

THE DEAN'S LETTER FOR TUFTS NUTRITION



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RESEARCH UPDATES

Professor **Beatrice Rogers**, Ph.D., and her collaborator **Kathy Macias**, N01, F02, made headlines in the Dominican Republic in February when they presented the results of a study estimating the prevalence of malnutrition in three Latin American countries. Using a mapping technique called Small Area Estimation, they demonstrated that in a country like the

Dominican Republic, where the average prevalence of malnutrition is relatively low, there are still localized areas with rather high rates of malnutrition, and those areas are not always the most impoverished ones. They gave a four-hour seminar to government officials and academics on the use of this statistical technique and later presented the results to government officials, academics and the press. The event also marked the publication of "The Atlas of Hunger and Malnutrition in the Dominican Republic" by the World Food Program.

Associate Professor **Parke Wilde**, Ph.D., has received a RIDGE grant for research on the economics of the Thrifty Food Plan, a food budget used by the USDA in connection with the Food Stamp Program. In collaboration with **Joseph Llobrera**, N09, **Flannery Campbell**, N08, and **Jessica Cohen**, N08, Wilde has developed an Excel application that allows users to try out their own ideas for a monthly food budget and get immediate feedback about the plan's cost and nutrition quality. The grant is administered by the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago, with funding from the USDA's Economic Research Service.

The devastating earthquake that struck northern Pakistan and the disputed territory of Kashmir in October 2005 killed approximately 75,000 people, injured 70,000 more and left an estimated 3.5 million people homeless. The subsequent relief effort, which was led by the Pakistan Army and included local citizens, national and international aid agencies, U.S. and NATO military forces, and even Islamic militant groups, was one of the most effective responses ever to a natural disaster of this magnitude. Assistant Professor **Andrew Wilder**, Ph.D., of the Feinstein International Center examines the earthquake response in the latest in the center's series of reports on the state of humanitarianism. "Perceptions of the Pakistan Earthquake Response" records the views of both aid providers and aid recipients in the earthquake-affected areas of Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. In particular, Wilder examines the universality of humanitarian principles, the impact of the war on terror on the earthquake response, the role of the Pakistan Army in leading the response and the

security of humanitarian aid workers. The full report is available at: <http://fic.tufts.edu/?pid=65>.

The **New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (NESFP)** received a second grant award from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' Agricultural Innovation Center to continue work on a pioneering effort to develop a Mobile Poultry Processing Unit (MPPU) for small-scale poultry producers in the Commonwealth. The project will field test the MPPU with poultry producers in up to four communities across the state this summer.

The NESFP has also been selected for listing in the *Massachusetts Catalogue for Philanthropy*. According to George McCully, president of the catalogue, "New Entry Sustainable Farming Project was chosen because they are a great example of private initiatives for public good, focusing on quality of life in Massachusetts, and because they are both excellent and cost-effective." The catalogue is designed as a showcase for Massachusetts philanthropy, and a one-stop shop for a family's charitable giving options. It is mailed to 120,000 homes statewide and is available on the web at www.cfp-ma.org. To learn more, visit <http://nesfp.nutrition.tufts.edu>.

Adjunct Assistant Professor **Janet E. Forrester**, **Heidi Sheehan**, N07, and **Tracey Joffe**, a researcher at Tufts Medical School, have published an article in the *American Journal of Dietetics and Human Nutrition* titled, "A validation study of body composition by bioelectrical impedance analysis in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-positive and negative Hispanic men and women." Sheehan co-authored the paper through a directed study with Forrester.

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

On February 14, Professor **Beatrice Rogers**, Ph.D., was celebrated as the recipient of the 2007 Friedman School Distinguished Faculty Award. Now in its third year, the award recognizes outstanding contributions to the school and its students and is the highest honor bestowed upon a member of the faculty by his or her peers.

Jill Shuman, adjunct lecturer, is a 2008 recipient of a Journalism Fellowship Award from the American Association of Neurology. Fellowships are awarded to "journalists who exemplify excellence in medical/health reporting." She will be formally recognized at the AAN annual meeting in April.

HERE & THERE

At a February meeting in Belgium, Professor **Johanna Dwyer**, D.Sc., served as an external reviewer for the European Commission's EURECCA project, which seeks to harmonize methods of collecting and using micronutrient information across Europe. The organizers have also asked her to serve as a scientific expert for the project.

Adjunct Assistant Professor **Hugh Joseph**, Ph.D., spoke about "Changing the Cheap Food Mentality" at the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA) annual winter conference. Addressing a standing-room-only crowd, Joseph explained, "We need to increase the attention of policy makers to the hidden costs of cheap food, what happens to

the environment ... what it's doing to the land and how it's contributing to global warming.”

FRIEDMAN FACULTY IN THE NEWS

Professor **Jeffrey Blumberg**, Ph.D., discussed the nutrition of chocolate with the *Washington Post*. While research has linked some chocolate ingredients to health benefits, “chocolate is not a health food,” he said. “Broccoli, yes, you can eat all you want. Dark chocolate, I can't say that about.”

Assistant Professor **Christina Economos**, Ph.D., was interviewed about childhood obesity on the Earth & Sky radio show, which is broadcast on 1,000 radio stations nationwide. “If we let obesity go unchecked, there are mathematical models showing that half of children will be overweight in the next 30 to 40 years,” she said. “Two-thirds of adults are actually overweight or obese. That will rise. We'll have more health-care costs. We'll have a society that's not well, not productive and most importantly, not happy.”

Professor **Alice Lichtenstein**, D.Sc., is the featured expert in series of short video segments on ABC.com's On Call Heart Disease. She answers several questions about heart health, from “How Do I Avoid Eating Trans Fat?” to “Is the Atkins Diet Heart-Healthy?”

The *Baltimore Sun* featured Associate Professor **Joel Mason**, M.D., and his work in an article about folic acid fortification. “There's an increasing level of concern that it might be harming some segments of the population.” If there's a 10 percent chance that his concerns about folic acid are valid, he said, “I don't think we can afford to take that 10 percent chance.”

The *Boston Globe* profiled Visiting Professor **Nevin Scrimshaw**, M.D., Ph.D., detailing the way one of the fathers of the nutrition movement practices what he preaches by eating well and staying active. He spent his most recent birthday on the ski slopes. “Now that I'm 90, I get a pass that's good at Loon [Mountain] and a couple of other places,” he said. “Which is great.”

COMING RIGHT UP

The Friedman School Alumni Association will host a **Washington, D.C. networking cocktail reception** for alumni, current students and friends of the Friedman School at the Hotel Tabbarad Inn on Thursday, March 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Register for this free reception at https://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/TUF2/events/event_order.cgi?tmpl=events&event=2155078. Prior to the reception, a group of 15 students will be traveling around D.C. meeting with alumni at their workplaces. This inaugural alumni/student networking event is run by the Alumni Association's Executive Council and is intended to introduce current students to D.C. career opportunities

Tufts University is hosting a **Symposium on Women in Science, Medicine and Engineering**. This program was organized by a committee chaired by **Simin Meydani**, D.V.M., Ph.D., professor of nutrition and immunology, and includes **Eileen Kennedy**, dean of the Friedman School; Peggy Newell, vice provost; Lisa Coleman, executive director of the Office of Institutional Diversity; Linda Abriola, dean of the School of Engineering; Naomi

Rosenberg, dean of the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences; Deborah Kochevar, dean of the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine; Alice Gottlieb, professor of dermatology; and Diana Bianchi, the Natalie V. Zucker Professor of pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology. A panel of outstanding speakers from across the country and from different disciplines has been invited. Everyone is welcome to attend the event, which will be held on Friday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Behrakis Auditorium at the Jaharis Family Center for Biomedical and Nutrition Sciences. RSVP by March 19 to ovp-rsvp@tufts.edu or (617) 636-3536. For program details, go to <http://www.tufts.edu/central/research/WISME>.

Dean **Eileen Kennedy**, D.Sc. and **Robert Russell**, M.D., director of the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging, will host a **Friedman School cocktail reception during the 2008 Experimental Biology Conference** on April 7. Learn more and register at https://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/TUF2/events/event_order.cgi?tmpl=events&event=2153591.

Mark your calendars for the **2008 All-Alumni Reunion** on April 12-14. Reunion will feature the 2008 Alumni Association Awards, keynote speaker Clark Wolf, founder and president of Clark Wolf Company (www.clarkwolfcompany.com), events that discuss critical issues in nutrition and the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and mentors. There will also be a reception just for Friedman graduates from the early 1990s. Go to nutrition.tufts.edu/joinus for more information.

The deadline for the next issue of the *Dean's Letter for Tufts Nutrition* is Wednesday, April 17. Please send your submissions to Julie Flaherty at julie.flaherty@tufts.edu.