Greetings to Colleagues and Friends of FSHN!

It has been a while since our last update – and there have been many changes in FSHN over the past couple of years. I am just finishing my first official year as Head of the Department. Dr. Shelly Nickols-Richardson stepped into another position as Associate Dean of Extension in the College of ACES.

We missed seeing many of you at annual meetings such as IFT and ASN! These meetings are great places to touch base with alumni and friends of the department and provide updates on the many changes in FSHN and the University of Illinois campus. This is our first electronic newsletter – to provide more timely, quick to read updates on FSHN students, faculty, staff and alumni.

There are many activities and events that take place during the year – so we hope to provide you with regular updates via these newsletters. It was not possible for us to capture all the excitement in one newsletter.

This year has been one of most unprecedented circumstances, with interruption in March due to COVID-19. The University went to complete online instruction mode and research that was not essential came to a halt. Now, campus has come back to some extent and now we are about to see what the new academic year looks like as our students return to campus. We are excited to be able to welcome our students to campus!

We also want to make you aware of our Facebook and Twitter pages – for more frequent updates. https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisFSHN @FSHN_Illinois

I wish you all the best during these most challenging times. Hope this finds you well and that you are able to take some time to enjoy the simple things of life.

Thank you for your support of FSHN.

Best regards,
Welcome to New Faculty

Welcome to FSHN’s newest faculty member, Dr. Pratik Banerjee, Assoc. Prof. of Metropolitan Food Systems/Food Safety. Before joining U of I, he was a faculty member at the Univ. of Memphis, Alabama A&M Univ., & Principal Scientist (R&D) of LacPro Industries, LLC, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In the past year, we also welcomed Dr. Sihui Ma, Lecturer of Food Science and Undergraduate Advisor, who was previously a Fellow at the Virginia Tech Academy for Graduate Teaching Excellence (April 2019).

Promotions

Please join us in congratulating the following FSHN faculty for their successful promotions that will take effect August 16, 2020

Dawn Bohn from Teaching Assistant Professor to Teaching Associate Professor.

Jill North Craft from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor.

Zeynep Madak-Erdogan from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.
Michael Miller from Associate Professor to Professor.

Loss of senses of smell, taste could identify COVID-19 carriers

FSHN Professor Yanina Pepino is part of a global team of more than 500 researchers investigating this.

IBRL team jumped in to help health care facilities

Brian Jacobson led employees at the Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory as they worked to produce hand sanitizer for health care facilities.

Scaling up restaurant operations

FSHN’s Jorden M. Brotherton and Carter Phillips participated in the Illinois Restaurant Association and the
SARS-CoV-2 and human milk: What is the evidence?

FSHN’s Sharon Donovan, Professor of Nutrition, is a co-author of this study that examines the evidence to determine whether the SARS-CoV-2 virus is present in human breast milk.

Online teaching during COVID

FSHN Professor Dawn Bohn is part of the provost’s Online Teaching Academy. These are intensive online workshops to enhance online education.

Dr. Bohn and Dr. Shelly Schmidt, Professor of Food Chemistry are sharing the responsibilities associated with the ACES team for online teaching. Training sessions were held in March to assist with the transition to online teaching.

FSHN Faculty Named New CAS Professor

Congratulations to Professor Sharon Donovan for her recent appointment to the prestigious group of CAS Professors. The CAS (Center for Advanced Study) was established in 1959 to promote the highest level of scholarship and discourse on campus. The Center creates a variety of scholarly and creative functions across disciplines, supporting workshops and seminars,
public events and lecture series. The CAS community provides large-scale initiatives that bring top scholars together, creating transdisciplinary efforts.

Research Highlights

Text mining

FSHN graduate student Dandan Tao and Professor Hao Feng found in a study that data analytics of users’ posts on social media platforms and other digital media are being used by researchers to study a variety of food- and health-related issues and to collect consumer feedback on restaurants, food products and delivery services.

New Campus Initiative

Personalized Nutrition Initiative

Professor Sharon Donovan has been named director of the newly established Personalized Nutrition Initiative (PNI). The PNI, a partnership between IGB and ACES, is an important area for strategic investment in the campus Strategic Plan as well as a keystone of the new NIH’s 10-year Strategic Plan for Nutrition.

FSHN Faculty and Staff Awards

Campus Awards for Excellence in Instruction

FSHN Professor Dawn Bohn received the Campus Award for Excellence in Online and Distance Teaching.
ACES Paul A. Funk Awards

FSHN faculty and staff were well represented for the 2020 Funk Awards even though the banquet was canceled.

SPITZE LAND-GRANT PROFESSORIAL CAREER EXCELLENCE AWARD
Karen Chapman-Novakofski

FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH – College
Hannah Holscher

TEAM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE - Integrated Bioprocessing Research Lab
Jedi Brown
Brian Jacobson

PROFESSIONAL STAFF AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE for Innovation and Creativity
Carter Phillips

Alumni Updates
Illini Cruise

Eight Illini, which included two married couples, were part of a group of 16 people who embarked on a two-week Celebrity Eclipse cruise from Buenos Aires to San Antonio, Chile, in March 2020. The group was organized by Dr. Wayne Iwaoka, and the cruise included stops in Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Punta del Este, Puerto Madryn, Ushuaia, Punta Arenas, Puerto Montt, and a final planned docking in San Antonio, Chile. Because of the increasing pandemic of COVID-19, the ship was not allowed to dock in San Antonio. The captain of the ship decided to sail to San Diego, CA, and including brief stops for restocking, the cruise was extended for two weeks.

Please send alumni updates to: fshn-general@illinois.edu