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August 2023



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Updates from the Department of Food Science and Technology and The Food Processing Center

Congratulations to all of our August 2023 Graduates!

Jerry Akresi (MS)

Wensheng Ding (MS)

Raziya Sadat (MS)

Mohammad (Manirul) Haque (PhD)

Tengfei Li (PhD)

Hugh McCullough (PhD in Complex Biosystems)



August 19th, 2023, faculty, grad students and staff came together in the Food Innovation Center Dairy Plant to freeze and pack approximately 130 gallons of mix (about 2,010 8-fl oz cups) for five flavors.



Participants included **Russel Parde, Mary-Grace Danao, Shannon Russell, Nancy Lewandowski, Julie McManamey, Vanessa Whitmore, Bo Peng, Sedoten Ogun, Ram Shrestha, Zahra Shahbazi, Duy Nguyen, Aemiro Zula, Curt Weller, Nancy, Weller, Keting Li, Liyun Zhang, Yue Wang Qi Miao, Farhad Alavi, and Raziya Sadat**



graduate **Raziya Sadat**, a student in his lab.

*"We **often talk about what** we do for **students**, but I like to **reflect on what each of my trainees has done** for me **besides keeping our research projects alive and advancing the science of food safety**. **Sadat helped me develop compassion as a mentor and taught me to meet my students where they are.**"*

Read the full essay [here](#).



Dr. Robert Hutkins was featured in a **Nebraska Today** article discussing **collaborative research between the Department and clinicians from the Georgetown University Medical Center and MedStar Health**. The **project looking into the ways that kombucha can provide potential benefits for people with Type 2 diabetes**.

Read the full article [here](#).



The Department said good-bye to **Sara Roberts**. Sara served as the Student Services Coordinator where she visited high schools to bring food science to students, she also planned events including the Battle of the Food Scientists and the annual Student Banquet. Sara has elected to spend more time with her family but will be assisting with occasional events.



The Phi Tau Sigma chapter hosted a luncheon to introduce new and potential members to the Honor Society of Food Science and Technology. The event aimed to enlighten attendees about the organization's mission and values while showcasing the opportunities it offers to food science students. **Emerson Nolasco**, UNL Chapter president, delivered an inspiring talk to the attendees.

Emerson blended personal anecdotes with Phi Tau Sigma's essence, emphasizing academic excellence, leadership, and community engagement in the field. He highlighted the power of networking and the supportive environment the society fosters, drawing from stories of member interactions throughout the chapter activities and networking sessions as the IFT Phi Tau Sigma networking dinner. The talk not only motivated the attendees but also showcased the significance of the organization's committees, events, and initiatives.

Overall, the UNL Phi Tau Sigma Chapter Luncheon served as a successful platform for introducing new and potential members to the organization's values and opportunities. Catering was provided for the attendees at the beginning of the luncheon, followed by the presentation. New members were inducted after the presentation with **Dr. Changmou Xu** and Emerson handing in the membership certificates.

New members inducted in the Luncheon:

Mehri Karbasi, M.S., Advisor: Changmou Xu, Ph.D.

Carmen Pérez-Donado, M.S., Advisor: Devin Rose, Ph.D.

Sedoten Ogun, M.S., Advisor: Kaustav Majumder, Ph.D.



(Pictured left to right: From left to right, Emerson Nolasco, Ph.D., Changmou Xu, Ph.D., Sedoten Ogun, M.S., Karen Nieto, M.S., Aryany Peña, B.Sc., Mehri Karbasi, M.S)

Upcoming Events

Aug 31

Food Science Seminar

Jessie Morrill, Assistant Professor, Animal Science, UNL

Sep 4

Labor Day - Offices closed

Sep 7

Food Science Seminar

Elizabeth Grasso-Kelley, Chief Food Technology Branch, FDA and IFISH

Sep 14

Food Science Seminar

Xuehuan Feng, Post doc Yin Lab, Food Science and Technology, UNL

Sept 21

Food Science Seminar

Keith Vorst, Director of the Polymer and Food Protection Consortium, Associate Professor, Iowa State University

Sep 28

Food Science Seminar

Katherine Amato, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Northwestern

Upcoming Workshops

Oct 3

Better Process Control School

Dec 11

Better Process Control School for Acidified Foods Online

Recent Publications

Motta-Romero HA, Perez-Donado CE, Auchtung JM, Rose DJ. 2023. Toxicity of cadmium on dynamic human gut microbiome cultures and the protective effect of cadmium-tolerant bacteria autochthonous to the gut. *Chemosphere* 338:139581.

Jeff Price, Prem S. Paul New Faculty Scholar Award Fund, 2023 Research Development Fellows Program Award, \$2000.

Devin Rose (Lead Katherine Frels), Ne Wheat Board, Improving Winter Wheat Varieties for Nebraska, \$120,000

Recent Awards

Blake Looi, Cooper Sharpless Fellowship, \$5,000

Emerson Nolasco, Second place in Division Graduate Research Competition, Nutraceutical and Functional Foods Division, Chicago, IL, Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) FIRST 2023.

Emerson Nolasco, Larrick Graduate Student Travel Award 2023, Agricultural Research Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Rose DJ, Ramer-Tait AE, Frels KA, Hanson CK. High fiber wheat for a healthier society. University of Nebraska Collaboration Initiative Grant, \$150,000.

Hyun-Seob Song, Department of Energy, Computational Identification of Bioavailable Organic Matter and Their Traits for Predictive Biogeochemical and Ecosystem Modeling, \$400,000

Jobs

RD&A Scientist - Kerry

The RD&A Scientist reports to the RD&A Manager of Product Advancement to accelerate timelines for prototype development from bench to scale up based on customer needs and consumer marketplace trends, in partnership with Business Development, Operations, Regulatory and Finance teams. The candidate will lead downstream development and formulation of multi-functional preservation ingredients for food products.

[Apply](#)

As the Associate Research Scientist, reporting to the Principal Research Scientist, you will analyze the physical structure of food products and packaging, conduct experiments, gather data and findings, and prepare written reports. You will provide data and information to enable business results in partnership with Food Design, Science and Technology, and Food Protection and Regulatory Affairs. This role will be onsite in our physical testing lab.

Apply

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