

Department of Work Environment Alumni Newsletter

Volume III

July 2009

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Best wishes to Professor Don Milton

Farewell to faculty member **Don Milton**, who will be moving to Maryland.

Work Environment Enrollment

Applications for our graduate program are coming in at a good clip and we project a 22% increase in enrollment this fall. Many of these new students have heard about the program through alumni. Thank you for spreading the word.

Our department has a good balance of masters students (56% of enrollment) and doctoral students (44%). Occ. & Env. Hygiene and Safety/Ergonomics disciplines each comprise about 27% of the total student population. The remainder of the students are equally distributed (~15% each) between Epidemiology, Cleaner Production/Pollution Prevention and Work Environment Policy.

If your employer might be interested in a customized course offering (in the Lowell area or by distance learning), please let us know.

For more information, contact our administrator Ms. Sokny Long, Sokny_Long@uml.edu

Student Honors

Congrats to **Gloria Foley** (MS student in Ergo), who applied successfully with Dr. Karen Jacobs, Dept. of Occupational Therapy, Boston University, for a pilot grant, "University students' notebook computer use" from the Harvard-NIOSH Education and Research Center (ERC). Gloria will be conducting statistical data analysis of Dr. Jacobs' data during 2009-10.

Natalie Brouillette (IH) and **Gloria**

Dear Alumni,

In this issue of the alumni newsletter we would like to recognize and congratulate the 13 students in our May 2009 graduating class. Welcome to the alumni ranks!

Our program continues to grow and attract more students, as you can see from the brief overview in the sidebar. Many of these new students learned about the program from current students and alumni of the program. Thank you for promoting the program through your words and actions.

As a result of these newsletters and alumni events of the past year, we have heard back from many of you. The Work Environment faculty, alumni and staff (many of whom are graduates of the program, too) really enjoy your updates and photos. Please continue to send your news through our department administrator Ms. Sokny Long (Sokny_Long@uml.edu).

Best wishes,

Margaret Quinn

Chair, Alumni Outreach

Kudos to our May graduates!



DOCTORAL GRADUATES (left to right)

Mabeth Burgos-Hernandez (Cleaner Production Pollution Prevention)

Jon Boyer (Occupational Ergonomics & Safety)

Greg Morose (Cleaner Production Pollution Prevention); back row

Helen Wellman-Marucci (Occupational Epidemiology); front row

Cheryl West (Work Environment Policy)

Not shown:

Chunfu Liu (Occupational Epidemiology)

Foley (Ergo/Safety) recently received the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) scholarship. It is truly great news for both our students and our department. The scholarship is provided by the ASSE Greater Boston Chapter to students who demonstrate academic excellence in the field of occupational safety & health. Every year there are two recipients, and this year both are from our department. Congratulations!

Professor Laura Punnett recognized in Denmark

Laura Punnett was the honored guest of the National Research Centre for the Working Environment (Copenhagen, Denmark) in January 2009. Of great interest to the Centre were Laura's findings on the connection between people's experiences of stress at their workplace and health issues like smoking, unhealthy diet and lack of exercise.

Laura visited as a member of the international advisory board for the research project "The FINALE project - Frame for interventions for preserved work ability, long term effect." The FINALE project addresses similar issues to those being explored here in Lowell but using different methods. Laura notes "It is interesting for me to compare the different approaches close up. At the same time I get a chance to learn more about health promotion."

Be in touch!

Please tell us your accomplishments, marriage, births, retirement, etc.

Also be sure to send updated contact information to *Ms. Sokny Long* (sokny_long@uml.edu) and include: Name, Email address, Mailing address, Phone number, Current employer, Current title

Your private contact information will never be published.

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MASTERS GRADUATES (left to right)

Homero Harari (Occupational & Environmental Hygiene)
Rebecca Nadeau (Occupational & Environmental Hygiene)
Lara Blais (Work Environment Policy)
Jim Giordani (Occupational & Environmental Hygiene)
Mary Streeto (Occupational Ergonomics & Safety)

Not shown:

John Martin (Occupational & Environmental Hygiene)
Scott Smith (Occupational & Environmental Hygiene)

Alumni News:

Philip Platcow, MSc 1997, IH

Phil, a graduate of the Industrial Hygiene concentration, was recently honored by receiving the Temple Emeth Brotherhood Man of the Year. Many of you may know Phil as a former classmate, adjunct faculty member, or active member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (past chair and member of national committees). In his work for Stantec Consulting Corporation, Phil addresses both employee health and environmental stewardship.

Congratulations to Phil on this honor!

Jung-Keun Park, ScD 2006, Ergo

Jung-Keun writes from Korea, where he is part of the Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute, Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency. One of Jung-Keun's current positions is the national secretary for ISO/TC159 (Ergonomics) within Korea. As head of Korean delegation, he will attend the ISO/TC159 meetings in Beijing next month and will also present a paper there at the International Ergonomics Association meeting.

Best wishes to Jung-Keun!

Congratulations to the recipients of the Department's recognition: Publication of the Month

Apr 2009: Myers DJ. Epidemiologists, Our Patient is Society. AND Kriebel D. Response: If Society is Our Patient, How Shall We Take Its Pulse? *New Solutions*, 18(2): 107-109 & 111-119, 2008.

May 2009: Ahn K, Woskie S, DiBerardinis L, Ellenbecker M. A review of published quantitative experimental studies on factors affecting laboratory fume hood performance. *J Occup Environ Hyg*, 5 (11), Nov 2008: 735-753. DOI: 10.1080/15459620802399989

Jun 2009: Tak SW, Paquet V, Woskie S, Buchholz B, Punnett L. Variability in risk factors for knee injury in construction. *J Occup Environ Hygiene* 2009; 6(2):113-120.

Jul-Aug 2009: Markkanen P, Chalupka S, Galligan C, Sama S, Gore R, Kim H, Bello A, Kriebel D, Quinn M. Studying home health care nurses and aides: research design and challenges. *Journal of Research in Nursing*, Vol. 13, No. 6, 480-495 (2008)