

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Dr. Peggy Papathakis

Professor, Food Science and Nutrition Department
College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

Dr. Peggy Papathakis' goals include pursuing nutrition research in developing nations and engaging students in that research aimed at improving the nutritional status of women and young children. One such project, funded by \$1.4 million in grants and involving scores of students, examined maternal malnutrition in Malawi, Africa. The results could shape public policy to improve maternal and infant health across the globe. There is an added bonus back in the classroom; it exposes more students to global nutrition issues, spurring additional senior projects investigating scientific literature on a host of related topics. "Dr. Papathakis has made Cal Poly, the college and Food Science and Nutrition look good on the world stage, and she has provided unprecedented research opportunities to our students, graduates and faculty," said Dr. Louise Berner, a colleague in the department. "Her scholarly achievements have taken place in a relatively short time and while she excelled at teaching."

Dr. Papathakis earned her undergraduate degree at Cal Poly and returned in 2006, after 27 years at UC Davis Medical Center, where she was a senior pediatric dietitian. The World Health Organization named her an expert in nutrition and infectious diseases. She served on the organization's advisory panel for nutrition, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.