

## 2012 Champion of Education and Training – Educator



Dr. Alicia C. Garcia, PhD, RD, CFE<sup>5</sup> is currently a Professor and Chair of the Division of Food and Nutritional Sciences at Brescia University College which is affiliated with the University of Western Ontario. She has worked with the Division for the last 22 years since her graduation with a PhD in International Nutrition from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York in May 1989.

The Division offers honours specialization programs in nutrition and dietetics and food science and technology as well as a major in food management. She has largely been responsible for the planning and implementation in 2007 of the Master of Science in Foods and Nutrition where she serves as the Graduate Program Coordinator. In addition, she co-teaches one of the graduate courses, Foodservice Administration and Management, that she initially developed in partnership with practitioners in this field, for example, the food service administrators/managers of the London Health Sciences Center and the St. Joseph's Healthcare Center (who are now teaching the course this year under her supervision). She also worked closely with the Registrar's office for the approval and implementation of the articulation agreement with Fanshawe College whereby students in their Food Management program could come to Brescia for the Honors Specialization in Nutrition and Dietetics program (and we now have students under this agreement). A similar agreement with the Ivey School of Business at Western is under the approval process for a concurrent degree in Business Administration and Nutrition and Dietetics.

One of her theses students worked on a research project on going green in healthcare foodservices and their paper has been published in the Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice Practice and Research and the results have been presented as well in national conferences of Dietitians of Canada and Eco-care. Her other three theses students have worked on food acquisition and preparation among rural women and seniors and adults with developmental challenges and all three have also published their papers in refereed journals. All these researches feed back into her undergraduate teaching.

With CAFP Brescia, she was instrumental in the chartering of the student branch in 1994 and she has been the

faculty adviser from then until now. Under her guidance, the student branch has received many CAFP National awards over the years for being an outstanding university student branch and producing outstanding student newsletters. Among others, she is very proud of the three Brescia CAFP student Presidents who have received the National Gold Plate award. The London CAFP has also received numerous awards for outstanding student development and education. On her own, Alicia has achieved the pinnacle "diamond" level of the CFE designation.

Her great inspiration for working so well with the students is her personal satisfaction ['it warms my heart', she says] of seeing the students become so successful in their chosen careers, sometimes exceeding her expectations and even surpassing her own achievements; "there is no greater feedback than that and thinking that some how, some way, you had a small part in their success and how glad you are when you meet them again!"