

Department of Work Environment Alumni Newsletter

Volume V

February 2010

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Publication of the Month

Featured Alumna

Alumnae at Work

New Books

Congratulations to Pia and Sally on their recently published books:

Pia Markkanen, ScD
Shoes, Glues and Homework: Dangerous Work in the Global Footwear Industry. Baywood Publishing Company (2009)

Sally Edwards, ScD
Beyond Child's Play: Sustainable Product Design in the Global Doll-Making Industry. Baywood Publishing Company (2010)



Department of Work Environment 2009 Potluck Dinner
(left to right) Junhee Cho and Family, Yuan Zhang, Laura Punnett

Save the Date - Graduation Reception

UMass Lowell's commencement will be held on Saturday,
May 29, 2010.

If you will be in the area, please join us at the Department's reception following the ceremony.

More information will follow.

Congratulations to the recipients of the Department's recognition:

Publication of the Month

November 2009

Elise Pechter, Lenore S. Azaroff, Isabel López, Marcy Goldstein-Gelb. Reducing Hazardous Cleaning Product Use: A Collaborative Effort. *Public Health Reports.* 2009 Supplement 1, Volume 124, pp. 45-52

December 2009

BongKyoo Choi, Jakob Blue Bjorner, Per-Olof Ostergren, Els Clays, Irene Houtman, Laura Punnett, Annika Rosengren, Dirk De

Dear Alumni and Friends,

We wish you all the best as we start a new year and a new semester in the Department of Work Environment (DWE). Each Fall we hold our annual potluck dinner party for DWE students and their families. This year's was in the Boott Mill National Park and included tours of the historic mill weaving rooms and exhibits about the people and cultures from around the world that built, and continue to build, Lowell Massachusetts. Our own department is a microcosm of this vibrant local/international combination - we currently have students from Lowell together with students from across the US and about 14 other countries. Our Alumni are always welcome at these events, so if you would like to be on the mailing list, please contact our department administrator, Ms. Sokny Long, at Sokny.Long@uml.edu

With best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2010,

Margaret Quinn
Professor and Alumni Committee Chair

In Memoriam

Peggy Nelson Wegman, wife of David Wegman, founding Chairperson of the Department of Work Environment (DWE) and founding Dean of the School of Health and Environment, passed away from cancer on November 27, 2009. You may remember Peggy from the many years she graciously hosted the annual DWE potluck dinner party, along with David, at their home in Newton, MA. Many of you were able to participate in recent events to honor David Wegman and to celebrate the School of Health and Environment, either by attending in person or by sending your greetings and well-wishes which were collected in a book. These meant a great deal to Peggy, as well as to David. We are grateful for the important contribution Peggy made towards creating such a lively community in the DWE.

Bacquer, Marco Ferrario, Maaïke Bilau, Robert Karasek. Cross-Language Differential Item Functioning of the Job Content Questionnaire Among European Countries: The JACE Study. *Int. J. Behav. Med.* (2009) 16:136-147

January 2010

Jung-Keun Park, Jon Boyer, Jamie Tessler, Jeffrey Casey, Linda Schemm, Rebecca Gore, Laura Punnett and Promoting Healthy and Safe Employment (PHASE) in Healthcare Project Team. Inter-rater reliability of PATH observations for assessment of ergonomic risk factors in hospital work. *Ergonomics*, Vol. 52, No. 7, July 2009, 820-829

February 2010

Dhimiter Bellow, Shu-Feng Hsieh, Daniel Schmidt and Eugene Rogers. Nanomaterials properties vs. biological oxidative damage: implications for toxicity screening and exposure assessment. *Nanotoxicology*, September 2009; 3(3): 249-261

Featured Alumna

Beth Rosenberg, 1995 Work Environment Policy



One of the Department of Work Environment's early graduates, Beth is Assistant Professor at the Tufts School of Medicine Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Boston. In the core intro to occ. and env. health class, she teaches MPH and JD/MPH students about the man-made causes of disease and injury, and the social obstacles to fixing them. She has managed to combine her interest in anthropology and social change to engage in projects that all involve interviews, because she thinks they are the richest source of information, and she loves to schmooze.

Beth is now researching the hazards and benefits of green construction to construction workers (through talking to members of the building trades), and looking at health and safety conditions on former nuclear weapons production sites, with Chuck Levenstein and the United Steelworkers of America. And, with Eduardo Siqueira and Craig Slatin, fellow WE grads, she co-edits *New Solutions: a Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy*, that was founded by Tony Mazzocchi (OCAW) and Chuck Levenstein, nineteen years ago. Beth lives in Somerville with her husband Chuck Interrante.

Alumnae at Work

Tracy Kauffman, MS (IH, 1995) recently joined Koch Membrane Systems (KMS) in Wilmington, MA as the Manager of Environmental Health and Safety. In this position, she oversees EHS for three facilities (in San Diego, in Massachusetts, and in Aachen, Germany). Tracy finds it exciting to see Koch's level of attention given to EHS and the opportunities for continuous improvement. KMS is a developer and manufacturer of innovative membrane filtration systems serving a global marketplace including; serving food processing, life sciences, and water and wastewater needs of various industries and municipalities.

Judy Gold, ScD (Ergo, 2003) is an assistant professor of Epidemiology and directs the Ergonomics and Work Physiology Laboratory at Temple University's College of Health Professions and Social Work. At this year's annual APHA meeting, Judy presented preliminary research suggesting that the more college students texted, the more pain they experienced in their neck and shoulders. In the lab, Judy and her research team use tools like infrared cameras, motion analysis systems and heart rate monitors to study physiological measures and the body's position in job-related simulations. Judy notes "The way the body is positioned for texting - stationary shoulders and back with rapidly moving fingers - is similar to the position for typing on a computer." Judy and other ergonomics researchers are considering whether texting brings a risk of overuse injuries similar to adults who have spent years in front of a computer. Reference: http://www.temple.edu/newsroom/2009_2010/11/stories/Texting.htm

Internships in Life Science Companies

Do you work for a small Massachusetts life sciences company that is interested in hiring a summer intern? The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center is sponsoring the "Internship Challenge" to facilitate placement of student interns at MA life science companies with 100 employees or less. **The Center offers reimbursement to host companies** on a first come, first serve basis until the Center has committed allocated funds.

A number of our DWE students will be applying for internships and it would be a great opportunity to have an alumni connection with this program. Visit www.masslifesciences.com for more information.