

# Department of Work Environment Alumni Newsletter

Volume IV

October 2009

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### Department of Work Environment Annual Potluck Supper

The Department will be holding its 16th annual potluck supper in Lowell next Saturday, October 24. If you will be in the area, you and your family are welcome to join us:

**Saturday, Oct. 24**

**5-8:30 PM**

**Boott Cotton Mill** Museum

115 John Street

Lowell, MA 01852

(phone 978-970-5000)

**RSVP by 10/21/09** to our administrator, Ms. Sokny Long, at

[Sokny\\_Long@uml.edu](mailto:Sokny_Long@uml.edu) or 978-934-3255.

Hope to see you there!

Congratulations to the recipients of the

Department's recognition:

**Publication  
of the Month**

**September 2009:**

Punnett L, Cherniack M, Henning R, Morse T, Faghri P and the CHP-

**Dear Alumni,**

The academic year 2009-2010 is well underway here in the Department of Work Environment. Our graduate program is thriving, as evidenced by the hasty addition of more tables and chairs in our classrooms. At last count, enrollment was up over 20%. We attribute this success in large part to alumni referrals and to your serving as good advertisements for our programs. Thank you!

We congratulate the accomplishments of our alumni, students, faculty and staff in their personal and professional lives. A few of these are noted in this newsletter. Please continue to send your news through our department administrator Ms. Sokny Long ([Sokny\\_Long@uml.edu](mailto:Sokny_Long@uml.edu)).

Last but not least, we wish you good health and thank you for all your contributions to making the world happier, healthier and more prosperous.

**Best wishes,**

**Margaret Quinn**

Chair, Alumni Outreach

## Professor Geiser honored with University Professorship

Congratulations to Professor Ken Geiser, who was awarded the honor of "University Professor". This is UMass Lowell's most esteemed title bestowed on a faculty member and Ken likens it to a capstone of a professor's career. The professorship runs from September 2009 through May 2012. During this period, Ken will deliver an annual University-wide lecture and he also receives one course reduction for each semester.

Ken notes: "Twenty five years ago I made a commitment to eliminate the worst chemical hazards. Sometimes it has felt like a lonely and quixotic fight and sometimes I've been joined and buoyed by incredible, courageous fellow laborers. I'm deeply moved to be so honored by my peers. As I ponder the highs and lows, I've learned that finding good work in an imperfect world is critical to feeling good about your life."

NEW Research Team\*. A Conceptual Framework for Integrating Workplace Health Promotion and Occupational Ergonomics Programs. Public Health Reports. 2009 Supplement 1, Volume 124, pp.16-25.  
\*Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA, and University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

**October 2009:**

Boyer J, Galizzi M, Cifuentes M, d'Errico A, Gore R, Punnett L, Slatin C, and the Promoting Healthy Safe Employment (PHASE) in Healthcare Team. Ergonomic and Socioeconomic Risk Factors for Hospital Workers' Compensation Injury Claims. AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE (2009) Accepted 5 April 2009. DOI10.1002/ajim.20702. Published online inWiley InterScience ([www.interscience.wiley.com](http://www.interscience.wiley.com))

Featured Article

## Featured Alumna

**Susan Sama, 1996**

Epidemiology



For the past several years, Susan has been active in research projects in the Department of Work Environment.

Susan's work with Susan Woskie has examined childhood asthma in proximity to traffic. They found that indoor sources of exposure were more related to children's symptoms and exhaled nitric oxide levels than outdoor sources such as traffic and pollution. Higher indoor air pollutant levels were associated with sources such as use of wood/pellet stoves, rug cleaning, use of furniture polish and bug spray.

Susan has also been a member of the Project SHARRP research team with fellow alumni Margaret Quinn (project PI), Pia Markkanen, Hyun Kim and Catherine Galligan. Project SHARRP (Safe Homecare and Risk Reduction for Providers) was funded by NIOSH to elucidate hazards to workers in the home healthcare setting. The team's work has characterized the very real and unique hazards that are encountered when the work place is a home, with interventions ranging from actions at the national policy level through training and workplace modifications.

Outside of work, Susan is married to Ed and is fully employed as mother to her 5 year old son and 2 year old daughter.

Susan sends her regards to all. She can be contacted at [Susan\\_Sama@uml.edu](mailto:Susan_Sama@uml.edu)

### 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](mailto: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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