

Department of Work Environment Alumni Newsletter

Volume VII

December 2010

Will you be visiting the Lowell area?

If you will be in the area, please visit! During the semesters, the Department holds Monday seminars at 12:30 PM that attract a wide audience. For more information about visiting or talking about your work at one of the seminars, please contact our department administrator, Ms. Sokny Long at Sokny_Long@uml.edu

Graduate Open House and Walk In Registration
Wed., January 19, 2011
Dugan Hall
UML South Campus

Please recommend the Department of Work Environment program and individual courses to your colleagues, family and friends!

Congratulations to the recipients of the Department's recognition

Publication of the Month:

December 2010
Kim H, Kriebel D, Quinn M, Davis L. The Snowman: a model of injuries and near-misses for the prevention of sharps injuries. Am. J. Ind. Med. (2010)

News from the Field

Many of our alumni have been in touch, telling us about the interesting events in their lives. Thank you, and keep the



Department of Work Environment Potluck Dinner at the Brush Gallery. L to R: Dan Dinsmore, Homero Harari, Mary Fadden, Melinda Long, Kevin Dunn, Sokny Long, Priya Dasgupta

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Holiday greetings! On behalf of the members of the Department of Work Environment (DWE), I hope the holiday season finds you well.

In keeping with tradition, the Department recently held its annual potluck dinner party for students, staff, faculty and alumni. Many of you may recall festive gatherings at the Wegman's house in the Department's early years. Our numbers have now grown considerably and we filled the Brush Gallery in downtown Lowell. It was wonderful to catch up with the alumni who attended and to enjoy good food, friendly conversation and local artwork.

This newsletter includes an article about DWE ergonomic students applying their skills to improve the assembly process for smoke and carbon monoxide alarms at United Technologies Company. Not only was it mutually beneficial to the company and students, it is a good example of how a DWE education is rooted both in academia and the real world. If you can assist in providing field work for our programs, please contact our administrator Ms. Sokny Long (Sokny_Long@uml.edu).

Last but not least, please check out the photo from the 1995 Department Picnic. Who says we don't have fun?

With best wishes for health and happiness in the New Year,

news coming.

Karla Armenti received an Achievement Award from the New Hampshire Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (NH COSH) for her oversight of occupational health surveillance in New Hampshire. Dr. Armenti also received a five year Cooperative Agreement grant from NIOSH to establish an occupational health surveillance program in New Hampshire.

**Stay in touch
with the
Department of
Work
Environment!**

Please be sure to send us new contact information and tell us about your professional & academic accomplishments, marriage, births, and any interesting activities.

Email our Department Administrator

Ms. Sokny Long at Sokny_Long@uml.edu

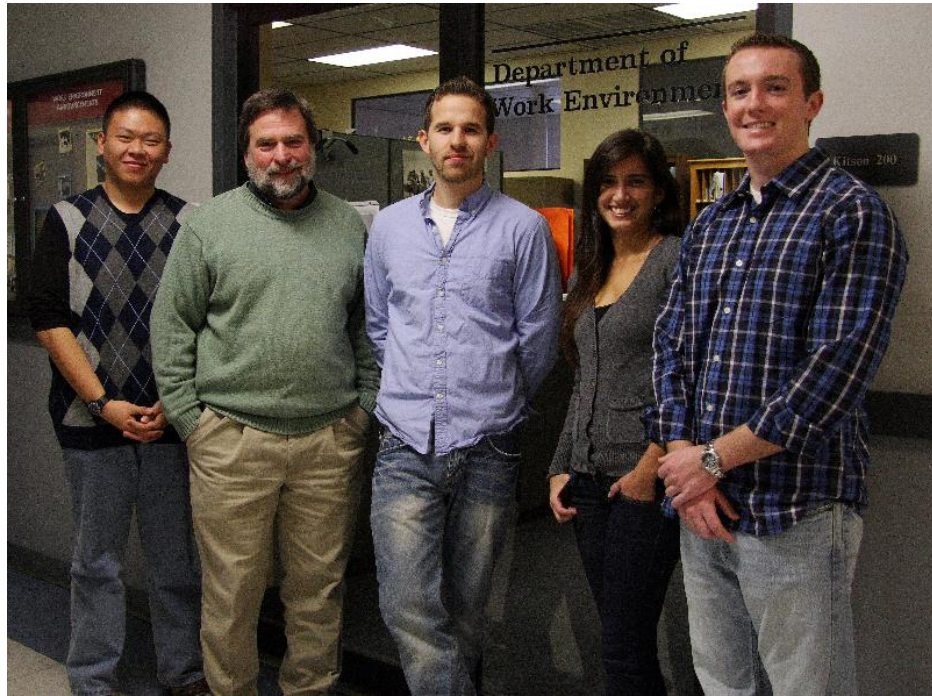
Margaret Quinn
Professor and Alumni Committee Chair



Vladimir Murashov, Leonor Cedillo, Steve Knizner, Margaret Quinn, Rossy Alvarez

International Environmental Health Conference

In October, the 1st International Congress on Environmental Health was held at the University of Guadalajara, Mexico. Alumna Dr. Leonor Cedillo, with the National Institute of Ecology (INE) in the Mexican Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) was a co-organizer (second from the left). Alumna Dr. Rossy Alvarez (far right), with the Federal University of Sonora, Mexico, and Prof. Margaret Quinn, Department of Work Environment (second from right) presented on a collaborative project working with hospitals in Mexico to reduce the use of mercury. Also pictured are conference presenters Vladimir Murashov (far left) of US NIOSH and Steve Knizner of US EPA.



Chuan Sun, Bryan Buchholz, Smith Gadd, Lize Belice, and Clinton Smith

Work Environment Students Travel to Pittsfield, Maine to Participate in Ergonomics Week at United Technologies Company

The Department of Work Environment was invited by United Technologies (UTC) Fire and Security, Pittsfield, Maine to join in their Ergonomic Week Kaizen Event and develop solutions for a current ergonomic hazard. Master's students Chuan Sun, Smith Gadd, Lize Belice and Clinton Smith participated, accompanied by Faculty Advisor, Dr. Bryan Buchholz.

The focus of the visit was to identify ergonomic hazards in final assembly of the new Signature II smoke and carbon monoxide alarm. After observing the task, it was obvious the hazard existed due to a highly repetitive process needing excess force and a twisting motion. The UTC ergonomic team and DWE students brainstormed tool redesign and process optimization. Ideas were prioritized based upon feasibility, cost, hazard reduction (no new hazard introduced through tool designing), time-efficiency, and other long term/short term criteria. After working with a machinist in the on-site tool shop, actual tools were developed that fit the parameters and criteria discussed in the brainstorming session. At the end of the day, with solutions in hand, the UML team provided a brief presentation to senior management and facility personnel on the team's process for problem identification and resolution.

Site visits and hands-on activities are an integral part of applying classroom learning to real-world situations. The Department of Work Environment and the Work Environment Student Association (WESA)

are very appreciative of this visit and other opportunities in the field.



Department of *Play* Environment Picnic, 1995

(Standing): Andy Kalil, Jim Hathaway, Bryan Buchholz, Shylendra Kumar, Susan Woskie, Vic Pacquet, Judy Bardin, Joel Garrett, Ann Bratton, Bill Rodwell, Susan Moir, Mary Fadden, David Wegman, Debby Thompson, Dahlia Paradie, Mary Lee Dun, Margaret Quinn, Linda Fidrocki, Helen Wellman, Abbas Virji, Cathy Greenspan, Lisa Cashins, Joan Wrynn, Bob Karasek, Sue D'Amore.

(Kneeling): Beth Rosenberg, Laura Punnett, Blanca Lemus, Rafael Moure.