The Nutritional Sciences Department offered two study abroad programs in the summer of 2015. These were ‘Nutritional Tour of Italy’ and ‘Sports and Nutrition in Spain’. This year, the ‘Nutritional Tour of Italy’ program was headed by Drs. Boylan and Cooper. Seventeen students took part in the program which included visiting Rome, Florence, Venice, Parma, Modena, and Bologna. The students were involved in many activities including a lecture given by an Italian doctor on the Mediterranean diet, an Italian cooking class and a group project to probe the factors that influence the food habits which included comparison of differences in food cultures in Middle East, India, Vietnam, Caribbean region, China, Russia and the United States and learned how food customs, religious practices and so on related to food safety and personal nutritional status. The students also learned the cultural, social, economic, religious and ethnic factors that influence food choices and related behavior.

Together these interactive study abroad activities were a huge success. Congratulations to all who organized and participated on a job well done!
Department Announcements

- The NEW online MS in Nutrition and Dietetics program has been approved by TTU Academic Council and is pending THECB and ACSCOC notification and approval
- The NEW NS adjunct Faculty appointments
- Master’s Theses and Doctoral Dissertations
- Lab Updates

The NEW online MS in Nutrition and Dietetics program has been approved by TTU Academic Council and is pending THECB and SACSCOC notification and approval

The new online MS in Nutrition and Dietetics program has been approved by the Texas Tech University Academic Council [http://goo.gl/4DBDyk](http://goo.gl/4DBDyk). This program will now be reviewed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, before receiving final approval. Our Department, however, will now be able to advertise this new online degree as ‘pending THECB and SACSCOC notification and approval’. This new online degree program, which is designed for dietetic interns and those with RD or RDN credentials, will reach prospective students across the nation. Some of the new elective courses that have been developed or are under development under this program include:

- Bariatric Nutrition
- Nutrition for Eating Disorders
- Pediatric Nutrition
- Nutrition and Gastrointestinal Disorders
- Nutrition and Aging
- Nutrition and Diabetes Management

The NEW NS adjunct Faculty appointments

The Nutritional Sciences Department appointed three new adjunct Faculty. Welcome to our new colleagues, we look to continued collaborations!

- Dr. Leslie Shen – Professor in Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
  Physical address – 3601 4th Street, Lubbock, TX 79430

- Dr. Nishan Kaluapahana – Professor in the Department of Physiology at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka
  His profile – [http://goo.gl/gXe28w](http://goo.gl/gXe28w)
  Physical address – Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya 20400, Sri Lanka
• Dr. Lauren Gollahon – Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences
  Her profile – http://goo.gl/MldahJ
  Physical address – 2500 Broadway, Lubbock, TX 79409

Master’s Theses and Doctoral Dissertations

Michael Rogowski

• Degree: Ph.D.
• Defense Date: June 22, 2015
• Dissertation Title: The Molecular Mechanism of T1AM on Weight Maintenance and Reversing Obesity
• Dissertation Committee: Dr. Shaikh Rahman (Committee Chair), Dr. Fariba Assadi-Porter, Dr. Martin Binks, Dr. Mallory Boylan, Dr. Lauren Gollahon and Dr. Jannette Dufour

Jada Stevenson

• Degree: Ph.D.
• Defense Date: July 6, 2015
• Dissertation Title: Dietary Fatty Acid Effects on Hunger, Satiety and Metabolism
• Dissertation Committee: Dr. Jamie Cooper (Committee Chair), Dr. Julian Spallholz, Dr. Mallory Boylan, Dr. Chad Paton, Dr. Joaquin Gonzales and Dr. Michael Ballou

Jia Zhang

• Degree: Ph.D.
• Defense Date: August 5, 2015
• Dissertation Title: Molecular Imaging and Prevention of Atherosclerosis Using CD36-Targeted Nanoparticles and Epigallocatechin Gallate
• Dissertation Committee: Dr. Shu Wang (Committee Chair), Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa, Dr. Shaikh Rahman, Dr. Chwan-Li (Leslie) Shen and Dr. Michael Ballou
Lab Updates

Dr. Moustaid-Moussa and Dr. Ramalingam’s Lab

- Elise Coleman joined the NIOR lab in late Spring 2015 and she is an undergraduate Honors student in Nutritional Sciences. She assists a collaborative project with the College of Engineering to develop *C. elegans* as a model for nutritional studies.

- Amal Bouyanfif was a graduate assistant in the NIOR lab and she was accepted to the doctoral program in the TTU Plant & Soil Sciences Department for the Fall 2015. Amal intends to minor in Nutritional Sciences and Dr. Moustaid-Moussa will serve as her dissertation co-chair. She will work in a collaborative project involving Nutritional Sciences, Plant Sciences and Chemical Engineering that *C. elegans* is being used a model to investigate the mechanistic basis for anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties of food and plant bioactive compounds.

- Erin Yen is a new member in the NIOR lab and is a dietetic intern registered for the MS program (thesis option). She received her Bachelor’s Degree in TTU (Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics) in May 2015. Her research focuses on the effects of omega 3 fatty acids, microRNAs and gene expression related to inflammation and obesity in visceral adipose tissue.

- Monique Lemieux defended her dissertation in May and received her Ph.D. on August 8, 2015. She was offered a tenure-track Faculty position at the Texas Women’s University in Denton and she will assume duties in her position in the Fall 2015.

Upcoming University Dates

- August 24 Classes Begin
- August 27 Last day to add a course
- September 7 Labor Day Holiday
- September 14 Last day to file statement of intent to graduate
- September 25 Last day to submit defense notification
- October 16 Last day to defend thesis/dissertation
- November 5 - 23 Advance registration for next term
**Students Achievements**

**Seth Selorm Klobodu, Ph.D. student**
Received the Texas Tech University Global Leadership Certificate. This is a new program created within the Office of International Affairs to expand student leadership opportunities and for the office to gain valuable perspective from students about how to improve international services.

**Arwa Aljawadi, Ph.D. student**
Elected as an Early Career Representative for the Obesity & Cancer Section in The Obesity Society (TOS).

**Richard Garrison, Ph.D. student**
Received the Frances E Fischer Memorial Scholarship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Khalid Aldubayan, Ph.D. student**
Received the Student Research Award at the SNEN Annual Conference; 2015 July; Pittsburgh, PA. Oral presentation title: A Quantitative Study Examining Compliance to the Saudi Policy and IOM Standards in Boys' Public High Schools in Riyadh, SA.

**Seth Selorm Klobodu, Ph.D. student**
Received the Helen DeVitt Jones Graduate Fellowship which provides funding for 3 years.

**Faculty Awards**

**Dr. Martin Binks**
Nominated as the college nominee for the President’s Mid-career award.

http://goo.gl/tvF1KB
Funding

Title: Effect of Tocotrienol on Bone Health.
Funding Source: American River Nutrition
Amount: $25,000
Principal Investigators: Shu Wang and Leslie Shen

Title: Modulating Cancer Progression by Adipogenic Human Adenovirus Type 36.
Funding Source: NIH 121CA178227-01
Total Amount: $207,922 (grand transferred to TTU)
Co-Investigators: Nikhil Dhurandhar

Title: Adding Value to Switchgrass Biofuel Production by Use of the Non-Structural Compounds.
Funding Source: USDA NIFA AFRI grant
Total Amount: $489,954
TTU Portion: $30,000
Lead Institutions: University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
Co-Institutions: North Carolina State University and Texas Tech University (Naima Moustaid-Moussa)

Title: Development of Ad36E4orf1 as an Anti-Diabetic Therapeutic Target.
Funding Source: Vital Health Interventions
Amount: $2,880,000
Principal Investigators: Nikhil Dhurandhar

Title: Mechanisms by which Omega 3 Fatty Acids Alleviate Obesity, Insulin Resistance and Fatty Liver Disease in Obese Subjects in South Asian Adults.
Funding Source: COHS International Research Seed Grant
Amount: $7,500
Principal Investigators: Naima Moustaid-Moussa
Co-Investigators: Latha Ramalingam, Debra Reed, Nishan Kalupahana
Collaborators: Thilak Jayalath, Badra Hewavithana, Manoji Pathirage

Patents, Publications and Invited Lectures

- Patents Obtained
- Students' Posters
- Journal Articles and Books
- Invited Lectures by Professors

Patents Obtained

Nikhil Dhurandhar

European patent application No. 11741354.2
Title: Adenovirus Ad36 E4orf1 protein for prevention and treatment of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease.
Students’ Posters


- **Mbogori T, MdRuhul A, Murimi M.** Nutrition Education Intervention: Using Train the Trainer Approach to Reach Populations with Low Literacy in Turkana Kenya. SNEN Annual Conference; 2015 July; Pittsburgh, PA.

Journal Articles


- Voss JD, Leon JC, **Dhurandhar NV** and Robb FT. Pawnobiome: Manipulation of the Hologenome within One Host Generation and Beyond. Frontiers in Microbiology. 2015 (accepted).


Invited Lectures by Professors

**Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar**


**Drs. Martin Binks, Jamie Cooper, Nikhil Dhurandhar and Naima Moustaid-Moussa**

Invited to develop video lectures on obesity for the students of Catholic University of South Korea. June 2015.

**In the Media**

- [Students in the Media](#)  •  [Professors in Local Media](#)  •  [Professors in National Media](#)

**Students in the Media**

**Michael Rogowski, Ph.D. student**


**Professors in Local Media**

**Drs. Nikhil Dhurandhar, Jamie Cooper, Naima Moustaid-Moussa, Martin Binks and John Dawson**


**Drs. Nikhil Dhurandhar and Naima Moustaid-Moussa**

Featured in July/August issue of the Texas Techsan magazine for the 2015 awards from the American Society for Nutrition.
Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar

- Texas Tech Today on July 8, 2015 entitled ‘Infectobesity Expert Receives Seven-Figure Grant for Diabetes Research’. [http://goo.gl/d7yl7y](http://goo.gl/d7yl7y)

Professors in National Media

Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar

- Everyday Health on July 1, 2015 entitled ‘10 Things Your Doctor Won't Tell You about Weight-Loss Drugs’. [http://goo.gl/5Aq1SJ](http://goo.gl/5Aq1SJ)

Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa

WebMD on July 17, 2015 entitled ‘Are You Fated to Be Fat?’ [http://goo.gl/r7gTBr](http://goo.gl/r7gTBr)
Dr. Martin Binks

Appeared in multiple news outlets in interviews regarding the role of alcohol in sensitizing the brain to food cues in the environment:


GNO Updates

- [Follow GNO on Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/GNO) • [GNO Officers](http://www.facebook.com/GNO)

Follow GNO on Facebook

Follow the Texas Tech Graduate Nutrition Organization on Facebook to see what your Graduate student organization has been up to and to view event photos [https://goo.gl/O67EW2](https://goo.gl/O67EW2).

GNO Officers

The GNO has selected the incoming officers for the school year 2015-2016. Congratulations to the new office bearers!

- President: Dylan Bailey
- Student Representative: Seth Klobodu
- Treasurer: Rick Garrison
**Other Announcements and Notices**

- Obesity Research Cluster (ORC)
- ShortCourse

**Obesity Research Cluster (ORC)**

**The ORC seminar series**

The ORC has weekly seminar series in the fall semester which are presentations from faculty and students at TTU and HSC and invited speakers. Visit their website [http://goo.gl/hLE3cX](http://goo.gl/hLE3cX) to view the seminar schedule and location in the fall 2015.

**Join the ORC Listserv**

Sign up for the email list to receive the seminar reminder and ORC events information. [http://goo.gl/RP4o8t](http://goo.gl/RP4o8t)

**ShortCourses**

Technology Support offers ShortCourses on computer packages every semester. The categories include adobe creative suits, Microsoft office, statistics software and web development and publishing. Visit their website for the list of [offered courses](http://goo.gl/) during the fall 2015 and for [registration](http://goo.gl/).

**Contact Us**

Tell us your comments and suggestions. Email the editor ([shao-hua.chin@ttu.edu](mailto:shao-hua.chin@ttu.edu)) whenever you receive awards or funding; appear in media; have lab updates, publications, presentations or other achievements you want to share. We are looking forward to hearing from you.