



Recent and Upcoming Events

External Advisory Committee Meeting
September 19-20, 2012
Urbana, IL

NSGSA Nutrition Quiz Bowl
October 17, 2012
Urbana, IL

I-TOPP Lecture
Dr. Robert Whitaker
October 17, 2012
Urbana, IL

DNS-NSGSA Holiday Party
December 13, 2012
Urbana, IL

ACES December Graduation Reception
December 14, 2012
Urbana, IL

DNS Recruiting Weekend
March 7-8, 2013
Urbana, IL

ACES Funk Awards Ceremony
April 15, 2013
Urbana, IL

NSGSA Nutrition Symposium
April 17, 2013
Urbana, IL

Experimental Biology Meeting
April 20-24, 2013
Boston, MA

ACES Spring Commencement
May 11, 2013
Urbana, IL

DNS Regulatory Affairs Summit
May 20-21, 2013
Washington, DC

New DNS Marketing Materials Available!

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nutritionalsciences@illinois.edu



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Project DEED aims to increase endowment funds

It takes time, effort and dedication to track down the thesis titles and accomplishments of every DNS degree recipient. However, James L. Robinson, Professor Emeritus, has spent countless hours in a campaign to write a personal letter to every DNS alumnus who has graduated at least 10 years ago.

An avid supporter of the Division, Jim saw a need to increase the DNS endowment fund. Never one to shy away from a daunting task, he created and volunteered to spear-head Project DEED, Decade Enhancement of the Endowment for the Division of Nutritional Sciences.

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 to strengthen the educational experience of all DNS students.

Robinson could have sent out a mass form letter to DNS alumni requesting donations, but instead, he took the time to personalize every single letter that was sent. He came into the DNS office in Bevier and borrowed a copy of each graduate's thesis to learn about their research area, advisor and thesis committee. Working with the ACES Office of Advancement and using self-reported alumni updates and other research, he would write the letter.

It took about 30 minutes to an hour to write each letter, he said. However, Robinson noted that he "enjoyed the chance to find out what all the alumni were doing...where they started and where they are now."

Robinson hopes that DNS alums will demonstrate their loyalty and "...understand the value of the Division to future students," as he himself does.

Jim was a professor in Animal Sciences at UIUC beginning in 1970. He joined the Division in 1972 and stayed until he retired in 2002. He was very active in the Division; many DNS degree recipients will remember him as their instructor in NUTR 411.

When Jim was about to retire, he helped put together a group that would raise funds to establish the DNS endowment from private and company sources. Since his retirement, he has remained active in fundraising for the Division. Robinson said whenever he is in town he likes to interact with faculty and students in DNS.

At the time of this article, Jim has sent 233 letters. Currently, the response rate is 6.4% and nearly \$18,500 has been given directly to the DNS Excellence Fund thanks to his efforts. Several donors have committed to annual pledges to benefit the fund. We know there's deep loyalty out there and anticipate alumni will make gifts at year-end for tax purposes.

Jim is already planning his strategy to continue to reach out to DNS alumni and says of Project DEED "it's a multi-year process. I'll do follow-up this year and next year."

"The Division of Nutritional Sciences is one of the top nutrition programs in the country and this is one way to keep it there in the future."

For information on how to support Project DEED, please see the back page of this newsletter.

"The Division of Nutritional Sciences is one of the top nutrition programs in the country and this is one way to keep it there in the future."

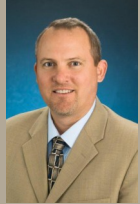
By Elizabeth Koehler

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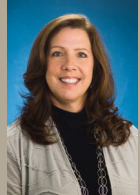
Dr. Rodney Johnson
Director



Dr. Jessica Hartke
Assistant Director



Arena Jackson
Office Support Specialist



Donna Whitehill
Visiting Project Coordinator
I-TOPP



Roberta Lower
Media and Marketing Specialist

New face in DNS



Elizabeth Koehler
Student Intern
Managing Editor -
The Edge
Junior in Agricultural
Communications

Other Contributors to *The Edge*

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



A Word from the Director

The Division of Nutritional Sciences is pleased to present the Fall 2012 edition of *The Edge*. Inside you can learn about exciting research conducted by our faculty, students and staff, read about the activities and accomplishments of our students, and much, much more. *The Edge* was introduced 2 years ago and the feedback received thus far indicates it is a big success. Now, thanks to a “push” by our former communications intern, Danielle Schaffrath and our new intern Elizabeth Koehler, we recently launched a comprehensive social media campaign so you can like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter! While this may provide a fun and easy way for you to stay connected with DNS, for us it serves another important purpose—student recruitment. I don’t have to tell you it is a competitive world. And just as a business must compete for customers, we are always competing for the best and brightest prospective graduate students. No, Twitter alone isn’t going to win the commitment of a top prospect, but it can be an effective way to quickly and regularly highlight the activities of DNS faculty and students. And given the many accomplishments featured in this issue of *The Edge*, I think you will agree, this can’t be a bad thing! So help us spread the word: like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

Go Illini!

Rod Johnson



DNS Launches a Social Media Campaign

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DNSatUofI and follow us on Twitter to connect with others and keep up with the goings-on at DNS.

Center for Nutrition, Learning, and Memory (CNLM)

The University of Illinois and Abbott Nutrition established the Center for Nutrition, Learning, and Memory in Spring 2012. Thus far, thirteen research projects involving nutrition, the brain and cognition have received funding, which ranged from \$175K to \$2.5M. These funded projects support work in three types of nutrition and cognition research: translational/clinical research, basic research and optimization of assessment and testing tools.



Research Spotlight

Metabolic engineer synthesizes key breast milk ingredient, makes research possible

By Phyllis Picklesimer

A University of Illinois microbial engineer has synthesized a sugar in human milk that is thought to protect babies from pathogens. That's important because 2FL, the shorthand scientists use to describe this human milk oligosaccharide (HMO), has not been added to infant formula because HMOs are incredibly expensive.

"We know these oligosaccharides play a vital role in developing a breast-fed baby's gut microbiota and in strengthening their immunity. 2FL (2-fucosyllactose) is the most abundant HMO in breast milk," said Michael Miller, a U of I professor of food microbiology.

To learn more about the HMO's function, Miller would like to do research with 2FL in newborn piglets, an excellent model for the human infant.

Unfortunately, 1 milligram of 2FL costs \$100, meaning a single study would require \$1 million for the HMO alone, he said.

Microbiologist, meet metabolic engineer. Yong-Su Jin, a departmental colleague and professor in the U of I's Institute for Genomic Biology, believed he could synthesize the oligosaccharide found in breast milk using a strain of *E. coli* engineered for that purpose.

A new postdoctoral researcher in Jin's laboratory had done some of the legwork for such a project in Korea, and they used their combined experience and expertise to engineer an HMO that can be produced very cheaply and quickly: 1 gram of 2FL per liter of *E. coli* broth. That means it's possible to produce 2FL in the lab, making Miller's piglet research feasible, he said.

"*E. coli* makes a starting material for 2FL as part of its normal metabolism, and that suggested to us that it was possible to use *E. coli* to produce 2FL," Jin said.

"The trick is to get the *E. coli* cells to increase their production of the starting material (GDP-fucose), which we did by overexpressing the pre-existing biosynthetic pathway. Then we had to give it the ability to transfer GDP-fucose to lactose. We solved that problem by inserting a gene from another organism," he added.

The next step was developing an *E. coli* mutant that can assimilate lactose. "Because the engineered mutant cannot use the lactose for its own growth, it instead uses lactose to make great quantities of 2FL, the HMO that many researchers want to study," he said.

Miller will soon be able to begin a study investigating the role of 2FL in infant nutrition and eventually make recommendations about whether it should be added to infant formula. "And we can use this technique to synthesize and study the hundreds of other HMOs in human milk too."

The research has other interesting possibilities unrelated to infant nutrition, he said.

Jin and Miller believe that their work has pharmaceutical applications. "Adding 2FL to the food

of soldiers on deployment could keep them out of sick bay. More than half of all soldiers in the field are incapacitated at some point with diarrheal illness caused by *Campylobacter jejuni*," Jin said.

A second use might be reducing the number of *Campylobacter* infections that originate in raw or undercooked poultry. "If chickens consumed poultry feed containing 2FL, pathogens would bind to this oligosaccharide instead of the mucosal lining of the bird's intestine and be eliminated well before the chicken arrived at your supermarket," Miller added.

Whole cell biosynthesis of a functional oligosaccharide, 2-fucosyllactose, using engineered *Escherichia coli* was published in *Microbial Cell Factories* and is available online.

Co-authors with Jin and Miller are Won Heong Lee, Panchalee Pathanibul, and Josh Quarterman of the U of I, Nam Soo Han of Chungbuk National University in Korea, and Jung-Hyun Jo and Jin-Ho Seo of Seoul National University in Korea. Jin and Lee are affiliated with the U of I's Institute for Genomic Biology, and Lee is also affiliated with Seoul National University.

"...it's possible to produce 2FL in the lab, making...research feasible."

About Professor Michael Miller



Dr. Miller's research interests focus on the relationship between gut microbiota and health, industrial fermentations, and food microbiology and safety.

His lab is also researching the functional genomics of lactic acid bacteria (LAB). LAB are extremely important in several areas including food fermentations, industrial starter cultures, delivery vehicles and probiotics. With the advent of functional genomics, the mechanisms of LAB function can be explored and then exploited.

About Professor Yong-Su Jin



Dr. Jin's research interests focus on probing, characterizing and engineering cellular state through systems and synthetic biology.

His lab is also focusing on metabolic engineering, which draws upon the key engineering principles of integration and quantification, and is a platform technology that provides solutions to various biological problems in the context of systems and synthetic biology. They are interested in developing and applying systematic and combinatorial methods for strain improvement for the production of fuels, chemicals and nutraceuticals. They would also like to extend these methods for studying fundamental biology problems, such as aging and stress response.

New DNS Students

Annabel Biruete

PhD Candidate
BS in Dietetics and Nutrition
Advised by Kenneth Wilund

Allyson Bower

PhD Candidate
MS in Nutritional Sciences
Advised by Elvira de Mejia

Trisha Gibbons

MS Candidate
BS in Nutritional Sciences
Advised by Rodney Johnson

Brittany Helbling

PhD Candidate
MS in Biotechnology
Advised by Yuan-Xiang Pan

Reeba Jacob

MS Candidate
BS in Food Science and
Human Nutrition
Advised by Ryan Dilger

Virginia Luchini

MS Candidate
BS in Dietetics
Advised by Sharon Donovan and
Soo-Yeun Lee

Courtney Marques

MS Candidate
BS in Biology
Advised by Margarita Teran-Garcia



Student Recognition

**2012-2013
Fellowship Recipients**

**Administration for Children
and Families Graduate
Student Research Fellowship:**
Dipti Dev

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

JBT (ACES):
Allyson Bower
Peter Fitschen
Brittany Helbling
Brigitte Townsend

**Kraft Foods Human
Nutrition Fellowship:**
Whitney Ajie
Virginia Luchini
Courtney Marques

**National Cancer Institute
Fellowship:**
Krystle Zuniga

NIH Predoctoral Fellowship:
Jennifer Barnes
Gabriel Chiu
Elizabeth Reznikov

University Fellowship:
Whitney Ajie
Virginia Luchini
Courtney Marques

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

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

**Spring 2012 - FSHN 220
Principles of Nutrition**

Whitney Ajie
Amy MacInnes
Krystle Zuniga

**Summer 2012 - FSHN 120
Contemporary Nutrition**

Hannah Holscher
Emily Radlowski

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

**2013 NSGSA Nutrition
Symposium**

April 17, 2013

Guest Speaker
Dr. James C. Fleet

Professor of Foods and Nutrition
Department of Nutrition Science
Purdue University, Indiana

Mini-Symposium

**"Bioactives and Cancer
Prevention"**

Faculty Presenters:

Hong Chen
Elvira de Mejia
John Erdman
Elizabeth Jeffery

Watch for more details!

2012 Quiz Bowl



Quiz bowl winners (l to r):

Back row: Courtney Marques
and Brigitte Townsend; Middle
row: John Erdman and Virginia
Luchini; Front row: Allyson
Bower and Trisha Gibbons



Fall 2012
New DNS
Students

New Students (l to r): Annabel Biruete, Virginia Luchini, Reeba Jacob,
Courtney Marques, Allyson Bower, Trisha Gibbons, Brittany Helbling



Student News

Attendees for the 2012 Regulatory Affairs Summit in Washington, DC. Pictured (l to r): Katherine Kerr, Eric Hentges (Executive Director for ILSI North America), Nathan Pratt, Joshua Smith and Dipti Dev

Awards, Service and Personal Achievements

- **Lauren Conlon** is the 2012 Co-Chair of NSGSA. She also recently published a manuscript in the Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry entitled "Coconut Oil Enhances Tomato Carotenoid Tissue Accumulation Compared to Safflower Oil in the Mongolian Gerbil (*Meriones unguiculatus*)."
- **Claudia Luevano Contreras** doctoral student of Karen Chapman-Novakofski, presented her work on diabetes and AGEs at the 11th International Maillard Symposia in September. Claudia received a Margin of Excellence Grant from DNS and funding from the symposia's host in order to attend. She also received the Young Scientist Travel Award from the International Maillard Reaction Society.
- **Brett Loman** received the 2012 FSHN Outstanding Teaching Assistant award.
- **Jane Naberhuis** was hired by Abbott Nutrition as a Research and Development Intern in July 2012.
- **Emily Radlowski** received the 2012 NACTA Graduate Student Teaching Award.
- **Pablo Torres-Aguilar** was selected to be a facilitator of a Scientist Without Borders Blog.
- **Anthony Wang** won 2nd place for his poster presentation at the Nutrition Symposium with his partner, **Michelle Mosley**.
- **Krystle Zuniga** and **Emily Radlowski** won 1st place in the oral presentation competition at the Nutrition Symposium; **Hannah Holscher** and **Timothy Abbott** won 2nd place.

Nutritional Sciences Graduate Student Association Officers

Jane Naberhuis
Chair
Lauren Conlon
Co-Chair
Joshua Smith
Treasurer

Brett Loman
Co-Treasurer
Pablo Torres
Secretary
Kristy Du
Media Representative

Brendon Smith
Student Representative to Faculty
Whitney Ajie
Networking Chair



Congratulations new NSGSA officers!

Officers (l to r): Back row: Brendon Smith, Jane Naberhuis, Lauren Conlon, Whitney Ajie and Pablo Torres; Front row: Kristy Du, Joshua Smith and Brett Loman

May Graduates

- **Kimberly Cephas: MS**
Advised by Kelly Swanson
- **Amy Elsen: MS**
Advised by John Erdman
- **Shelly Hester: PhD**
Advised by Sharon Donovan
- **Hannah Holscher: PhD**
Advised by Kelly Tappenden
- **Melissa Kaczmarczyk: PhD**
Advised by Gregory Freund
- **Katherine Kerr: PhD**
Advised by Kelly Swanson
- **Naiman Khan: PhD**
Advised by Sharon Donovan
- **Chris Moulton: PhD**
Advised by Donald Layman
- **Henna Muzaffar: PhD**
Advised by Karen Chapman-Novakofski
- **Jennifer Rytych: MS**
Advised by Rodney Johnson
- **Sonja Volker: PhD**
Advised by Elizabeth Jeffery

August Graduates

- **Kilia Liu: MS**
Advised by Sharon Donovan
- **Amy MacInnes: MS**
Advised by Soo-Yeun Lee
- **Rose Ann Mathai: PhD**
Advised by Juhee Kim
- **Emily Radlowski: PhD**
Advised by Sharon Donovan
- **Jill Shunk: MS**
Advised by Sharon Donovan



2012-2013 DNS

Executive
Committee**Sharon Donovan**

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

John Erdman, Jr.

Professor of Nutrition
Dept. of Food Science and
Human Nutrition
College of ACES

Gregory Freund

Professor and Head
Department of Pathology
College of Medicine

Kelly Swanson

Associate Professor of Animal
and Nutritional Sciences
Dept. of Animal Sciences
College of ACES

Kelly Tappenden

Professor of Nutrition and
Gastrointestinal Physiology
Dept. of Food Science and
Human Nutrition
College of ACES

Margarita Teran-Garcia

Assistant Professor
Dept. of Food Science and
Human Nutrition
College of ACES

Matthew Wallig

Professor of Comparative
Pathology
Dept. of Pathobiology
College of Veterinary
Medicine

Kenneth Wilund

Associate Professor
Dept. of Kinesiology and
Community Health
College of Applied Health
Sciences

Jeffrey Woods

Professor of Kinesiology
Dept. of Kinesiology and
Community Health
College of Applied Health
Sciences

Brendon Smith

Nutritional Sciences Graduate
Student



Karen Chapman-Novakofski received the mentoring award for her work as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior at the annual conference of the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior in Washington, DC this year.

Hong Chen has been awarded an Arlys Conrad International Teaching Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$7.1K in support of the FSHN 220 course, Principals of Nutrition.

Sharon Donovan was appointed to the Food and Nutrition Board, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, 2012-2015, and the Workshop Planning Committee for the Dietary Guidelines for 0-2 years of age. She is the Past President of the American Society of Nutrition. She is currently on sabbatical leave and spent June and July at the University of Adelaide, Australia working with Drs. Adrian Cummins and Gordon Howarth. She published "A metagenomic study of diet-dependent interaction between gut microflora and host in infants reveals differences in developmental and immune responses" in *Genome Biology* in April 2012 with her collaborator Dr. Robert Chapkin. It was accessed over 10,000 times. A part of these analyses were supported by a DNS Vision 20/20 grant.

John Erdman served as co-editor of the newest issue of *Present Knowledge in Nutrition*. He shared editorial responsibilities with Ian A. MacDonalds and Steven H. Zeisel.

Thomas Graves was promoted from assistant professor to full professor.

Craig Gundersen serves as the Executive Director of the National Soybean Research Laboratory, is a member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of Nutrition, and an Associate Editor for the American Journal of Agricultural Economics. He received the Outstanding Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy Article Award in 2012 (given annually for the best article published in *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*). He serves as CoPI on a USDA Food and Nutrition Service grant with total funding of \$7M.

Charles Hillman was promoted to full professor and appointed to the Committee on Physical Activity and Physical Education in the School Environment for the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. He also received the 2012 King James McCristal Distinguished Scholar Award for his presentation entitled "Run For Your Life! The Relation of Childhood Fitness to Brain Cognition and Achievement."

Margarethe Hoenig received the Oxford Laboratories Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Knowledge Concerning Small Animal Endocrinology. She was also nominated to be the 2013 James G. Morris lecturer in Companion Animal Nutrition.

Schuyler Korban received the Visiting Professorship for Senior International Scientists sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Michael Miller was the recipient of the NACTA Teacher Fellow Award. He also received the 2012 FSHN Outstanding Adviser/Mentor award.

Elvira de Mejia was promoted from associate professor to full professor.

Paul McNamara lead 11 students on his third student trip to Sierra Leone. They used their knowledge and training to help improve the livelihoods of the Sierra Leone people, who continue to re-build their country after a civil war that ended in 2001.

Yuan-Xiang Pan, William Helferich, and Sharon Donovan were all CoPIs for a program proposal that received the UIUC Award of Interdisciplinary Innovation Initiative (In3); "Enduring Consequences of Maternal Obesity."

Kelly Swanson received the American Society of Animal Science Early Career Achievement Award at the ASDA-ASAS 2012 Joint Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ and gave the following invited talks: "Adipose tissue gene expression changes related to the onset of obesity in cats," Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University, Tokyo, Japan; "Nutrigenomics: Using Gene Expression Data to Understand and Manage Pet Obesity," ADSA-ASAS 2012 Joint Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ; "Use of Genomic Biology to Study Companion Animal Microbiota," ADSA-ASAS 2012 Joint Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ.

Faculty Updates

DNS Faculty award recipients and ASN President Sharon Donovan at the 2012 EB Meeting.

Pictured (l to r): Yuan-Xiang Pan, Sharon Donovan, Juan Loor, Kelly Tappenden, John Erdman and Elvira de Mejia

NSGSA Faculty Award

2012 NSGSA Faculty Award
Yuan-Xiang Pan

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

2012 New DNS Faculty

Juan Andrade
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Food Science and
Human Nutrition
College of ACES

I-TOPP Notes

The Division of Nutritional Science's Illinois Transdisciplinary Obesity Prevention Program (I-TOPP) was pleased to host the following guest lecturers as part of their lecture series: **Myles Faith**, University of North Carolina, "Family-based Treatment of Early Childhood Obesity" and **Ellen Wartella**, Northwestern University, "Food Marketing and the Childhood Obesity Crisis".



Alumni Updates

Members of the Kari Family participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony with ACES Dean Robert Hauser and UI President Robert Easter during the dedication of the Dr. Frank W. Kari Walkway Ponds Restoration on the UIUC campus.

Pamela Anderson (PhD 1979) retired from Abbott in June 2012 as a Senior Director, where she enjoyed 28 years in clinical and regulatory affairs in the nutrition division.

Brian Berg (PhD 2004) co-chaired a session at the American Oil Chemist Society Meeting entitled "Omega-3 Fatty Acids and Brain Health." He also welcomed his third daughter, Brooklyn Berg, on January 20, 2012.

Kimberly Cephas (MS 2012) is working at Schuylkill Regional Medical Centers as a Clinical Dietitian.

Yewon Cheon (PhD 2008) works at the National Institutes of Health in the Office of Intramural Training and Education.

Suzanne Devkota (MS 2007) completed her PhD at The University of Chicago; her thesis work entitled "Dietary fat-induced taurocholic acid production promotes pathobiont and colitis in IL10^{-/-} mice" was published in *Nature* (July 2012). Now she is a post-doctoral fellow at the Joslin Diabetes Center/Harvard Medical School.

Matthew Gardner (MS 2001) is working for the Orthopedic Group at Springfield Clinic as an orthopedic traumatologist.

Barbara Kochanowski (PhD 1984) is on the Board of Directors for the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education. She is also the Secretary for the Penn State Nutrition and Dietetics Alumni Society Board of Directors.

Brian Lindshield (PhD 2008) was invited to join the ASN Learning Library Committee for a 3-year term. He was elected a faculty senator for a 3-year term starting this year. He is a finalist for the 2012 Education-Portal.com People's Choice Award, Most Open Resource for his flexbook that he created instead of using a textbook in classes. It has received extensive media attention, including coverage in *The Chicago Tribune*.

Mina Mojtahedi (PhD 2010) is now the Development Cooperation Coordinator at the Threshold Association, Helsinki, Finland.

Karen Plawecki (PhD 2009) was inducted into the Nutritional Science Hall of Fame at Purdue University this spring and is now an assistant professor in the Nutrition Division at Benedictine University.

Matthew Thorpe (PhD 2010) was selected to the Gold Humanism in Medicine Honor Society and the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society in 2011.

Barbara Yudell Steward (PhD 2009) married Dwight Steward in August and moved to Denver, Colorado in October for Dwight's new job.



In Memoriam

Emeritus Professor Toshiro Nishida, 86, passed away on August 15, 2012. Dr. Nishida received his PhD from the University of Illinois in Food Science in 1956. He was a FSHN faculty member for over 40 years and was a member of the Division for over 30 years. In this time, his internationally-recognized research made contributions to our understanding of pathways, enzymes and proteins associated with lipid metabolism and transport. Upon his retirement in 1998, the Toshiro Nishida Fellowship for Excellence was established. This fund includes the DNS Toshiro Nishida Research Award, which supports travel to scientific conferences for outstanding DNS students.

2012-2013 External Advisory Committee

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

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

Keith Garleb, PhD
Director, Global Discovery
Abbott Nutrition R&D

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

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

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

Barbara Lyle, PhD
Principal Scientist
Research & Nutrition
Kraft Foods Group North America

Robert McMahon, PhD
Associate Director
Global Discovery and Analytical
Sciences
Mead Johnson Nutrition

Luis Mejia, PhD
Adjunct Associate Professor
Food Science and Human Nutrition
University of Illinois Urbana-
Champaign

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

Jeffrey Zachwieja, PhD
Senior Vice President for Nutrition
Research
Dairy Research Institute



Barb Yudell Steward (PhD 2009) visits Jim Robinson in Colorado.

Special Gift Honors DNS Alum Frank W. Kari

Dear DNS Friends,

For those of you who are just joining the University of Illinois this fall, welcome to the Illinois family. And, to all of you returning to the campus – welcome back home. In this writing, I share news of a wonderful gift honoring a graduate of the Division of Nutritional Sciences.

The University of Illinois Arboretum was home to a grand celebration as the Dr. Frank W. Kari Walkway and Ponds Restoration Project was dedicated September 27, 2012. University of Illinois President Robert Easter, College of ACES Dean Robert Hauser, campus administrators, faculty, students, alumni, and community members gathered with the Kari family to dedicate the beautiful new walkway that now weaves its way along the perimeter of restored ponds near Japan House.

The three sisters of the late Dr. Frank W. Kari ('81 Ph.D. Nutritional Sciences; '77 M.S. Nutritional Sciences; '74 B.S. LAS Biology) gathered to view for the first time the nearly ½-mile walkway, educational signage and ponds. Carolyn Kari (Washington, DC), Kathy Kari and husband Scott Speer (Lisle, IL), and Frances Kari Schrader and husband George Boggs, Jr. (Homewood, IL) returned to campus to remember their father, Dr. Albert F. Kari, as well as their brother Frank who lost his battle to cancer in 2007. The project, made possible through the generous Kari family trust in Frank's name, greatly enhances accessibility by providing safe and sturdy sidewalks around this living laboratory. It also enhances the Arboretum's value as an outdoor classroom with the addition of more than 26,000 native plants.

"Thanks to the Kari family, you could say the Arboretum is now our own little 'field of dreams,'" President Easter said. "Just like in the Oscar-nominated movie, this generous gift built new walkways and restored the

ponds in this magnificent slice of nature, people are coming."

In addition to the Arboretum's restoration, the trust will also support a horticultural symposia or visiting lecture series in Frank's name in the College of ACES Department of Crop Sciences. The first lecture series in the spring of 2013 will include four speakers discussing multifunctional urban agriculture. This trust also provides funding for an Arboretum student internship.

Dr. Steven Clinton ('84 M.D. Medicine; '78 Ph.D. Nutritional Sciences), a close friend of Frank's and professor of internal medicine at The Ohio State University, attended the dedication ceremony. He said, "I am so privileged that my life and Frank's crossed here at the U of I in graduate school where this university trained a wonderful scientist." A separate endowment in the Division of Nutritional Sciences was established in Frank's honor by his friends and family to support travel expenses for qualified graduate students to attend scientific conferences.

For more information about the Kari Arboretum Trust, the Dr. Frank W. Kari Memorial Award Fund in Nutritional Sciences, or to learn how your gift can make an impact, please contact Kimberly Meenen at 217.333.9355 or kmeenen@illinois.edu.

(This column was prepared in part with information gathered by Claire Benjamin, College of ACES Marketing and Communications intern.)



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

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 (#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):** Provides travel 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 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



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.