

# CALS 2007-2008 Administrator of the Year

Linda Houtkooper, Head,  
Department of Nutritional Sciences



JOANNE LITTLEFIELD

**A**s CALS Administrator of the Year, Linda Houtkooper is honored for her leadership, exceptional contributions and outstanding service to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the University of Arizona and the people of Arizona.

Nutritional Sciences has made significant strides in academics, research and outreach since Houtkooper became department head in January 2003. From 2002-2006, the department ranked first among all CALS departments in the average student credit hours in the University General Education Program, third in the number of majors and the number of undergraduate degrees granted, and fourth in the average number of student credit hours per instructional faculty. In 2005, the Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index ranked the department's doctoral program 10<sup>th</sup> in the United States in the area of nutrition. This index ranks 7,294 individual doctoral programs in 104 disciplines at 354 institutions.

Under Houtkooper's guidance, the department has improved its facilities, renovating 11,900 square feet of space and developing a foods laboratory for the undergraduate dietetics program. With her support, the department's Didactic Program in Dietetics was fully accredited in 2006 by the American Dietetics Association.

In addition to Houtkooper's administrative responsibilities, she has maintained active research programs on osteoporosis and sports nutrition, collaborating on projects with grants totaling over \$2.7 million. She also actively contributes to Cooperative Extension programs promoting adequate calcium intake,

strong bones, osteoporosis prevention and education, healthy weight, and active youth.

Houtkooper was one of the forces behind the establishment of the Center for Physical Activity and Nutrition, dedicated to providing outreach education in nutrition, exercise, cancer prevention, osteoporosis prevention and sports nutrition. She was also instrumental in assuring the success of the Nutrition, Exercise and Wellness Program within the Department of Nutritional Sciences.

According to nomination letters from her colleagues, Houtkooper excels in team and consensus building, in recruiting the best possible faculty and staff, and in convincing people to cooperate for the betterment of the department.

"Perhaps Dr. Houtkooper's greatest strength," wrote one nominator, "is the grace and style she shows when confronting the many challenges a department head faces when interacting with the many different personalities (faculty, staff and students alike) and needs of a diverse department. She is forthright and assertive, open to different opinions, and always fair-minded."

As another colleague put it, "In a time when others are prone to say one thing and do another, if Linda tells you something, you can take it to the bank." ♦

## Contact

Linda Houtkooper  
[houtkoop@u.arizona.edu](mailto:houtkoop@u.arizona.edu)

Compiled by Susan McGinley