7 Spring & Summer Graduates!

The Dietetics Program is pleased to announce we have five seniors graduating this spring and two this summer. Pictured L-R (Front) Britney Horine, Rebekah Simmons, Ya-Chin Huang, Alicia Yokley, Laraine Walters. Back L-R: Kim Kuebler, Kim Eck. Ya-Chin Huang and Kim Eck will graduate this summer.

Kim Kuebler, Rebekah, Britney and Kim Eck will graduate with honors. Way to go, girls!

We are excited this year to have had ALL of our seniors and graduates who applied to internships this year be accepted into their first choices!

Two students are headed to St. Louis—Kim Kuebler to VA and Stephanie Young (Dec '03) to Barnes-Jewish. Alicia Yokley will head to ARAMARK in St. Joseph. The others are heading out of state—two to new internship placements for us. Laraine Walters has been accepted to St. Francis in Peoria, IL and Ya-Chin Huang to Texas State University in San Marcos. We have not had students placed there before so they will go pave the way for others! Laraine starts in June so she is really off and running! Rebekah Simmons will be attending South Carolina. Vikki Stomboly ('98) has been accepted to KU Medical Center’s internship but will not begin until she completes her Master’s in Public Health at SMSU in December. We are really excited that all of our students are accepted and going where they want to go! They have all done excellent jobs in preparing for their internship and we know they will be successful.

Our other two seniors also have professional program plans in their near future. Britney Horine will be attending a graduate program in Food Science and Technology. Kim Eck is in the application process for physical therapy school for after graduation in the summer. They are excited and we are, too. We’ll be anxious to learn where they will be attending.

We are really going to miss all you girls! Good luck!

3 Students Receive Awards!

We have three students who have received special recognition for their achievements this semester. Senior Brooke Lowe (pictured right) received the Kansas City Dietetic Association Scholarship, awarded to one student each year. She received her award at the Kansas City Dietetic Association meeting April 20. Brooke is a senior from Chillicothe, MO. Stephanie Young (pictured far right with the daughter of Eugenia Shrader) graduated in December, 2003 and has been awarded Outstanding Dietetic Student of the Year by the Missouri Dietetic Association AND also received the Eugenia Shrader Scholarship offered each year to an outstanding dietetic student. Stephanie received her awards at the Missouri Dietetic Association State Meeting on April 15 in St. Louis. Sophomore Sherri Jenkins has also received the statewide DeVern Calloway Scholarship, Multicultural Leadership Scholarship, North American Savings Bank Scholarship and Employment Scholarship Program. We are very proud of the three of them!
Our Bears Stand Out! We are pleased to have five student athletes in our program who are doing a great job—in class and out!

Nicole Lehman (above), our Lady Bear's basketball star 6' forward from Lamar, MO has been named to the 2004 Missouri Valley Conference Scholar Athlete Team. Nicole is a junior in the dietetics program and carries a 4.0 GPA. Nicole was also a member of the 2003 MVC Scholar Athlete Team. Good job!

Mandy Herbster (above) is a sophomore dietetics major. Mandy is with SMSU's Softball Bears and is a right-handed pitcher from Omaha, NE with an ERA of 1.47.

Sara Cole (above right) is also a sophomore dietetics major with the Softball Bears. She is an outfielder from Blue Springs, MO who leads the team in hits and batting average.

Luan Weekes (far right) a junior dietetics major from Barbados, was named MVC field athlete twice this year, once in February and also in March. At the MVC Indoor Conference, Luan won the long jump and came in second in the triple jump. She has qualified for Regionals in the triple jump. Luan is also a member of the Bears' 4x100 team that had a regional qualifying time. Regionals will be in May.

Nicole Lehman (above) is our Lady Bear's basketball star 6' forward from Lamar, MO has been named to the 2004 Missouri Valley Conference Scholar Athlete Team. Nicole is a junior in the dietetics program and carries a 4.0 GPA. Nicole was also a member of the 2003 MVC Scholar Athlete Team. Good job!

Mandy Herbster (above) is a sophomore dietetics major. Mandy is with SMSU's Softball Bears and is a right-handed pitcher from Omaha, NE with an ERA of 1.47.

Sara Cole (above right) is also a sophomore dietetics major with the Softball Bears. She is an outfielder from Blue Springs, MO who leads the team in hits and batting average.

Luan Weekes (far right) a junior dietetics major from Barbados, was named MVC field athlete twice this year, once in February and also in March. At the MVC Indoor Conference, Luan won the long jump and came in second in the triple jump. She has qualified for Regionals in the triple jump. Luan is also a member of the Bears' 4x100 team that had a regional qualifying time. Regionals will be in May.

As many of you probably know, Bridget Thomason, RD, MSW is leaving us to begin dental school this summer at UMKC. We are excited for Bridget but she will be greatly missed. Bridget has been teaching Nutrition Assessment for some time and the Food Preparation lab for us this year. She is a 1999 honors graduate from our Dietetics program, completed her internship at UCLA—Olive View, coming back to SMSU to complete her Master’s in Social Work in 2003. We are happy for her, but sorry to see her go!

We are also sorry to see Andi White go. Andi is going to pursue her doctorate in hiking—no, I mean Exercise and Wellness with an emphasis in Nutrition—in sunny Arizona at Arizona State University. Andi has been teaching a number of classes for us for five years and while we are glad she is going on to pursue her academic career, we will really miss her! Andi has taught Counseling Nutrition and Education, MNT I and II, Senior Seminar, Research, and this semester BMS 240.

It is going to be an interesting fall around here. Deb Piland will be in Arkansas finishing her PhD and not be back until spring. We wish her well in her last semester and on her dissertation.

Hillary Corbett who has recently completed her Master’s will be teaching for us this fall. Hillary is a 2002 honors graduate of our program and is currently working as an RD at Lakeland Regional Hospital. Presently her teaching duties are undetermined.

Dr. Reid will be teaching at least one class and possibly two. We continue to search for a program director. Be sure to let those you work with know about our opening! We are anxious to find a great director to keep us going. In the meantime, Carmen Boyd will continue on as acting director.

We are especially excited this fall as we will have our first accreditation review in November. Put the dates of November 14, 15, and 16 on your calendar if you are in the area as we will probably be contacting you to come to a reception for our reviewers so they can meet former graduates and discuss our program with you!
Where have our graduates gone?

Jenny Gardner (01) completed her internship at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and returned to Springfield where she works at CoxHealth covering cardiac and renal. She and her husband welcomed their baby boy in March. Congratulations, Jenny!

Beth Rawley (02) will finish her Master’s this May at KU Med Center. She is doing her research on Calcium and is working with children with development disabilities. Kate Pinzke Koester (97) is the Regional Director for National Health Care in St. Louis. She and her husband live in the St. Louis area and are expecting their first child. Kate works with Kristen Billingsley Sage (99) who is the assistant regional director.

Tara Graf Stulce (02) has recently accepted a job with CoxHealth Systems in Springfield and will be leaving Joplin. At Cox, she will also be working with several of our graduates including Becky Murrill Workizer (01), Connie Cortez (97) and Katherine Denure Fleming (94).

Butch Clark (02) is now in New York where he is working as a personal trainer for the New York Sports Club.

Dana Holland Nippe (00) and Shannon Seider Crosby (01) are working as nutrition educators with Greene County WIC. Shannon will begin work on her Master’s in Public Health this fall at SMSU.

Clay Worthington (02) is finishing his Master’s at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX and traveling to Europe this spring with one of the Olympic Cycling teams. His Master’s research is in the area of C-Reactive Proteins and inflammation. He plans to begin his doctorate in 2005.

2004 MDA Meeting in St. Louis

It was so good to run into several of our graduates at MDA! Sharon Carpenter Fryer, one of our former graduates is working at Washington University School of Medicine as Research coordinator in the Department of Psychiatry. She recently was one of the authors in an article in Annals of Internal Medicine entitled: “Eponyms and the Diagnosis of Aortic Regurgitation: What Says the Evidence?” It was great to see Sharon and hear about the work she is doing and enjoys! Sharon was voted “Emerging Dietetics Leader” for MDA in 2003. Good job, Sharon!

I also ran into Michelle Kerr (98) who has been accepted into the doctoral program in epidemiology at UCHSC in Denver but is going to take some time off before beginning. She will graduate from Saint Louis University on May 15 with a Master of Public Health and Master of Science in Nutrition & Dietetics. Way to go, Michelle!

Mike Cazzaniga (95) is a successful nutritional pharmaceutical sales rep for Novartis and was manning their MDA display. He, his wife and baby daughter live in St. Louis. Carrie Allen (01) is with Food Outreach, Inc., a wonderful service that provides food and nutritional support to men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS in the St. Louis area. She will be getting married this fall.

Natalie Carlson Allen (95) is still working with the St. Louis Cardinals and also with Coca-Cola for whom she was manning a vendor site at MDA. She lives with her husband and young son in St. Louis where she also works with the St. Louis School District and the Missouri MAP program.

It was also nice to see interns Leah Broeker, Jennifer Lear Daves, Kathleen Hoss and Jessica Jensen, who will be finishing their internships very soon!

I hope I didn’t forget anyone. It was good to see you. Carmen

Former Students Share

Ruth Melvin, a 1997 graduate of our program, is the food service director for the School District of Republic, Missouri. She came and talked with our Community Nutrition course about School Food Service and did a great job. As many of you know, this is a growing area for dietitians.

Susan Barr is a 1982 graduate of the Dietetics program and is with the Missouri Department of Health, Southwestern District (Springfield, MO) as a Nutritionist with the Child and Adult Care Food Program. She talked with Community Nutrition students about her job and opportunities with the state in Public Health and Nutrition.

Julie Abney (’97) is the Nutritionist with Greene County Nutrition Network. She spoke as a community nutritionist about her position with GCNN and what it involves. We really appreciate them coming to talk with us!

Hillary Corbett and Amanda Rehmer-Bartlett talked with our Introduction to Dietetics course about their experiences since graduating. Hillary completed her Master’s in Australia and had recently taken her RD exam on-line. Amanda is in her internship and doing some distance work with Iowa State. It was interesting to hear their experiences! Thank you!

We have 89 Dietetics Majors at this time!

Where are You? We want to hear from you!

Please let us know what you are doing!

We want to know and some of your old classmates do, too.

E-mail us at dietetics@smsu.edu
SDA Cleans Up!

We want to thank Kim Keubler and Alicia Yokley for organizing the clean up this spring of our dietetics area. For those of you who graduated before we were in the remodeled Professional Building, our old space is now a wonderful space with a resource room, seminar room, computer lab, counseling rooms and a nice reception area. It was a bit of a mess, though, as it had kind of been a collection area for things we didn’t have any place to put and also because of offices and spaces being moved around a bit. Well, in preparation for our accreditation site visit next fall, we had asked the Student Dietetic Association if they would have as one of their projects a clean up night where they worked on cleaning up in the dietetics area. Boy, were we surprised when we came and found a massive clean-up effort underway with discarding outdated pamphlets, even cleaning out the frig!

It is now a great space for the dietetics students to spend time studying and collaborating on projects. A BIG thank you to Kim and Alicia as well as to Robert Cox, Amy Willoughby, Rachel Neff, Laraine Walters, and Stephanie Browning for their help in this project.

SDA Announces New Officers

Elections were held April 28 for the 2004-2005 Student Dietetic Association officers. Incoming officers for the next school year are as follows: Megan Fairfield, President; Stephanie Browning, Vice President; Secretary, Celia Held; Treasurer, Heather Buschmeyer; Professional Activities Coordinator, Lindsey Morgan; Brooke Lowe, Historian; and Publicity Coordinator, Alyse McGinnis. Congratulations to our new officers. Outgoing officers are as follows: President: Kim Keubler; Vice President: Rachel Neff; Secretary: Amanda Montgomery; Treasurer: Amy Willoughby; Activities Coordinator: Rebekah Simmons; Historian: Alicia Yokley; Publicity Coordinator: Kari Gruber; and SGA Representatives: Laraine Walters & Megan Fairfield.

GCNN Notes

Our students always are looking for opportunities to volunteer their services and learn more about nutrition and dietetics. Julie Abney of the Greene County Nutrition Network is a big help to our program by providing lots of opportunities for volunteers. On April 30, the Supermarket Festival was held at Food 4 Less on Battlefield with a number of different agencies in the area participating, including the Missouri Extension Office and Terri Egon, who was another one of our speakers in Community Nutrition. A big thanks to the following students for their participation in the festival: Chun-Yi Wu, Rebekah Simmons, Ya-Chin Huang, Amy Willoughby, Robert Cox, Kari Gruber, Brooke Lowe, Jenny Earley, Britney Horine, Jaunine Doss, and Jaime Mader.

STAR Awards

Who’s Who

On May 3, the Student Talent And Recognition Awards were given and five Dietetics Majors were awarded Who’s Who at SMSU. These students were:

- Stephanie Browning, a senior from Poplar Bluff, MO
- Kim Eck, a senior from El Dorado Springs, MO
- Kari Gruber, a senior from Lake Waukomis, MO
- Brooke Lowe, a senior from Chillicothe, MO
- Melissa Truitt, a senior from Fenton, MO.

Congratulations to all of you!