Welcome back NutriNews subscribers! We hope you’ve enjoyed your summer. We can’t wait to update you on all of the nutrition-related activities that have occurred over the past couple of months and what’s to come this Fall Semester.

Important Nutrition-Related Updates & Events at UofSC

**Student Nutrition Group (SNG) Kickback/Welcome Back Event**

The SNG is hosting a kickback/welcome back event! Stop by the Discovery Building to get some snacks, participate in some games, learn a few nutrition fun facts, meet the members, and more!

**Date:** September 7th, 2021 at 1:00PM  
**Location:** Outside of Discovery I Building

Don’t miss out on this upcoming event hosted by the Student Nutrition Group!

*Leadership positions are still available for the SNG. If you are interested, please contact SOSNG@mailbox.sc.edu.*
Recent UofSC Student Achievements

_Congratulations_ are in order! The following individuals are being highlighted for their recent achievements:

- **Shilpa Constantinides, PhD**, has received the 2021-2022 AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow hosted by the Millennium Challenge Corporation in the Department of Human and Community Development, where she will serve as a member of the Social and Behavior Change Team. Dr. Constantinides is among 284 highly trained scientists and engineers who will spend a year serving professionally in federal agencies and congressional offices as a Science & Technology Policy Fellow. The U.S. government benefits from the contributions of highly trained scientists and engineers while they learn first-hand about federal policymaking and implementation.

- **Nkechi Okpara, MS, RD**, recently was awarded for her presentation at the [Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting](#): Okpara N, Chauvenet C, Grich K, Turner-McGrievy GM. "Food Doesn't Have Power Over Me Anymore!" The Role of Self-Efficacy in Determining Motivation and Dietary Adherences. (April 2021) Research spotlight at the Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, **Winner, Most Viewed Spotlight Presentation Award**.

- **Lauren Reid, PhD**, began her work at UofSC conducting research with Dr. Russell Pate as a member of the Children’s Physical Activity Research Group before pursuing her PhD in Epidemiology working with Dr. Angela Liese. Through her involvement in Liese’s SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth Study and other projects, Reid became interested in how food insecurity affects people with diabetes. As a doctoral student,
Reid received the “You Rock Award” from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, and was selected to join the UofSC’s Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program. Her dissertation research focused on how food insecurity is associated with glycemic control, physical activity and diet quality of youth and young adults with diabetes. Dr. Reid graduated in August after she successfully defended her dissertation and has been awarded a post-doctoral fellowship in the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

- **Marilyn Wende, PhD**, began working with the Built Environment and Community Health (BEACH) Laboratory within the Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior after graduating from the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Arnold School of Public Health. Throughout her PhD scholarship, Marilyn contributed substantially to numerous federally-supported studies, including the development of a national Childhood Obesogenic Environment Index and the development and validation of the ParkIndex tool for addressing park access inequalities. She also worked with the USC Prevention Research Center on several CDC- and NIH-funded projects related to physical activity and public health. For her dissertation, she studied relationships between neighborhood walkability, green space, socioeconomic status, and falling and fracture among postmenopausal women in the Women's Health Initiative study. Marilyn also served as the president of the Student Nutrition Group and as a steering committee member for United Campus Workers South Carolina. Marilyn has been an integral part of the Arnold School of Public Health and our Gamecock community, and will soon be transitioning to a new postdoctoral research association.
position in the Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences at Baylor University.

- **Mary Wilson, PhD**, began working for the UofSC Center for Research on Nutrition and Health Disparities after graduating from the Health Services, Policy, and Management (HSPM) department in the Arnold School of Public Health. In 2017, Ms. Wilson transitioned to become the project manager of the Nutritious Eating with Soul (NEW Soul) study led by Dr. Brie Turner-McGrievy. During that time, Mary also began pursuing her PhD in HSPM. Dr. Wilson graduated in August after she successfully defended her dissertation. For her dissertation, she is conducting the cost-effectiveness analysis of the NEW Soul study. Dr. Wilson has been an integral part of the NEW Soul team and we’re excited to have her strong public health research experience on our new NIDDK-funded project examining the cultural relevance of US Dietary Guidelines among African American adults in the south.

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**Important Nutrition-Related Updates & Events from Professional Organizations**

The APHA Annual Meeting and Expo is the largest and most influential yearly gathering of public health professionals, bringing the public health community together to experience robust scientific programming, networking, social events and
more. APHA's 2021 Annual Meeting and Expo will take place **Oct. 24-27, 2021.**

We will provide more information and send notification of dates and times of affiliate presentations as they become available for these upcoming events. Please let us know if you are presenting at any of the upcoming conferences or if there are any other nutrition-related conferences we should be promoting.

### Recent Affiliate Nutrition-Related Publications


Crowe R, Probst Y, **Weaver RG**, Beets MW, et al. Systematic observation of healthy


Zgodic A, Eberth JM, Breneman C, Wende ME, Kaczynski AT, Liese AD, McLain
Recent Affiliate Nutrition-Related Conference Presentations

American Society for Nutrition - Nutrition 2021 Live Online


6th Annual Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (ANH) Academy Week


“They want you to be fat…it means they’re feeding you well”: A qualitative investigation of body image and food choice decision-making among Junior High School students in urban Accra, Ghana. Oral Presentation by Krystal Rampalli. ANH 2021.

American Diabetes Association 2021 Meeting

Lauren Reid, Alice Ellyson, Faisal Malik, Beth Reboussin, Marco Geraci, Anwar T. Merchant, Santica Marcovina, Eva Lustigova, Jason Mendoza. Food Insecurity and Glycemic Control Among Youth and Young Adults with Type 2 Diabetes. Oral Presentation at the 2021 American Diabetes Association Meeting.

Hope D. Bercaw, Lauren A. Reid, Angela D. Liese, Edward A. Frongillo, Katherine A. Sauder, Jason A. Mendoza, Beth A. Reboussin, Elizabeth J. Mayer-Davis, Dana Dabelea, Santica M. Marcovina, Carla Mercado. Food insecurity and dietary intake adequacy in youth and young adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Poster Presentation at the 2021 American Diabetes Association Meeting.

Angela Liese, Dana Dabelea, Lawrence Dolan, Leora Henkin, Elizabeth Jensen, Santica Marcovina, Anwar Merchant, Catherine Pihoker, Beth Reboussin, Amy Shah, Allison Shapiro, Greta Wilkening, Jason Mendoza. Household Food Insecurity

More information and updates on COVID-19 from UofSC >

Share your Successes!
Help us showcase the remarkable nutrition research, teaching, and service being done at the University of South Carolina. Tell us about your latest nutrition related publications, presentations, awards, grants, and all other recognitions or accomplishments to be featured on our website and future NutriNews.

Email emkenney@email.sc.edu to be featured.

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