

NUTRITION NEWS

MAY 2024

Department of Nutrition Monthly Update



SAVE THE DATE

Please plan to join the Department of Nutrition at the following events.

May

- 1 Reading Day -- No classes
NUTR Yoga on the CMAT Lawn -- 11 a.m.
- 9 NUTR Graduate Reception
The A&M Gardens 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- 10 Undergraduate Graduation Ceremonies
Reed Arena 9 a.m.
- 11 Graduate Graduation Ceremonies
Reed Arena 7 p.m.
- 16 2nd Annual Cancer Research Symposium
- 28 First Day of Classes -
Summer I & 10-Week Semester

June

- 19 Juneteenth Holiday - University Closed

July

- 4 Independence Day - University Closed

August

- 16 NUTR Faculty Retreat
- 19 First Day of Classes



College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Vice Chancellor and Dean Jeffrey W. Savell, Ph.D., presented Yuxiang Sun, Ph.D., and Karen Beathard, Ph.D., with outstanding achievement awards.

Award Winning Faculty

Last fall, the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences presented the Dean's Outstanding Achievement Awards, recognized Association of Former Students teaching awards and celebrated faculty member career milestones. Jeffrey W. Savell, Ph.D., vice chancellor and dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences presented the awards.

Since 1982, The Association of Former Students has honored superior teachers who maintain high expectations, ensure academic rigor, motivate students and contribute to students' overall development. Karen Beathard, Ph.D., instructional associate professor, received an AFS College-level Teaching Distinguished Achievement Award.

Since 2012, the COALS Dean's Outstanding Achievement Awards celebrate the accomplishments and excellence of faculty, staff and students. The award winners' dedication to excellence and their positive impacts are crucial to fulfilling the College's land-grant mission. Yuxiang Sun, Ph.D., professor and associate head for graduate programs, received a research award.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Nutrition



Chapkin Named ASN Fellow

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) and ASN Foundation announced Dr. Robert Chapkin as one of the 15 distinguished luminaries who will be inducted into the ASN Class of 2024 Fellows. Induction as a Fellow of the Society is the highest accolade bestowed by ASN, honoring individuals for their significant contributions and outstanding lifetime achievements in the field of nutrition.

"We are excited to introduce the newest class of ASN Fellows. These individuals have devoted themselves to advancing our discipline and improving global health," remarked ASN President, Kevin Schalinke, PhD. "Their work has paved the path for future generations of scientists, clinicians, and scholars."

Chapkin will be inducted at NUTRITION 2024, taking place June 29 – July 2 in Chicago.

Learn more at nutrition.org/american-society-for-nutrition-foundation-announces-class-of-2024-fellows/



Dr. Robert Chapkin

Suzuki Lab Receives Grant

Masako Suzuki is part of a funded NIH R01 grant in collaboration with faculty from the University of Virginia and Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The project focuses on investigating how maternal vitamin D status affects the kidney development of preterm birth offspring. The Suzuki lab will focus on the genomics/transcriptomics aspect of the study. The Suzuki Lab also welcomed their new postdoc, Ayyappa Sista, who will work on the project.



Dr. Masako Suzuki

Sun to Receive ASN Award

Dr. Yuxaing Sun is the 2024 Osborne and Mendel Award winner from the American Society for Nutrition (ASN). The award is given for outstanding recent basic research accomplishments in nutrition.

"We take great pride in recognizing this esteemed cohort of leaders across all career stages for their profound contributions to the nutrition community and their commitment to improving public health," said Catherine E. Woteki, Ph.D., Chair of the ASN Foundation Board of Trustees.

The 2024 National Scientific Achievement Awards recognize outstanding contributions and pioneering advancements in the field of nutrition. The awards serve as a testament to excellence and innovation.

Sun will receive the award at Nutrition 2024, occurring June 29 - July 2 in Chicago.



Dr. Yuxaing Sun



2024 Life Science Symposium

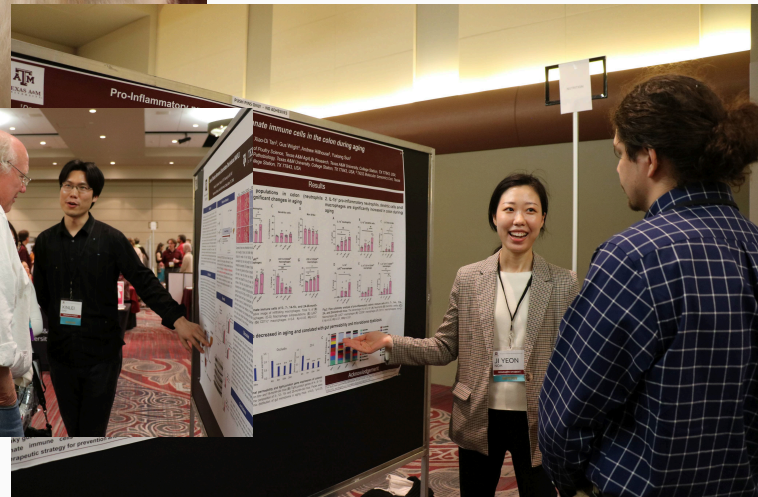
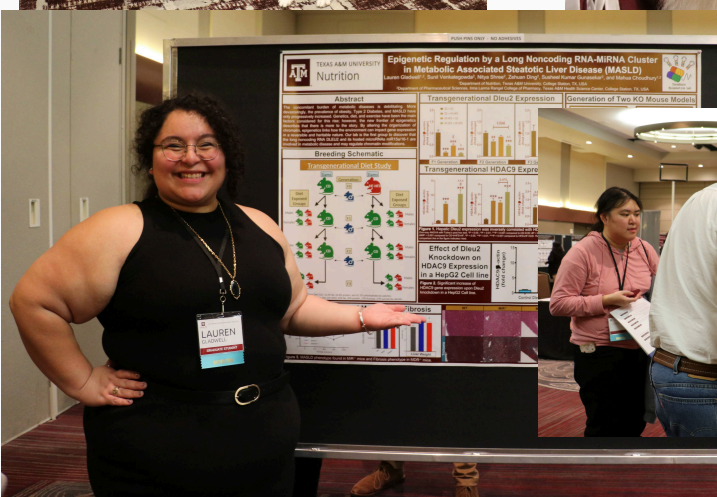
The Department of Nutrition was one of six Texas A&M University life sciences graduate programs that collaborated to present the 2024 Life Sciences Graduate Recruitment Symposium on the Texas A&M campus.

About 100 prospective graduate students and 300 faculty, staff and current graduate students attended the Feb. 2 symposium, which introduced aspiring Ph.D.s. to the various life science programs at Texas A&M, the research enterprise and the many benefits of attending Texas A&M. The symposium wrapped up with a keynote address by Manu Platt, Ph.D., director of the National Institutes of Health-wide Center for Biomedical Engineering Technology Acceleration, also known as the BETA Center

Thank you to the Nutrition faculty, staff and graduate students that contributed to making this year's recruiting event a success!

Learn more at

<https://agriflifelife.tamu.edu/2024/02/08/life-sciences-doctoral-programs-highlighted-at-texas-am-symposium/>.



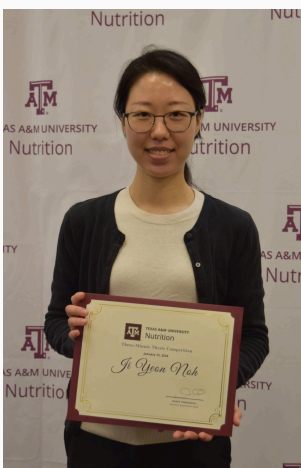


Nutrition Grad Symposium 3MT Winners

The Nutritional Science Graduate Association (NSGA) hosted the Nutrition 2024 Three-Minute Thesis Competition on January 12. The competition gave current doctoral students the opportunity to show off their presentation skills and showcase the research they are conducting as part of their graduate educational program.

The top presenters represented the Department of Nutrition at the February Life Sciences Symposium at the Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center. Congratulations to award winners Ji Yeon Noh, Zeyu "Woody" Liu, Joelle Sfeir and Lauren Gladwell.

Thank you to everyone that participated including our judges, audience members and graduate students!



Ji Yeon Noh



Lauren Gladwell



Joelle Sfeir



Zeyu "Woody" Liu





Gosh Earns Certificate

Nirjhar Ruth Ghosh, a third-year Ph.D. candidate working in Dr. Bradley Johnston's lab in the Department of Nutrition, earned the esteemed CIRTL Associate Certificate. She received this recognition for her year-long service at the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning at Texas A&M University (CIRTL@TAMU) from July 2023 to May 2024. This certificate is given to Graduate Teaching Consultants (GTC) who are committed to learning effective teaching and learning methods that improve undergraduate education.

The GTC program is designed to support the pedagogical development of graduate students like Ruth. GTCs are skilled in teaching techniques and provide guidance to teaching assistants across campus. During her time as a GTC, Ruth co-led two Teaching Assistant Institute orientations for incoming teaching assistants in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 and took part in other GTC activities, including helping prepare new teaching assistants for the English Language Proficiency Exam.

Ruth's enthusiasm for teaching and mentoring, along with her experience as a Graduate Assistant Teaching for the undergraduate course 'NUTR 204', led to her being nominated and selected as a GTC by both the Department of Nutrition and the Center for Teaching Excellence. We wish her all the best with her future endeavors in teaching!



Nirjhar Ruth Ghosh earned the esteemed CIRTL Associate Certificate.

Nutrition Senior Merit Winners

Students and faculty were honored at the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences 68th annual Convocation on April 13 at the Thomas G. Hildebrand, D.V.M. '56 Equine Complex.

Students across the College were recognized with Senior Merit Awards, three university-level student award nominations and Outstanding Student Awards for a freshman, sophomore and junior.

2024 Senior Merit Awards

The Senior Merit Award is the highest award given to undergraduates by the College and presented at Convocation. Nominations are received from each major, and final selections are made by the College scholarship committee. Selection criteria include scholarship, community involvement, professional and civic activities, internships and employment, awards, honors and accomplishments in undergraduate research. Four graduating Nutrition students received Senior Merit Awards.

Congratulations to:

- Conley Boatright,
- Kylee Medina,
- Hannah Rajlich, and
- Erin Vo

Way to go!



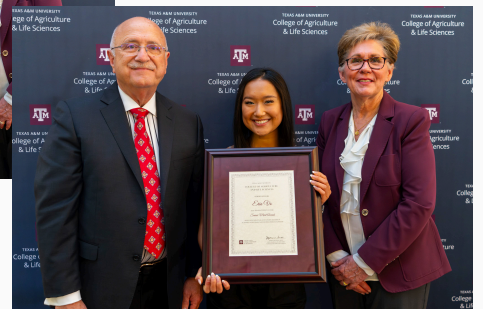
Conley Boatright



Kylee Medina



Hannah Rajlich



Erin Vo



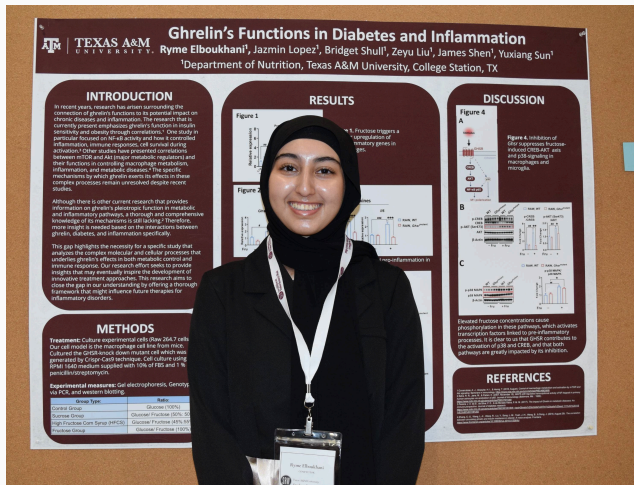
2024 Student Research Week

Student Research Week (SRW) is the largest student-run research symposium in the nation.

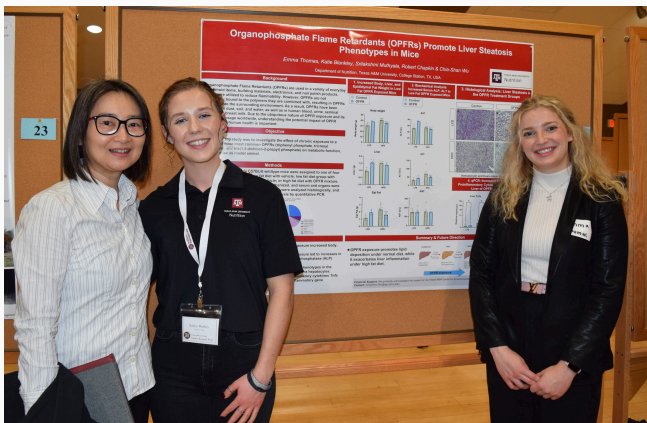
The Department of Nutrition was represented by Katie Blankley, Emma Thomas, Conley Boatright, Ella LaGrange, Ryme El Boukani, Julia Harrison and Breanna and Bailee Chavez in the poster category. Nutrition Junior Kim Le served as the Assistant Director for this year's event.

This four-day competition highlights student research occurring on the Texas A&M campus. Students who participate are provided a venue to present their work through either oral presentations or poster sessions. This event, which took place March 18 - March 22, allows students, faculty, and the community to see the depth and breadth of research conducted at Texas A&M.

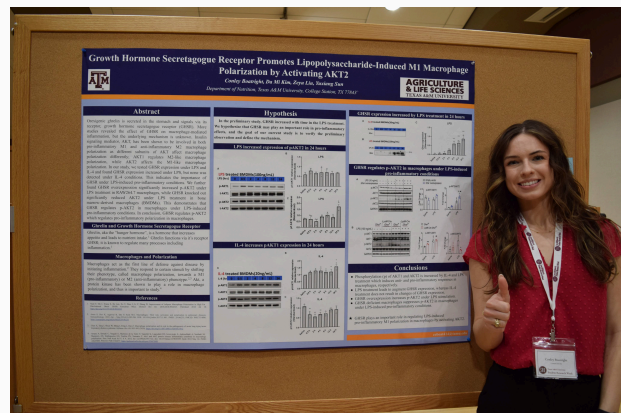
For the past 27 years, SRW has been a valuable tool in meeting the university's mission of academic, research, and service excellence. SRW is a premier program of the Graduate and Professional Student Government and is supported by several academic and non-academic departments on campus.



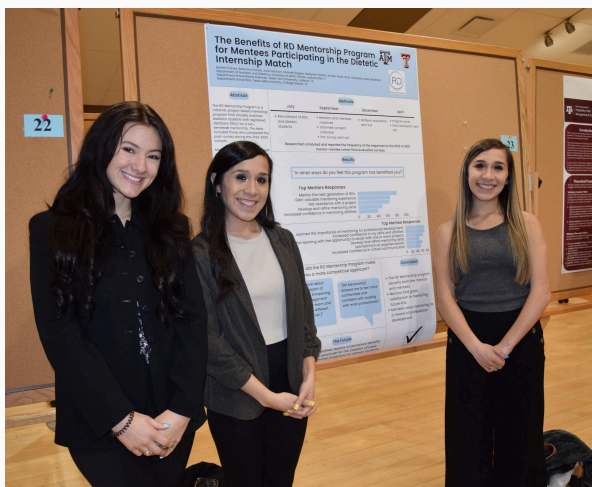
Ryme El Boukani



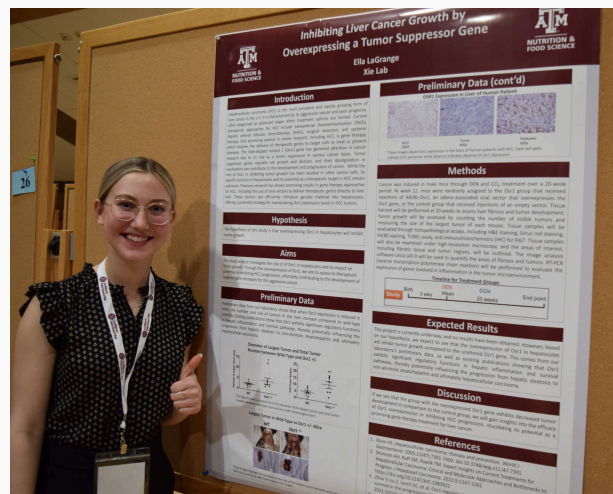
Dr. Jenny Wu, Katie Blankley and Emma Thomas



Conley Boatright



Julia Harrison, Bailee Chavez and Breanna Chavez



Ella LaGrange



Kylee Medina (right) is Texas' Outstanding Dietetic Student Award winner

Medina Receives Award

Kylee Medina received the Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Outstanding Dietetic Student Award for DPD Programs at the Texas Academy's Annual Meeting and Conference in Grapevine in April. The award recognizes the emerging leadership and achievement of students in ACEND-accredited dietetics education programs and encourage their participation in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Medina, who served as the NDA President for 2023-24, is graduating on May 9 with a bachelor's degree in Nutrition in the DPD track.

Recent Publications

A Catharine Ross contributed to [Diet-Induced Severe Hyperhomocysteinemia Promotes Atherosclerosis Progression and Dysregulates the Plasma Metabolome in Apolipoprotein-E-Deficient Mice](#)

David Threadgill contributed to [Genetic and microbial determinants of azoxymethane-induced colorectal tumor susceptibility in Collaborative Cross mice and their implication in human cancer](#)

Hongying Wang, Zheng Shen, Chia-Shan Wu, Pengfei Ji, Ji Yeon Noh, Cédric G Geoffroy, Sunja Kim, David Threadgill, Jianrong Li, Yu Zhou, Xiaoqiu Xiao, Hui Zheng, Yuxiang Sun published [Neuronal ablation of GHSR mitigates diet-induced depression and memory impairment via AMPK-autophagy signaling-mediated inflammation](#)

Bradley C Johnston contributed to [Understanding effect size: an international online survey among psychiatrists, psychologists, physicians from other medical specialties, dentists and other health professionals](#)

Nirjhar R Ghosh, Zahra Esmaeilinezhad, Joanna Zając, Rebecca A Creasy, Saundra G Lorenz, Kevin C Klatt, Malgorzata M Bala, Karen M Beathard, Bradley C Johnston published [Evidence-Based Practice Competencies among Nutrition Professionals and Students: A Systematic Review](#)

Wanbao Yang, Meenakshi Arora, Hye Won Han, Wen Jiang, Da Mi Kim, Weiqi Ai, Quan Pan, M N V Ravi Kumar, Wesley A Brashear, Yuxiang Sun, Shaodong Guo published [ZnPP-laden nanoparticles improve glucose homeostasis and chronic inflammation during obesity](#)



Congratulations Nutrition class of 2024!



Sixty nine (20 Didactic Program in Dietetics and 49 General Nutrition track) undergraduate students, 7 Master's in Clinical Nutrition students, and 1 PhD student graduated this May 2024. We are proud of our graduates and cannot wait to follow their progress throughout their future careers. Gig 'Em!



HAPPY AND SAFE SUMMER
EVERYONE

Got news? Send photos and information to
ximena.paezcolasante@ag.tamu.edu