

Puett and Shervette awarded 2011 Nutrition Center grants for Manuscript Writing Groups

Congratulations to Dr. Robin Puett and Dr. Virginia Shervette, each received a 2011 Nutrition Center award for manuscript writing groups!

The purpose of the awards is to provide junior USC faculty the opportunity to establish research teams to create a collaborative publication track record. Successful team publications are key steps to the development of research portfolios and competitive grant applications. Puett's and Shervette's proposals were selected on the basis that their research addresses nutrition, health disparities, and utilizes existing South Carolina data.

Puett is a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences and is with the Arnold School's Cancer Prevention and Control Program. Puett's research will use existing data on South Carolinians to examine the relationship of the built nutritional environment with stroke hospitalizations and mortality. The study will also explore the impact of racial and socioeconomic status on these relationships.

Shervette is a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences and Director of the Wetland/Estuarine Health and Ecology Lab and the Assistant Director of the Geographic Information Processing (GIP) lab under the directorship of Dr. Dwayne Porter.

Shervette will examine the nutritional benefits of a diet rich in seafood and identify health disparities related to seafood consumption benefits and risks. She will review current United States guidelines to determine effectiveness in curtailing consumption of seafood species high in mercury levels. She will also evaluate if the consumption patterns of seafood in South Carolina and the United States as a whole warrant stringent consumption guidelines.

The Nutrition Center supports and encourages the interdisciplinary nature of nutrition research, which is reflected in the diversity of Puett's and Shervette's projects including their manuscript writing teams.