

## *Duo fiunt unum: From Two, One*

### **A History of the Hunger and Environmental Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group**

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**HEN Vision:** Optimize the nation's health by promoting access to nutritious food and clean water from a secure and sustainable food system.

**HEN Mission:** Empower members to be leaders in sustainable and accessible food and water systems.

In 2009, to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hunger and Environmental Nutrition (HEN) Dietetic Practice Group (DPG), the leadership appointed a Historian, Barbara Hartman, MS, RD, who undertook the project of documenting HEN DPG's history. Thank you to all of our past chairs who contributed their knowledge to this invaluable documentation of HEN DPG's history, a history that foretells an amazing future yet to come.

HEN DPG was borne from the mergers of two distinct DPGs in 2000. This merger brought together members from the Environmental Nutrition DPG and Hunger and Malnutrition DPG. The Hunger and Malnutrition DPG was founded in 1993 by Minkie Medora and Rena Pendergast. The Environmental Nutrition DPG was founded separately by Susan Cooper in 1994. Lists of the past chairs of each of these DPGs are below.

#### **Environmental Nutrition Historical Timeline**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Chair</b>
99-00	Beverly Colleen Babcock
98-99	Bill Landis
97-98	Suzanne Myer
96-97	Jeanne Peters
94-96	Susan Cooper, Founder

#### **Hunger and Malnutrition Historical Timeline**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Chair</b>
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99-00	Barb Scott
98-99	Karen Wilson
97-98	Rachel Trevethan
96-97	Lena Hackett
95-96	Rena Prendergast
94-95	Geraldine Henschley
93-94	Minkie Medora
Founders	Minkie Medora, Rena Pendergast

**The merger had a profound effect on the DPG's new leaders and those passing the baton.**

Past Chair, **Sue Roberts** has fond memories of the first meeting where the Hunger and Malnutrition DPG officers (**Barbara Scott**, chair and John, incoming chair) and the Environmental Nutrition DPG (**Beverly Babcock**, Chair, and Sue, incoming chair) met. "There were others there, but I do not remember who. This is where we hammered out the melding together of the two groups. Oh were we inspired! The meeting went wonderfully – it was like a special force was there helping us. We came up with a great vision and mission at this meeting. We set up the frame work for the group. John was to be the first chair and I was to be the incoming chair."

"Then we tackled the name. One of the Hunger and Malnutrition DPG's conditions of the merger that the DPG name had the word "Hunger" first. We just could not come up with anything catchy – so we just put the two names together – Hunger and Environmental Nutrition (HEN) – with every intent that it was only temporary and that we would come up with a jazzier name soon. The rest is history. We never came up with a different name and we never will now. HEN it is."

In the beginning our leaders held FNCE working parties where according to Sue, "**John (Krawkowski)** provided beverages and eats in his (hotel) room, of course we could not afford to rent a room. The ironing board was the table. We sat around on the beds and put together the goodies for the DPG display, etc."

Sue remembers when they created our first logo. "I loved it when we finally had our first logo, new brochure, new look for the newsletter, etc. when I was chair. I always thought it was one of the best of ADA." It was a "Victory to keep HEN a DPG – the work of everyone when individuals within ADA tried to disband HEN. We all pulled together and did our own part to save the group."

To add to Sue Robert's memory, **Allison Brewton-LaClaire** remembers being at the meeting where they merged the two DPGs. "I was secretary for Hunger and planning to become the chair-elect. The merger put off my ascension as we needed to weave our boards together," said Allison.

### **HEN's online presence has a humble beginning.**

**Allison Brewton-LaClaire** recalls, "We started discussing web site design for about 2 years but didn't really have the \$ to hire someone so I started creating it. We did come up with a little funding in 2002 to hire a friend of mine to help me with the html and frames design. It was the best we could do at the time. It looks as though we built and launched the website in June of 2003. My friend, Dave and I built it. I do recall Kim Prendergast making great contributions to get us up and running as well. We ran the website through Yahoo for about a year, then ADA offered free web hosting. Since we were desperate for funding, we chose the free hosting and got what we paid for, which we worried about. As you know, it took until this year, 2009, to get off the ADA hosting site and back to our own control.

### **Recognizing our members.**

HEN leaders have had many discussions on how to give out awards and recognize members. Allison recalls that, "At one point we thought of nominating high profile people (actors) that were active in hunger related charities. We [went so far as to] pursue one actor but it didn't work out." Barb Scott created what are known as the HEN DPG awards during her tenure in 2000-2001. Allison Brewton-LaClaire updated them in 2002 and then 2004. In 2004, HEN DPG awarded a Hunger and an Environmental Award. Later the *Excellence in Hunger & Environmental Nutrition* and the *Excellence in Hunger & Environmental Nutrition Leadership* were established.

### **From snail mail to e-mail.**

During Rena Prendergast's chairmanship, she transitioned the leaders to all using email to communicate. Allison remembers that, "Prior to this we were snail mailing and making quarterly phone calls. We had no reaction time to garner support for, say, respond to a senator or a house bill. Now, some of us had email capability but not everyone. So it was not until 1995 that Rena demanded we communicate in that fashion (yes, some needed that necessary push). There up and down sides to communication upgrades. The good side: we could respond faster to issues and communicate more frequently. The down side: we could communicate more frequently and, hence, added more work to our busy lives. Prior to email: your responsibilities were to get the newsletter out, get ready for ADA national meeting (prior to the FNCE name change). When you were done, you happily mailed a HUGE file folder on to the next chair and relished that new open space in your office." Those days are long over!

### **Highlights from over the years.**

HEN leaders have found a special camaraderie among the membership and those who support the DPG through their leadership and volunteer energy.

Some of **Sue Robert's** favorite memories include:

1. HEN dinners at FNCE – all of them have been great – everyone is so inspiring and fun to be with.
2. Strategic planning session at **Mary Jo Forbord's** farm – what a great time. The “Iron Chef” cook off was the best.
3. HEN members –The most important memory of all is of members – HEN members who have been inspirational to me and many others through the years. HEN brings together the best people who alone are doing great work, but together do phenomenal work. HEN has been and continues to be one of the most important drivers in my career and for that I am forever grateful.

**Kim Prendergast's** favorite memories “from my year would have to be the strategic planning session at **Mary Jo's** house, our hay-ride and our first-ever Iron Chef Collaborative Cook-off. Also, the Film Festival in 2008 was held at the Chicago Cultural Center - it was a really beautiful location.”

HEN leaders are sometimes unconventional in their use of resources. **Barbara Hartman** remembers “the time (was it 2001?) when we didn't have much of a budget for anything extra. We were at the annual ADA conference, another DPG had just finished their meeting in the room where ours was to be held. We were happy to find their refreshment leftovers hadn't yet been taken away and decided to make them part of our meeting since we couldn't afford food that year.” In recent years HEN is now able to budget for meals at our leadership meetings and strives to supply those meals through local, sustainable, and organic caterers.

### **HEN DPG Milestones**

HEN DPG has accomplished much in 10 years. From 2009-2010 past chairs were asked to contribute information about DPG events, key activities, and memories from their tenure. The following chart captures those milestones.

Year	Chair	Events of Note
00-01	John Krawkowski 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oversaw merging of the two DPGs with assistance from Susan Roberts and Barbara Scott.</li> <li>▪ John Jevons spoke at FNCE.</li> </ul>
01-02	Sue Roberts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Focused on strengthening the merged DPG.</li> <li>▪ Survived disbanding attempt.</li> <li>▪ Developed first logo, letterhead, brochure, and newsletter look.</li> <li>▪ Debate on biotechnology with Dr. Fred Kirschenmann and Dr. Roger Beachy (then at Monsanto research center in St. Louis).</li> </ul>
02-03	Allison Brewton-LaClaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Designed and launched the first HEN website.</li> <li>▪ Improved the awards process.</li> <li>▪ Frances Moore Lappe spoke at a pre-FNCE event.</li> <li>▪ DPG showcase, gave away organic garlic grown by HEN member, Anne Patterson.</li> <li>▪ HEN's Priority Session: "Active Governance of Bioengineered Foods, Now and in the Future."</li> <li>▪ Discussed current strategic planning and how HEN can incorporate our issues into ADA's plan.</li> <li>▪ Agreed that the following would help HEN get its message into ADA's strategic plan:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Take our issues to/keep them in front of HOD.</li> <li>○ Voice concerns to PID, state delegates, and ADA affiliates.</li> <li>○ Support HEN members for election to ADA board positions and seated on committees.</li> <li>○ Identify industry dietitians who are sympathetic to HEN's causes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Editorial committee: S. Roberts, B. Scott, A. Brewton-LaClaire, and A. Tagtow.</li> <li>▪ Committee to review ADA guidelines for fact sheets and come up with a process to be followed in developing HEN fact sheets.</li> <li>▪ Developed Fact sheet about relationship between hunger and the</li> </ul>

		<p>environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Established a Haworth task force with Angie Tagtow as the lead.</li> <li>▪ Constructed an organizational chart.</li> <li>▪ Develop production toolkit to orient new editors – spring.</li> <li>▪ Initiation of list serv by Caroline Baum-Webber.</li> </ul>
03-04	<p>Fern Gale Estrow</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conducted PR with outside like minded organizations.</li> <li>▪ FNCE session on Antibiotic Resistance.</li> </ul>
04-05	<p>Barbara Hartman</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Membership: 613; Those with e-mail: 120.</li> <li>▪ First E-zine designed by Mary Pat Raimondi and sent to the list serve for National Hunger Day. Mary Pat continued to distribute monthly HEN Legislative E-Zines and one to raise awareness of the needs resulting from the South Asian tsunami disaster.</li> <li>▪ HEN was instrumental in influencing ADA to submit comments to USDA on the Food Stamp Nutrition Education draft policy framework.</li> <li>▪ Transferred website to ADA’s web service.</li> <li>▪ FNCE 04 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HEN priority session – “Linking the Food Supply with Nutrition Counseling”.</li> <li>○ Pre business meeting event – “A Date with Flavor” with Amanda Archibald.</li> <li>○ Business meeting with review of HEN alliances and networks by Rebecca Sparks.</li> <li>○ DPG Showcase – “Spice Up Your Life with HEN DPG” theme with organically grown chili peppers and cinnamon giveaways.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Angie Tagtow assisted Haworth Publishers in the development of the <i>Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition</i>. Haworth has been offered an opportunity to be a HEN sponsor.</li> <li>▪ Elizabeth Gartlan’s represented HEN on the ADA Foundation Committee to decide the best use of \$10,000 granted to ADAF from Sodexo for research in hunger and obesity regarding children.</li> <li>▪ Angie Tagtow represented the DPG on the World Food Prize Symposium Healthy Communities Planning Committee. The Symposium titled "The Dual Global Challenges of Malnutrition and Obesity" is scheduled for October 13-14, 2005 in Des Moines, Iowa.</li> <li>▪ Kim Prendergast, Allison LaClaire, and committee chairs made improvements to the website. Kim Prendergast made ongoing improvements throughout the fiscal year.</li> <li>▪ Converted to ADA’s electronic voting system.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explored pros and cons of electronic newsletter, solicited input from the HEN EML and the DPG officer EML. Decided to postpone going to an electronic newsletter but to revisit the idea in the near future.</li> </ul>
05-06	<p>Angie Tagtow</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “HEN: Harvesting Opportunities” 2005 FNCE, St. Louis</li> <li>▪ The HEN priority session, “Chronic Disease and Food Access: Dietetic Education &amp; Practice Applications,” was attended by more than 175 people. HEN speakers included Elizabeth Vukovic Gartlan, David Holben and Angie Tagtow.</li> <li>▪ New outreach posters were developed for the DPG showcase and 125 bags of dried heirloom beans, provided by HEN member and farmer Anne Patterson.</li> <li>▪ An affiliation agreement was signed by the HEN DPG and the Haworth Press, Inc. enabling HEN members to receive the new <i>Journal of Hunger &amp; Environmental Nutrition</i> for a reduced subscription fee (electronic access for \$10 or \$15 for both print and electronic).</li> <li>▪ At least 13 HEN members attended the HOD meeting in October 2005 to discuss the mega-issue “The role of the dietetic professionals in assuring a safe and sustainable food supply.” HEN leadership provided input for the backgrounder. The outcome of this dialogue was the formation of a Sustainable Food System Taskforce. Seven HEN members served on the taskforce including Alison Harmon, Barbara Hartman, Dianne Lollar, Mary Pat Raimondi, Susan Roberts, Jennifer Wilkins and Angie Tagtow.</li> <li>▪ 12% increase in membership</li> <li>▪ Revised HEN membership brochure</li> <li>▪ Executive Committee voted to implement reduced student HEN member rate</li> <li>▪ Executive Committee voted to implement an international scholarship</li> <li>▪ Signed a two-year affiliation agreement with the Haworth Press, Inc. enabling HEN members to receive the <i>Journal of Hunger &amp; Environmental Nutrition</i> for a reduced subscription fee</li> <li>▪ Secured \$5,000 sponsorship from the Haworth Press, Inc and secured free printing and mailing of the HEN DPG newsletter for two years</li> <li>▪ Submitted recommendations to LPPC on taking a comprehensive food system approach to the 2007 Farm Bill.</li> <li>▪ HEN members Pam Darby, Jennifer Wilkins, Fern Gale Estrow and John Krakowski testified at a 2007 Farm Bill forum in New York City.</li> <li>▪ Drafted evidence-based talking points about organic food and agriculture for ADA media spokespersons.</li> <li>▪ Letters from the HEN Executive Committee were submitted to the Association Positions Committee, ADA Ethics Committee and the ADA Issues Management Committee regarding the development, review and authorship of the ADA <i>Food and Agricultural Biotechnology</i> position paper. The Ethics Committee and the Issues Management Committee referred the HEN DPG to the Association Positions Committee.</li> </ul>

06-07	<p>Helen Costello</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Hang Ten with HEN” 2006 FNCE, Honolulu</li> <li>▪ Priority session: “Farm to School and Table: How Dietetics Professionals Can Be Involved.”</li> <li>▪ Organic Taro Farm visit.</li> </ul>
07-08	<p>Mary Jo Forbord</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ HEN member and past chair, Angie Tagtow started the Sustainable Dining Guide concept for FNCE meetings.</li> <li>▪ Established sponsorship relationship with Organic Valley</li> <li>▪ FNCE priority session: <i>Let Them Eat Grass: Pasture-Raised Meats for Health and Flavor</i></li> <li>▪ FNCE premier Film Festival: A Smorgasbord of Films about Food. Created and coordinated by Melinda Hemmelgarn and Barbara Hartman with Angie Tagtow creating the Playbill.</li> <li>▪ HEN Pre-FNCE organic farm tour.</li> </ul>
08-09	<p>Kim Prendergast</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Started HEN Speakers Bureau grant program</li> <li>▪ Implemented new organizational leadership structure</li> <li>▪ Established friend relationship with The Organic Center</li> <li>▪ Established HEN’s international JADA donation program</li> <li>▪ 2<sup>nd</sup> annual FNCE Film Festival: <i>Food and Water for Thought</i>. Melinda Hemmelgarn and Barbara Hartman with Angie Tagtow creating the playbill.</li> <li>▪ HEN Pre-FNCE organic dairy farm tour</li> <li>▪ FNCE Priority session: Food Access &amp; Community Partnerships – Steps to Reducing Health Disparities (joint session with Nutrition Education for the Public DPG)</li> <li>▪ HEN has 2 members on the ADA BOD</li> <li>▪ Adopted new logo</li> </ul>
09-10	<p>Kelly Horton</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1439 members by the close of the year.</li> <li>▪ Published ADA Hot Topic: A Perspective on the Benefits of Organic Foods</li> <li>▪ JHEN becomes an automatic benefit for HEN members (effective June 2010)</li> <li>▪ Revised guiding principles to include HEN HOD Representative (effective June 2010)</li> <li>▪ FNCE priority session: <i>From Seeds to Shovels to Stories: Using Community-Based Participatory Research for Health</i></li> <li>▪ FNCE 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Film Festival: <i>Fresh Food, Fresh Faces, Fresh Ideas</i></li> <li>▪ HEN Pre-FNCE Denver Urban Gardens Tour</li> <li>▪ Sustainable Food Systems in Healthcare Task Force gives presentation</li> </ul>

		at pre-FNCE event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ HEN has 3 members on ADA BOD</li> <li>▪ Developed HEN's School to Farm Program</li> <li>▪ Launched HEN's new website as a .org</li> <li>▪ HEN listserv moved to YahooGroups.com</li> <li>▪ Connecting Sustainability to Food Security Task Force</li> <li>▪ ADA Corporate Sponsorship Task Force</li> </ul>
10-11	Christopher Wharton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Forth-coming!</i></li> </ul>
11-12	Alison Harmon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Forth-coming!</i></li> </ul>

### HEN DPG Growth

HEN DPG has grown quickly in part due to its members' cutting edge expertise in hunger and sustainable agriculture. Our members have served as leaders for Registered Dietitians wanting to learn more, get involved, and become part of a network of colleagues as they themselves become leaders in this field of nutrition. Growing from 580 members in our first year to over 1,400 members ten years later, we expect HEN DPG to continue growing far into the future.

**Hunger & Environmental Nutrition DPG Membership**

