiology  
College of Veterinary  
Medicine

**Kenneth R. Wilund**  
Associate Professor  
Dept. of Kinesiology and  
Community Health  
College of Applied Health  
Sciences

**Jeffrey A. Woods**  
Professor of Kinesiology  
Dept. of Kinesiology and  
Community Health  
College of Applied  
Health Sciences

**Brendon Smith**  
DNS Graduate Student



## Faculty Updates

Dr. Brian Wansink (left) and Dr. Rodney Johnson pose for a picture during the Nutrition Symposium on April 6, 2011. Wansink, the Symposium's Keynote Speaker, shared his message of "Modifying the Built Environment: From Mindless Eating to Mindlessly Eating Better".

**Sharon Donovan** assumed the Presidency of ASN in June and continues to serve on the NIDDK Review Panel on Digestive Diseases and Nutrition Fellowships. Donovan co-organized the "First International Conference of the Glycobiology of Human Milk Oligosaccharides" in Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Elvira de Mejia** received a North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teacher Fellow Award for her excellence as an educator.

**Nicki Engeseth** was promoted to Full Professor of Food Chemistry at the start of the 2011 Fall semester.

**John Erdman** was elected a Fellow of ASN and also received the Norman Krinsky Award for Lifetime Achievement from the International Carotenoid Society. Additionally, Erdman gave invited research presentations in China, England and Poland.

**Diana Grigsby-Toussaint** was selected (out of 150 individuals across the United States) to participate in the 9th Annual National Academies Keck Futures Initiative (NAKFI) conference, Ecosystem Services: Charting a Path to Food Security that is a Win Win for People and the Environment. Grigsby-Toussaint also welcomed a new baby boy to her family in May.

**Craig Gundersen** has been promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Economics. He serves as the United States PI on a project recently funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (the Canadian equivalent to NIH) to examine policy interventions to reduce food insecurity in Canada. This \$2 million project is the first to be funded by CIHR.

**Elizabeth Jeffery** received a 2 year NIH grant to study the effect of obesity-induced inflammation on liver cancer.

**Rodney Johnson** and co-investigator **Elizabeth Jeffery** received a research grant from the National Institute on Aging for their project that will explore the role of Nrf2 signaling and the antioxidant response element in age-related neuroinflammation and deficits in cognition. The project is funded with the amount of \$1,595,075.

**Juan Loo** was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences.

**Yuan-Xiang Pan** received a research grant from Nestlé Purina PetCare Global Resources, Inc. for continued research in the field of: Epigenetics and its role in health and disease.

**Jim Pettigrew** completed a 3-year term on the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Board of Directors and a 3-year term as Chair of ASAS Public Policy Committee. Pettigrew also serves as the Chair of the Federation of Animal Science Societies Science Policy Committee.

**James Robinson** completed visits to all fifty states with Alabama, Mississippi, and number 50, Alaska, a truly beautiful place.

**Hans Stein** was promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences.

**Kelly Swanson** was included on the UIUC List of Teachers Ranked Excellent by their Students. This semester he is on sabbatical leave at the Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition in Leicestershire, England.

**Kelly Tappenden** was selected as a University of Illinois Distinguished Teacher Scholar.

**Margarita Teran-Garcia** was elected to the Council of the Obesity Society as the Mexico representative.

**Ken Wilund** was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health.

### DNS Faculty Awards at 2011 ACES Awards Banquet

**Rodney W. Johnson**  
Paul A. Funk Recognition Award

**Kelly A. Tappenden**  
Senior Faculty Award for  
Excellence in Teaching

**Kelly Swanson**  
College Faculty Award for  
Excellence in Research

### 2011 DNS Faculty Awards at EB

**John Erdman** (FSHN)  
ASN Fellow

**George Fahey** (ANSC)  
General Mills Institute of Health  
and Nutrition Innovation Award

**Juan Andrade** (FSHN)  
MARC Travel Award

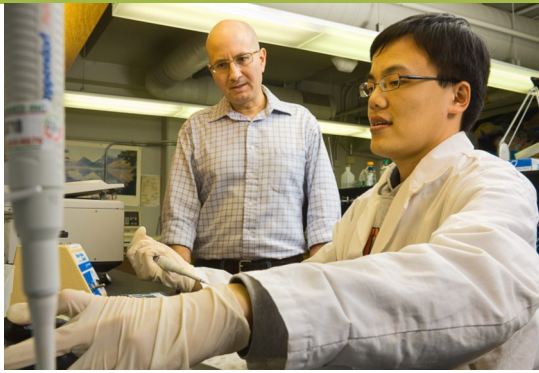
### NSGSA Faculty Award

2011 NSGSA Faculty Award  
**Ryan Dilger**

*"For extraordinary contribution,  
support and encouragement of DNS  
Graduate Students"*

### 2011 New DNS Faculty

**Soo Lee**  
Associate Professor  
Dept. of Food Science and  
Human Nutrition  
College of ACES



## Alumni Updates

### DNS Alumni!

Let us know how you are doing. Please send your updates and any information you would like to share to [nutrsci@illinois.edu](mailto:nutrsci@illinois.edu) to be included in the Spring 2012 issue of *The Edge*.

**Pascasie Adedze** (PhD 2009) accepted a position at the USDA-Foreign Agricultural Services office in Washington, DC as a Nutrition Advisor.

**Allyson Bares** (MS 2010) is a Research Associate at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, OR.

**Jamie Baum** (PhD 2004) is an Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas in the Department of Food Science.

**Brian Berg** (PhD 2004) received an Adjunct Professor appointment at the Indiana University School of Medicine in 2011. Berg is currently a Senior Scientist at Mead Johnson Nutrition in the Global Discovery Department.

**Shannon Cope-Thorum** (MS 2011) is a Relief Dietitian and also seeking full time employment as an RD in Portland, OR.

**Kirstie Canene-Adams** (PhD 2007) is an Assistant Professor in the Nutrition and Foods Program at Texas State University's School of Family and Consumer Sciences.

**Jason Emmert** (PhD 1997) was honored with an honorary Illinois FFA Degree, the highest degree of honorary membership given by the Illinois Association FFA.

**Nancy Engelmann** (PhD 2010) received the American Society for Nutrition Postdoctoral Research Award, supported by Solae, LLC at the 2011 Experimental Biology Meeting.

**Kristin L. Faust** (Reifsteck) (MS 2008) is the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*.

**Christopher Guest** (PhD 2008) is completing his residency in Emergency Medicine at Stanford University.

**Sharon Hoerr** (Ph.D. 1985) is a Professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Michigan State University.

**Guy Johnson** (PhD 1976) is the Principal of Johnson Nutrition Solutions, LLC in Kalamazoo, MI. Johnson is a member of the ASN Sustaining Members committee and Treasurer of the Nutrition Translation RIS. He won the U of I ACES Alumni Association Award of Merit, Fellow of IFT, and Honorary McCormick Scientist.

**Leia Kedem** (MS 2010) is now the Nutrition and Wellness Educator for the University of Illinois Extension. She conducts in-person nutrition education programs in Champaign, Iroquois, and Vermilion counties.

**Tristan Kraft** (PhD 2010) is completing his residency in Pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit, MI.

**Denise King** (PhD 1989) was promoted to Director of the Nutrition Coordinating Center, University of Minnesota Division of Epidemiology and Community Health.

**Robert Landers** (PhD 1970) is now retired in Westfield, NJ.

**Jing Li** (MS 2009) is now a Regulatory Specialist with Kerry Ingredients in Beloit, WI.

**Brian Lindshield** (PhD 2008) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Nutrition at Kansas State University. Lindshield was the 2010 Pratt Community College Alumnus of the Year and Commencement Speaker. He is also the 2011-2012 Chair for ASN Diet and Cancer Research Interest Section.

**Daina Mallard** (MS 2008) works for the Cancer Treatment Centers of America as a Clinical Oncology Dietitian in the Nutrition Department. She successfully completed the ASPEN Nutrition Support Clinician Exam in April 2011.

**Layne Norton** (PhD 2010) continues to work for his own company, BioLayne LLC, as Owner and President. Norton serves as a Scivation Inc. Scientific Advisory Consultant, Bodybuilding.com Scientific Consultant, and as a Guest Speaker for the US Dairy Export Council.

**Sara Painter** (MS 2002) left her Dietitian job after 8 1/2 years and now is a stay-at-home mom for her three kids—ages 2, 5, and 7.

**Kristy Powell** (MS 2007) works as a Clinical Dietitian for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

**Adam Reppert** (MS 2007) is a Nutrition Resident at the Fort Worth Zoo in Texas. He is scheduled to take the credentialing exam to be a Certified Diabetes Educator this fall.

**Tara Rogers** (MS 2008) started working towards her PhD in Nutritional Biology at the University of California - Davis.

**Carl Sather** (MS 2001) just finished a Clinical Nutrition Fellowship at the Indiana University School of Medicine. He is a Staff Physician with Carle Clinic in Mahomet, IL. Sather and his wife welcomed their second child in May.

**Christina Sherry** (PhD 2009) is a Senior Scientist, Research and Development, Abbott Nutrition.

**Barb Yudell** (PhD 2009) is now a Research Coordinator with the UIUC Department of Kinesiology & Community Health in Ken Wilund's lab. Yudell coordinates the NIH Clinical Trial titled Intra-Hemodialytic Oral Protein and Exercise (IHOPE).

## 2011-2012 External Advisory Committee

**Arti Arora, PhD**  
Principal Manager  
Scientific & Regulatory Affairs  
The Coca-Cola Company

**Naomi Fukagawa, MD, PhD**  
Professor of Medicine  
University of Vermont  
College of Medicine

**Keith Garleb, PhD**  
Director, Pediatric R&D  
Abbott Nutrition

**Susan Hutson, PhD**  
Department Head  
Human Nutrition, Foods, and  
Exercise  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and  
University

**Brian Larson, PhD**  
Independent Nutrition Consultant  
JG Nutrition Consulting Services

**William Layden, BS**  
Partner and Co-Founder  
FoodMinds, LLC

**Gilbert Leveille, PhD**  
Sr. Consultant, Scientific &  
Regulatory Affairs  
Executive Director  
Wrigley Science Institute

**Barbra Lyle, PhD**  
Program Manager  
Principal Scientist  
Kraft Foods Global, Inc.

**Luis Mejia, PhD**  
Director of Regulatory and  
Scientific Affairs  
James Randall Research Center  
Archer Daniels Midland Co.

**Gregory D. Miller, PhD**  
Executive Vice President of  
Science and Research  
National Dairy Council

**Martha Stipanuk, PhD**  
James Jamison Professor  
of Nutrition  
Division of Nutritional Sciences  
and College of Ecology  
Cornell University

**Hugh Tucker, PhD**  
Vice President  
Mead Johnson Nutrition



## Support DNS

DNS 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. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and provide critical support for our students and programs. 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.

## A Note From ACES Advancement

Dear DNS Friends,

Imagination. Innovation. Collaboration. Integrity. Professionalism. These are some of the descriptors I use when I share the achievements of the University of Illinois Division of Nutritional Sciences (DNS) with stakeholders.

When it comes to sharing success stories about the people and programs of the DNS, it's pretty easy. The faculty, students and staff are extremely talented and passionate about their research and teachings. They are excited about helping the university serve our state and society. Since its organization in 1968, the DNS model of multi-disciplinary collaboration continues to evolve and provide excellent graduate education in nutrition.

The new Illinois Transdisciplinary Obesity Prevention Program (I-TOPP) is a tremendous example of excellence. Led by DNS faculty member and former DNS Director Dr. Sharon Donovan, I-TOPP is a new PhD/MPH degree program focused on childhood obesity prevention. A transdisciplinary approach is being used to integrate nutrition, physical activity, public health science, family science, human development, economics and public health practice with a focus on obesity prevention and child health and well-being. I-TOPP scholars will receive a generous stipend, tuition-assistance, research and travel funds from a \$4.5 million National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)-funded training grant. The program hosted its inaugural biennial symposium October 6–7, 2011 and attracted attendees from across the nation.

Another example of success is the Nutritional Sciences Graduate Student Association Nutrition Symposium on April 6, 2011. Award-winning researcher Brian Wansink of Cornell University returned to campus as the keynote speaker. There were many highlights throughout the day but among the best were the student presentations and poster sessions. The future is in good hands! It was an honor to work with the organized and talented NSGSA as part of my advancement-related activities.

So, take pride in your DNS! We are extremely grateful for the generosity of donors who are participating to make the DNS among the world's finest programs. Whether you provide private support, sponsor a seminar, mentor a student, or hire our graduates, your investment is critical and appreciated.

If DNS played a role in your personal or business success, then please consider giving back. You may even consider making a long-term donation through your estate planning. Gifts can be made conveniently online to the Division of Nutritional Sciences at: <http://advancement.aces.illinois.edu/makegift>.

For more information, please contact me at the ACES Office of Advancement at [kmeenen@illinois.edu](mailto:kmeenen@illinois.edu) or 217-333-9355.



Thank you,  
Kimberly Meenen  
'87 BS ACES, '08 EdM  
Director of Development

## Giving Options

- **DNS Excellence Endowment Fund (#773001):** Provides permanent funding to sustain the excellence of DNS by providing grad students with enhanced research and professional development experiences
- **DNS Excellence Fund (#336514):** Provides current funding for professional development opportunities for DNS students
- **DNS Annual Fund (#332984):** 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. Kari Memorial Award Fund (#773054):** Supports awards to DNS students to present their scientific findings at professional meetings, such as Experimental Biology
- **Toshiro Nishida Research Award Fund (#772951):** Provides support for travel to national and international scientific conferences
- **William C. Rose Award Fund (#770331):** Provides awards to DNS students to attend scientific conferences in the field of nutritional sciences