Dr. Sweitzer R.D., L.D. is the Program Director for the Didactic Program in Dietetics. She advises students who are preparing for a career as a registered dietitian. She teaches Advanced Food Systems Management (355M), Issues in Nutrition and Health (338W), Standards, Ethics, and Credentialing in Dietetics Practice (162) as well as working with the CPD students. Her research interests include behavioral nutrition. Her work focuses on parents of young children. Many dietary habits and food preferences are established by age four. Consequently, the parent is an important role model and teacher for dietary habits that will last a lifetime and can impact the rate of childhood obesity. Through her work in child care centers she seeks to help parents improve the food choices they make for their child. She has recently been working on an efficacy trial of Lunch is in the Bag, funded by the National Cancer Institute. This study will evaluate the impact of a nutrition education program that she designed that brings together child care center staff, children and their parents to improve foods that are packed in sack lunches. She is a past recipient of the PepsiCo Healthy Lifestyles Innovative Research Grant that looked at what parents serve their children for breakfast before dropping them off at child care centers. She works regularly with Dr. Margaret Briley’s lab. They are currently exploring ways to impact decisions that parents of young children make in the grocery store that translate to the home pantry.