Dear AODA Members and Supporters,

It is with great privilege I accept this position to serve as the Newsletter editor. As I gratefully assume this role and these responsibilities, I would like to extend a warm thank you to our outgoing editor, Dr Jamie Sheard for her hard work, dedication and contribution to the Association. Also, I would like to thank the Board Members and Members who elected me for this position.

Presently, I am a doctoral candidate at Texas A&M University majoring in Health Education. I have been a
AODA Member Corner: Meet Our Members

AODA FNCE Event

AODA Needs You!

CR Corner

member of the Academy for Nutrition and Dietetic for about nine years and AODA for almost three years. I am also a member of other Health and Public Health Associations. In the past, I have served as a newsletter editor for Texas Student Dietetic Association and Texas Public Association (student section). In both capacities, I was able to fulfill the organizations' goals and published the first student newsletters. With these experiences, I plan to maintain this organization (AODA) practices and enhance the hard work of the past and current Board Members.

This present newsletter contains messages from the past and incoming Presidents, the signing of Guam Proclamation, member, AODA FNCE Events, and country representatives corner.

If you are interested in contributing an article for the upcoming issues, please contact me at newsletter@eatrightoverseas.org

Thank you,
Your Newsletter Editor,
Andrea McDonald, MS

Message From the 2014-2015 President

Dear AODA Members and Supporters,

Somehow the fiscal year 2014-2015 has come and gone, and the new fiscal year has begun. It is with fondness that I look back at the last fiscal year. We were particularly busy during FNCE in Atlanta during which we had a brief strategic planning meeting, hosted the International Reception, and conducted the mid-year meeting as we do after FNCE each year. During FNCE our members presented four sessions, providing an international focus for FNCE attendees, and not surprisingly all four sessions were well attended. The Member Product Market Place booth we have each year at FNCE was visited by many, and the interest in working or volunteering abroad remains strong, particularly among students. We also took a big step to support
AODA's day-to-day management activities by hiring an executive director, Carrie Kiley. Carrie works for the Academy’s Affiliate Management team, bringing the added benefit that she can advise and guide us on questions we have regarding managing our affiliate straight from the source. Her services add value to all of us by ensuring continuity throughout the years and allowing the Leadership Team to focus on specific goals for the year.

This year AODA won the affiliate challenge, keeping AODA membership strong for another year. Thank you and welcome to all of our new members. In between all of those activities, we were working behind the scenes to ensure AODA has a strong foundation for the coming years in our governing documents so we can be the go-to affiliate for the Academy’s international strategic goals.

I am excited for the coming year and all that is will bring. I will leave the year's coming events to Vicky to share, and will close by saying thank you for your membership and supporter-ship. A special thank you to AODA's Leadership Team for all that you did to support AODA's activities during the past fiscal year. It takes a team to keep AODA going each year, and your time and effort is appreciated - thank you.

Here's to another successful year!

Warm Regards,
Stephanie Meyer, Dr.PH, MS, RDN, LD
AODA President, 2014-2015
President@EatRightOverseas.org

---

**Message From the Incoming 2015-2016 President**

Dear AODA Members and Supporters,

I am honored to serve as the President of American Overseas Dietetic Association for 2015-2016. AODA is one of the top international organizations in nutrition and dietetics with more than 1000 members in 70 Countries. AODA, as the international affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, provides numerous benefits like cutting-edge knowledge on nutrition and dietetics, educational opportunities and tools, assisting you to advance your career. In addition, your AODA membership allows you to share knowledge and expertise with colleagues worldwide. Take advantage of all benefits your membership includes!

As President, some of my goals are to provide our members greater educational opportunities to stay current on nutrition and health; strengthen the country representatives program that is the backbone of our association; and foster the communication through our web-page (which we are redesigning), facebook, twitter and all the electronic tools available to exchange information and experiences. The idea is to get closer to you, our members, our
most important asset.

I'm very pleased to announce the new international student membership open to nutrition and dietetics students worldwide. The addition to international students to our membership provides extra enthusiasm to our association, and I'm sure this would help AODA to continue growing in all ways. We are working hard to provide them with benefits that meet their particular needs.

AODA has allowed me to improve my leadership skills and has given me the opportunity to strengthen ties with nutrition professionals worldwide. These are some of the growth opportunities offered by our association. I invite you to join our volunteer group; it's a very fruitful experience.

Thank you for your support!

I am looking forward to a productive year,

Sincerely,
Virginia Tijerina Walls

---

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority

Submitted by: Jessica Alingog, MS, RDN, LD,

During National Nutrition Month, a Proclamation was signed by the Lt. Governor of Guam at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority. The Proclamation was read by Jessica Alingog, MS, RDN, LD, aloud before the signing.
Also, the K57 Radio/TV show endorsed National Nutrition Month and the Members of Guam Memorial Hospital Dietetic Services Department on March 17, 2015.
AODA Member Corner: Meet Our Members

Compiled By: Hope Peterson, RD

Featuring: Andrea Elizabeth McDonald from Jamaica

Andrea Elizabeth McDonald is from Kiddland, St Mary, Jamaica. She is now living in the United States and has been a member of AODA for two years. In Jamaica, the local cuisine consists of favorites such as jerk chicken, red beans and rice, curry goat, steamed fish, Ackee (a local fruit that is a member of the soapberry family), and salt fish with roast breadfruit. Since she moved to the U.S., Andrea has found that she enjoys Mexican food, but also loves trying foods from all different cultures.

Andrea made her move to the U.S. in 2001. In the Caribbean, dietitians are able to receive training but no accreditation board is established as yet with the American Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics. Most Registered Dietitians in the Caribbean are trained in the United States, Canada, or the UK and then return to their respective country to practice. Andrea completed her associate's degree at Lone Star Community College in Texas and then continued on to pursue her bachelor's at Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, TX. It was here Andrea's interest and involvement in the nutrition community continued to grow. Andrea's mentioned that her supervisor (Dr Sharon McWhinney), a Registered Dietitian, was
eager to mentor and encourage all students with the desire to pursue a career in nutrition. Her primary goal was to expose students to the various opportunities in nutrition and dietetics.

In addition, the university provided funding to attend all conferences as they value students’ interaction with senior experts and professionals in the field. Andrea eagerly took advantage of these opportunities and attended all conferences. Andrea not only attended the conferences, but she became heavily involved in the dietetic community through serving as student council liaison for ADA, student vice president for the Texas Dietetic Student Section, and president of her school association.

Andrea completed her dietetic internship as well as a master’s degree in Human sciences at Prairie View A&M University. She was trained in various health organizations in Houston, Texas, such as hospitals, Houston Independent School District, WIC, Sodexo Food Service, and Head Start. Andrea indicated her rotations, case studies, development of nutrition education materials, and facilitation of in-service trainings for hospital food service employees were parts of her training. Andrea considers her training in the U.S. was excellent as all the facilities were well equipped with resources to help students better understand the hands-on work of a dietitian.

Presently, Andrea is pursuing her doctoral degree in Health Education at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, where she serves as a graduate teaching assistant for courses in Race Ethnicity and Health, Program Evaluation, and Allied Health. She taught Basic Nutrition, Food Service Management and Ecology of Nutrition at other universities, previously. Along with teaching and attending graduate school full-time, Andrea is conducting research in a rural underserved community in Texas. The county is located in Southeast, Texas with approximately 45,000 residents. Twenty-four (24%) are children below 18 years old, and about 18% are living below the US poverty levels. The residents’ ethnicity includes African American (25.8%), Hispanic (29.5%), White (50%), and other (5%). The county has no public transportation, few grocery stores, and several fast food restaurants. The obesity rate in this county, at approximately 35%, is higher than the current state rate of 31%. Andrea recently passed her dissertation proposal and is anticipating graduating with a doctoral degree in health education in August 2015.

Andrea described her line of work as a qualitative health researcher. She is interested in food preparation literacy, childhood obesity, and health disparities among adolescents. In the past, Andrea worked as a research associate for a National Institute of Health (NIH) funded project. During her tenure, she coordinated intervention, moderated focus groups and conducted interviews. She also planned and scheduled meetings to discuss project progress and budgets. One challenge Andrea faced was not able to meet project deadlines as recruitment depended primarily on the participants’ schedule, especially when working in school.

Andrea maintains her connections with other dietitians in the Caribbean through collaborative research as well as grant and manuscripts writing. Presently, Andrea published (author and co-author) 4 book chapters, 6 newsletters, 12 peer reviewed papers and abstracts. She presented 9 oral papers and approximately 29 posters at international, local and state conferences such as the Caribbean Public Health Research Agency, Society of Public Health Education, Experimental Biology and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Conferences. Andrea is the recipient of several awards: 2014 College of Education and Human Development dissertation grant at Texas A&M University, 2013 Outstanding Research Poster Project at Texas Public Health Conference and 2014 Texas Public Health Association Thinking Progressive towards Health award. Andrea present memberships include American
Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics, American Overseas Dietetic Association, American Public Health Association (APHA), and Texas Public Health Association (TPHA).

Andrea is a single mother with two beautiful children, Olivia (daughter) and Kamal (son). Outside of school, she spends most of her spare time with family and friends or participating in community service. She indicated that her other professional interests include scientific writing, newsletters designing, nutrition tutoring, qualitative evaluation (grounded theory, photo-voice) and adolescent health. In the next 5 to 10 years, Andrea sees herself teaching, conducting research and directing a health/nutrition program in a university or college.

AODA Member Corner: Meet Our Members
Compiled By: Hope Peterson, RD

Featuring: Joann M. McDermid from Canada

Joann M. McDermid, a member of AODA since 2014, comes from Canada but is now living in the US. Joann has previously worked, and continues to work, in sub-Saharan Africa, specifically in The Gambia, Tanzania and Kenya. Joann has also lived in the UK, Germany and The Gambia (West Africa) since becoming a RD.

Joann obtained her RD credentials in 1991 in Canada and, since that time, has completed graduate studies in dietetics and nutrition and epidemiology, most recently completing a PhD in 2007. Joann passed the US RD exam in 2013 and considers herself fortunate to have done so on the first attempt - although she did have the challenge of studying non-metric conversions.

Joann has chosen to share about The Gambia, the country she is most familiar with and probably one many of our readers are not. Joann currently has ongoing nutrition research collaborations and training activities taking place in this country. The Gambia is a very small country (11,295 km sq), only slightly bigger than Jamaica, located in the western-most tip of Africa. The population is about 1.9 million (estimated as of July 2014), and predominantly Muslim (90%). It is a young country (median age=20.2 years), but with considerable health challenges (maternal mortality=3.6/1000; infant mortality=66/1000; life expectancy=64 years). Adult obesity is estimated at 7.9% (in 2008; ranked 138 in world), while early childhood (<5 years) underweight is 15.5% (in 2006; ranking 45). The Gambia is a poor nation, with a GDP of 2000 USD in 2013, ranking 195th in the world.

Key agricultural products include rice, millet, sorghum, peanuts, corn, sesame,
cassava (manioc, tapioca), palm kernels; cattle, sheep, goats, but fish is also widely consumed at the coast. Benachin, Domoda and Yassa are among Joann’s favorite dishes. Her favorite fruits commonly grown in The Gambia are mango and papaya. There are also local berries or "forest fruits" that she is unsure of the translation for. Some of the local names, descriptions and pictures of Gambian cuisine can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gambian_cuisine. Additional descriptions can be found at: http://www.accessgambia.com/information/food-recipes.html

Like many African countries, the profession of dietetics is not practiced in The Gambia. Instead, most public health nutrition activities are conducted by nutritionists with training backgrounds in nutritional sciences, food sciences and agriculture, and clinical nutrition- activities, i.e. diabetes education, would be offered by nurses or doctors who have very limited time to devote to individual counselling. There are also traditional healers who offer nutritional advice, including the president of The Gambia.

In The Gambia, the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA: http://www.nana.gm) coordinates and implements key nutrition activities. There is also an active nutrition research program in The Gambia that is based at the Medical Research Council (http://www.mrc.gm/our-research/themes/nutrition) that has over the years contributed to significant scientific advancements in global nutrition, but also importantly, in the investment of African and international nutrition scientists and laboratory and fieldworkers specialized in conducting nutrition-focused research.

Joann’s work is focused on dietetic and nutrition research, and in training the next generation of professionals working in dietetics, nutritional sciences and medicine. Joann has developed university courses in nutritional immunology and infectious diseases and nutritional epidemiology. She often illustrates course concepts using examples from her research program that focuses on nutrition and infectious diseases, specifically HIV, TB and intestinal infections like cryptosporidiosis that are important in a global health context. Since malnutrition and infectious diseases so frequently co-exist in this setting, this research is focused on understanding how each of these contributes to common outcomes - for example, how much of weight loss (or failure to gain weight in pregnancy) is due to lack of food in poverty-affected areas, compared to how much is because of inefficient metabolic usage of consumed food due to infectious disease processes? This question is relevant because the individual solution must be matched to the cause for interventions to be effective. An example of getting this wrong is trying to treat cachexia by providing more food, without addressing the underlying pathology. Or of prescribing iron supplements for anemia that does not have iron deficiency as a cause (i.e. anemia of chronic disease). Much of the day-to-day project management and laboratory work has been conducted by nutrition graduate students, and Joann is also integrally involved in the training and mentorship of these students.

This year, Joann is in the process of moving from a nutrition department at Cornell University to the Department of Infectious Diseases and International Health based at the School of Medicine, University of Virginia. She has spent considerable time in similar departments throughout her career, and is very much looking forward to this transition. Joann believes that keeping abreast of evolving clinical nutrition challenges is highly important for defining relevant nutrition research questions and with this new
move hopes to increase her interactions with the clinical nutrition department at the university teaching hospital.

Outside of work, spending time with family is Joann's key interest. Joann has travelled to over 60 countries, and looks forward to visiting many more. Over the next few years, Joann hopes to continue to make an ongoing impact towards understanding nutrition and infectious disease interactions. She is eager to contribute to the development of approaches and solutions for dietitians through taking advantage of our increasing understanding at this important interface.

---

**AODA FNCE Events**

**International Reception**  
Saturday, October 3 from 7:00 - 9:00pm  
Omni Nashville Hotel in the Music Row 1 room

**AODA Booth**  
Member Marketplace at Booth 8  
Located near the FNCE Store  
Stop by and say hi - we’d love to meet you in person!

**Member Breakfast**  
Monday, October 5 at 7am  
Puckett's Grocery and Restaurant (500 Church St.)  
A reservation has been made for AODA members to meet and network. Breakfast charges will be the responsibility of individuals attending.

---

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Senior Program Officer, Women's Nutrition Job**

**The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - Seattle, WA**

Division Global Development Program Department Nutrition Location Seattle Foundation  
Overview Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people’s health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, the foundation is led by CEO Sue Desmond-Hellmann and co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett. Click to read more.
AODA Needs You!

AODA is still looking to fill a few key positions within our leadership. If you are interested in any of the below positions, please email Carrie Kiley at aoda.general@gmail.com for an application or to find out more information.

Strategic Communications Chair
Oversee and coordinate the communications from AODA to our members and the public. Work in conjunction with the Newsletter Editor, Media Representative, IT Chair, and AODA Executive Director to ensure members are up to date on AODA news.

Professional Development Chair
Oversee the educational and professional developments of AODA to ensure our members are staying up to date on the latest educational topics. Work in conjunction with the Conference Chair, the Scientific Committee/CPE Chair, and the Student Outreach Chair to make sure resources are provided to our members.

Fundraising/Sponsorship Chair
Help continue the success of AODA by helping recruit sponsors for our program. Work with AODA's Executive Director to coordinate and execute agreements with AODA sponsors. Position is responsible for initial contact with potential sponsors and secure an initial commitment. The Executive Director will then coordinate paperwork, invoicing, and execution of the contract.

Country Representative
We are still seeking Country Representatives. If you know a dietitian who would be interested in becoming the Country Representative for those countries that do not have one, please let us know. We want to have a global voice for working toward good and adequate nutrition.

Country Representative Corner

Report Compiled by: Marianella Herrera, PhD

Below are summaries of activities undertaken by AODA Country Representatives worldwide. This section allows members to observe our CRs promoting healthy eating habits in their respective countries between January and March 2015. Also, Country Representatives accomplish other activities to support dietetic practice and fulfill requests related to our association.

China: Liyan Lin
During this period, Liyan helped Susan Weiner, a dietitian in New York, with the chapter
about Asian Cuisine in her new book.

Germany: Mary Norrito-Koller and Nicole Erickson
Nicole Erickson met with AODA member Daniel Buchholz this quarter. Daniel Buchholz is the leader of the G-NCP movement and a good source of knowledge about nutrition politics in Germany. Nicole brought and spread information about AODA at the conferences she attended. Nicole Erickson was honored to be recognized as a recipient of the Abbott Nutrition Alliance Award for her work in Malnutrition. She would like to express thanks to Camilla Rising, the USA representative, for her support.

Greece: Elena Paravantes
During this quarter, Elena gave a speech about gastronomic tourism for the Greek tourism board. She was quoted in the US edition of Prevention magazine about the Greek diet and was interviewed for 2 other Greek magazines. In addition, receive requests from students mainly, interested in working in Greece. She provided CIS and information on joining AODA and contributed to the Academy’s Cultural Competency Book, Chapter for Greece. Elena continued her work on her blog olivetomato.com, blogging for Huffington post and as editor for Olive Oil Times, interview and freelance writing.

Hong Kong: Charmain Tan
During this period, Charmain was invited by Nestle to give a talk to Cancer Link. On March 7, she attended the Spring Dinner organized by HKDA, HKNA, and HKPDU. During this dinner, AODA donated a t-shirt, a pen and letter opener set for a lucky draw and an incentive to join the international membership. On Mar 11, AODA-HK members celebrated RD Day by making leather key chains and dinner was prepared by a chef, an AODA member. Charmaine attended local seminars held by HKSPEN and HKDA, and networked
with local dietitians.

Italy: Marta Rahm

During this period, Martha was contacted by a Professional Dietitian from Texas to visit her in Rome for information on the dietetic profession in Italy. Also, a US dietetic student contacted her to assist with administering questionnaires related to his academic career and job opportunities in Italy. Martha tried to assist students with internships through her local dietetic association and found that is not possible due to legal reasons.

Japan: Melinda Boyd

During this period, Melinda sent an email to all members regrading FNCE Foundation Awards and eligibility. All members who met the criteria were encouraged to apply. She was asked by a USA author to review a book chapter that focused on ethnic cuisine in the US for diabetes meal planning and answer questions on Japanese foods and some healthy options. Also, Melinda provided a US student who was interested in doing possible research Japan with information and options. An AODA student member in Japan requested supervision for his independent study, and Melinda served as a supervisor for his hours needed in this course. This included going to Tokyo, observing interactions, and providing a nutrition presentation over the course of a weekend. Also, Melinda continued to learn about nutrition in Japan and pursue outside learning about the food and culture. She has been exploring various cities in the Tohoku region and learning about different types of cuisine and foods that are unique to those areas.

Mexico: Virginia Tijerina Walls

During this quarter, Virginia (Vicky) gave information to the local nutrition association about possible speakers for their Annual Conference and participated in an event organized by AMENAC (Asociación Mexicana de Nutriología). She was also invited at the Board meeting of CONCAPREN (Accreditation Council for Nutrition Programs in Mexico).
Besides these activities, she continued working as AODA President-Elect. She was invited as CR in Mexico to participate in a Roundtable discussion “Social responsibility of the Nutritionist in Mexico” Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas “Salvador Zubirán and had a meeting with the Nutrition Director of an important University in Mexico (Universidad del Valle de México). Vicky continued working as volunteer to develop the KER International Campaign and collaborating with AODA/KERI in the development of a childhood obesity prevention campaign in Mexico. She also continued her PhD on Sociomedical Science at UNAM in Mexico City.

Saudi Arabia: Rubina Hakeem

During this period, Rubina arranged an AODA accredited workshop about implementation of eNCPT in the Middle East. She served as Faculty for an NCP workshop held at RLAK College of Home Economics Karachi Pakistan on 21st March 2015. She developed several excel-based tools to facilitate students learning of NCP, diet assessment, and diet planning. Rubina continued her participation in EAL and EMDNA projects and work on the AODA Services Committee. She attended APCCN2015 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in Feb 2015, presented one oral presentation and a poster presentation with Miss Farzana Asar, AODA member from Pakistan. In addition, she published two articles:


South Korea: Dee Dee Ugursal

During this quarter, Dee Dee was regularly sharing AND/ AODA news, as well as information on upcoming relevant conferences with dietitians throughout the country. AODA members had an AODA – Korea gathering on March 1, 2015 from 1 to 4pm in Seoul at a coffee shop. Three AODA – Korea members were present.
Sweden: Maria Gustafsson

Maria attended INAP (AHA) meeting in Baltimore (March 2nd). DGAC Scientific Report were top on the list for discussions during the meeting.

Turkey: Füsun Atayata

During this period, Fusun received a request from Esther Myers for an extensive project in Middle East, which is called Middle Eastern Dietetics Needs Assessment project. Through this project, she was able to contact 3 academics from Istanbul Arel University School of Health Science, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics to provide collaboration on the project. She also received an invitation from Susan Weiner, MS, RDN, CDE, CDN, the 2015 AADE Diabetes Educator recipient to provide information on healthy and less healthy choices in Turkish cuisine. The information she provided will be included in a book chapter. In addition, Fusun worked in the Turkish Cultural Foundation's Culinary Arts Center in Istanbul where she requested resources for her project and created a blog: http://www.anatolian-kitchen.com.

As part of a final Honors Capstone project, she is working on a project to help Turkish students maintain their traditional dietary habits whenever they migrate to America for studying. Fusun was scheduled to attend and participate in the following meetings: The Running Nutritionist at CTHRU to discuss cultural influences on sports nutrition and Turkish American Nutritional Habits of individuals who are actively engaged in sports.

USA: Camella Rising

During this period, Camella continued to support the efforts of Kids Eat Right International (KERI). She and other KERI volunteer leaders attended a strategic planning teleconference with Katie Brown of ANDF and helped select KERI logos. Camella also finalized the AODA Expert Speakers Bureau Survey with Stephanie Meyer based on the Board of Directors' input. She delivered the e-news to all members, attended the
Partnership for a Healthier America Fit to celebrate benefit dinner in Washington DC. During her visit, she met with member Alice Lenihan to discuss her work with the International Special Olympics (2/15). Camella continued to serve on several committees, including the Academy’s NCPT Committee for the 2nd year-member of the Evidence-Based Practice Committee and a member of Council on Research (workgroup lead on helping Academy develop a culture of research). Presently, she is activity preparing manuscripts with other members of the Preventing Diabetes Research Expert Panel (an Academy Dietetics Practice-Based Research Network [DPBRN] project). Besides this activities, she continues her doctoral work in health communications and was awarded the Susan T. Borra Fellowship in Nutrition Communication from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation.

UAE: Ellen Edwards
During this period, Ellen revised the AODA Educational Stipend applications, replied to many member queries, and updated AND emails as she served on the Member Services Committee. She made suggestions for our international members that are not RDs or from a country requiring a PDP. She received multiple requests for cultural feeding, social structure for patients from the Gulf from list serv’s, and RDs in US practice facilities.

Venezuela: Pablo Hernández
During this period, Pablo finished his Master Program in Nutrition at Simón Bolivar University - Venezuela. Now he is working with Marianella Herrera on the EB4K protocol, which is a pilot study in Venezuela. He also served as a collaborating Professor on a Diabetes Educator certification and a participant in a SPSS course at UCV. Pablo was interviewed weekly by Desiree Urosa for the newspaper "El Propio" about many topics in nutrition and how to eat right. As a result, he received several requests for information regarding the Academy and AODA membership.

AODA Mission: Empower members to be international food and nutrition embassadors.

AODA Vision: Optimize health internationally through food and nutrition.