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Season's Greetings from the FAEIS Team

FAEISNews

FAEIS Help Desk Manager
Jolene Hamm Receives PhD



In November 2010, Jolene Hamm completed her PhD in Agricultural Education and Extension at Virginia Tech. Dr. Hamm has worked with FAEIS since 2008 managing, evaluating, and disseminating data for undergraduate and graduate student enrollment and degrees awarded in agricultural, natural resources, and family and consumer science program areas.

Dr. Hamm has authored a series of refereed journal articles, including one on FAEIS, as well as presented data findings to multiple constituencies such as the Association for Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU) and North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA).

She has conducted several research projects using NELS data system including linear regression, analysis of variance (ANOVA), analysis of covariance (ANCOVA), multiple regression, and stepwise regression.

In the future Dr. Hamm, would like to continue her research in the area of education in higher education institutions. She would like to continue working either within a university setting as a professor or with educational grant initiatives through the USDA at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Update from FAEIS Peer Panel Meeting at APLU Conference

The FAEIS Peer Panel met for two days last month in Dallas at the end of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) annual conference. At the end of the meeting the peer panel passed a motion with unanimous support that a letter would be drafted and sent to NIFA supporting continuation of funding for the FAEIS project at Virginia Tech.

Ken Espenshade, Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, also offered a motion at the APLU Academic Programs Section (APS) business meeting which stated that NIFA should continue its funding for FAEIS at Virginia Tech. This motion passed with complete support from the group.



Overall, the peer panel meeting was exceedingly productive and members explored issues ranging from enhancements to FAEIS in 2010 to data quality assurance. The FAEIS peer panel reinvigorated the FAEIS team in their mission to provide exceptional higher education data in the areas of life, food, veterinary, human, natural resource, and agricultural sciences.

College of Human Environmental Sciences (HES) University of Missouri

The University of Missouri (UM) is changing the way Americans eat and exercise. The [College of Human Environmental Sciences](#) (HES) emphasizes the seamless translation of [cutting-edge research](#) to public outreach. Education and laboratory findings quickly find their way into public programs.

As the only department on campus that spans three colleges (Human Environmental Sciences, Medicine, and Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources), the [Nutrition and Exercise Physiology](#) (NEP) program is a model of interdisciplinary research and education. It is home to some of the nation's leading food and nutrition researchers, and they are working to reverse America's obesity epidemic and other diet-related illnesses. Current research projects are largely funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Professor [Tom Thomas](#), for example, looks at how exercising during weight regain can maintain improvements in metabolic health and disease risk. He has discovered that individuals who didn't exercise during weight regain experience significant deterioration in metabolic health, while those who exercised maintain improvements in almost all areas.

Associate professor [Pam Hinton](#) asks if high-impact activities, such as running, have a greater positive effect on bone mineral density than resistance training, which is often recommended to individuals with osteoporosis. The results of her work confirm that both resistance training and high-impact endurance activities increase bone mineral density; however, high-impact sports appear to have a greater beneficial effect.

UM researchers take the adage "we are what we eat" very seriously. Associate professor [Catherine Peterson's](#) research is relevant in its finding that vitamin D proficiency is also associated with inflammation, a negative response of the immune system, in healthy women. Her work confirms the need to

re-examine the biological basis for determining the dietary reference intake of vitamin D. Our newest faculty member, [Heather Leidy](#), is using functional brain imaging to assess the effectiveness of high protein breakfast in satiety. And professor [Jill Kanaley's](#) latest NIH funded project is examining the effects of meal frequency on hormonal responses in obese individuals and whether exercise modulates these interactions.

To find new ways to improve how Americans eat and to teach individuals of all ages healthy eating and exercise habits will require new research capabilities and educational efforts. Under the leadership of NEP Chair [Chris Hardin](#), UM researchers are now planning a metabolic kitchen, a teaching kitchen and food choice behavior lab in the basement of the newly renovated Gwynn Hall. The University of Missouri Metabolic Kitchen (nicknamed MUNCH) received a major grant from the J.R. Albert Foundation.

Teaching kids to eat better goes hand-in-hand of course with keeping them active. [Steve Ball](#), an associate professor, is testing the Active and Healthy School Program in school in Lexington, Missouri. The pilot program emphasizes regular 3-5 minute breaks during the teaching day, during which kids play activity-based games such as jumping, walking or climbing stairs.



Classroom activity in the Active and Healthy Schools Program in Lexington, Missouri.

Developing Grant Proposals

FAEIS Report Builder Provides Needed Data for Successful Grant Proposals

Dr. Heather Smith, associate professor at Riverside City College in California, developed a successful USDA grant proposal using the data from the FAEIS database.

She wanted to create online soil science courses geared toward Hispanic students, with the goal to provide the USDA with qualified minority applicants for jobs in soil science. Smith says that the FAEIS Report Builder was essential to her successful application.



Student James Law tries to remove Arundo. (Photo courtesy of Tracy Martin)

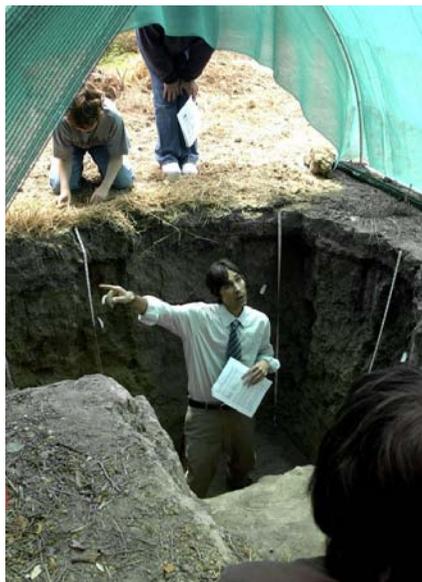
“I needed some very specific agricultural information and it’s very easy to get lost in the data if you contact institutional research departments. With FAEIS it was very specific and that’s what I needed to make the (project) justification.”

Dr. Smith explained that she required enrollment data on certain disciplines, but Institutional Research (IR) offices

could only provide enrollment data at the college level. Dr. Smith turned to FAEIS to create custom reports detailing graduate enrollment in environmental science, soil science, water science, and forestry programs.

Dr. Smith said that she feels the FAEIS database will be a useful tool for other institutions.

“I think FAEIS is a fantastic resource. There’s a push more and more in our college and other universities for strategic planning and to have the data to drive what courses you can offer and respond to market needs... as budgets continue to shrink people should use this resource to drive strategic planning“.



Dr. Jamie Whitford gives a lecture on soils at Ventura College. (Photo courtesy of Ventura Star)



Professor Tom Thomas in his exercise physiology lab at the College of Human Environmental Sciences (HES) at the University of Missouri.

Ask the FAEIS Help Desk >>>

Q. What is the difference between the College Survey and the Student Enrollment Surveys?

A. The College Survey collects data on the enrollment for the entire college or department. The Student Enrollment Survey collects data on specific programs, breaking down enrollment by gender and ethnicity.

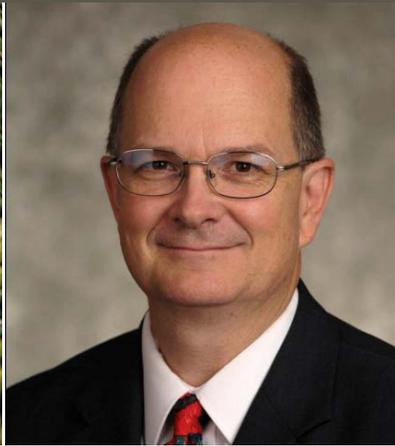
Surveys Now Open >>>

- 2010 Student Enrollment
- 2009/2010 Degrees Awarded
- 2009/2010 Placement of Graduates
- 2010 Faculty Survey

DUE February 15, 2011



final thoughts...



Do you sometimes need educational data for a grant proposal that you are writing but don't know where to get it? Do you want to know how your department's or program's enrollment, placement, or faculty salaries compare with your peers? Would you like to see the national trends in enrollment or the new and emerging disciplines? Would you like to understand how colleges and universities that contain agriculture are organized, and how that organizational structure has changed over time?

FAEIS can help you to answer each one of these questions. The FAEIS website has a "Trends and Planning" section that will help you to learn about trends in enrollment and degrees awarded, plan degree offerings, or make hiring decisions. The FAEIS website also has a "Peer Analysis" section that can assist you in comparing your enrollment, degrees awarded, or faculty salaries to any peer group that you wish to define. You can create your own datasets

and download them to your PC desktop in several different formats, including Microsoft Excel. Visit the website at http://faeis.ahnrit.vt.edu/index_t.shtml.

You can also contact the FAEIS Help Desk and ask for help. The FAEIS Team will respond to your request to seek insights into undergraduate and graduate enrollment and placement, degrees awarded, and faculty head count and salary data. The FAEIS Team can also help you understand the current organizational structure of colleges and universities that contain agriculture. We look forward to helping you! All that you have to do is ask.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Timothy P. Mack

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