

In This Issue

**TURI Celebrates 20 Years
with Symposium**

Alumni News

**Students Raise \$500 for
the AHA**

**Special Olympic Athletes
Tested for Strength and
Balance**

**Study Links Domestic
Violence with Child Deaths
in India**

Student News

**Stressed Out? This Websie
Could Help**

**TNEC Receives Stimulus
Funds**

**State Officials Tap
Expertise of Melillo on the
Elderly**

Faculty and Staff News

From the Dean

I'm pleased to see that our alums are visiting our campus, speaking to our students, reviewing our grants, getting jobs in this tough economy and overcoming life's obstacles. Please continue to share your accomplishments with all of us via this newsletter.

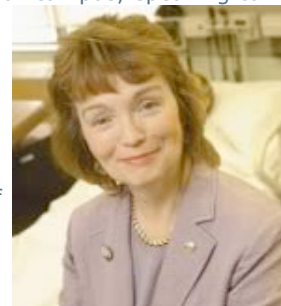
With enrollment up in UMass Lowell by an astonishing 20 percent in just two years, one of our important goals within SHE is to increase student retention--the percentage of freshman who return for their sophomore years and ultimately graduate.

Having two college-aged sons, I know first hand how critical it is for a university to do all it can to help students cross this chasm. One improvement we've made is to convert a Weed Hall conference room into a student resource center. Tutoring is provided for several of our foundation courses to help students be more successful in staying in their preferred program of study. As we move into Spring semester, we will be expanding our services and looking for more ways to help our students be successful.

I look forward to working with all of you--alums, faculty, staff, and UMass Lowell administration--as we continue to graduate a new generation of students who understand the links between health and environment.

All my best,

**Shortie McKinney
Dean
School of Health and Environment
University of Massachusetts Lowell**



**TURI Celebrates 20 Years with
Symposium**

The 20th anniversary symposium of the Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) will take place on Wed., November 4th. The day-long event includes presentations and sessions on the theme of "Improving the Health of the Public, Workers and the Environment."

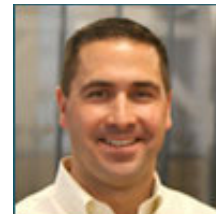


The act, signed into law in July 1989, has encouraged Massachusetts businesses to reduce the use of toxic chemicals by nearly half. The 20-year milestone will be celebrated with a look back and forward with more than a dozen sessions on science, pollution prevention, policy, and community and environmental health.

Speakers include Paul Schulte of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Marjorie Alt of Environment America, and UMass Lowell Profs. Ken Geiser and Michael Ellenbecker, both involved from the origin of the act and the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) at UMass Lowell. The symposium will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bedford, Mass. [Visit the TURI web site](#) for a full agenda and registration information.

Alumni News

Physical Therapy Alum Scott Waugh, rehabilitation coordinator and physical therapist for the Red Sox and Bruins, will be on campus on **Monday, November 9th, 3:30 to 5 p.m.** He will discuss his role in helping some of Boston's best-known athletes get back to work. This is the fourth talk in the Power of Possibility Alumni Showcase that highlights successful UMass Lowell graduates as they return to campus to share their wisdom and stories from their careers. Location: Weed Lecture Hall, UMass Lowell South, 875 Broadway St., Lowell.



The Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that **Nursing Alumna Alice Bonner** has joined the Department as the new Director of the Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality.



Jeff Casey was diagnosed with lymphoma the day after his daughter was born which was about a year ago. He is now in remission. Read the Work Environment alum's incredible story of how he found the strength to raise money for a resource center while going through his own ordeal:

[Answering a cancer patient's '100,000 questions'](#)

Candace Tsai, a recent Work Environment alum and current UMass Lowell Researcher, was first author on two important nano publications. Both journals are the most prestigious in their fields. Prof. Mike Ellenbecker is her advisor.

- Tsai, S., Hofmann, M., Kong, J., Hallock, M., Ada, E., Ellenbecker, M., "**Nanoparticle Release during Synthesis of Carbon Nanotube and the Application of Filtration**," Environmental Science and Technology, July 01, 2009.
- Tsai, S., Huang, RF., Ellenbecker, M., "**Airborne Nanoparticle Exposures while Using Conventional, Constant Velocity and Air-Curtain Isolated Hoods**," in press, Annals of Occupational Hygiene, 2009.

Work Environment Department Alumni were on campus to join in the evaluation of a five-year renewal application (2010-2015) for a \$2,068,000 training grant from the U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). NIOSH has funded a training program with the Department of Work Environment since 1990 in five year cycles that has provided tuition and stipends to approximately 95 Work Environment graduate students.



Helen Marucci-Wellman, Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety; Prof. David Kriebel, Chair of Work Environment; Susanne Simon, Environmental Health & Engineering, Inc.; John Dembrowsky, Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research, Inc.; John Boyer, Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety; Andrew Kalil, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Prof. Rafael Moure-Eraso of Work Environment.



Students Raise \$500 for the American Heart Association

UMass Lowell SHE Scholar students braved a rainy October morning to walk 3 miles in Lowell to raise money for the American Heart Association.

Students: Tamara Arnold, Renee Curtis, Jaclyn DiChiara, Meghan Esposito, Emily Hogan, Kate Johnston, Justin Lemieux, Ariel McKenna, Sara Pietila, Lindsey Roderick, Margarita Wheeler, Emily Trudeau

Special Olympic Athletes Tested for Strength and Balance

Physical Therapy students conducted strength and balance screenings, called FUNFitness, for

Special Olympic athletes at a recent competition.

A screening for flexibility, functional strength, balance and aerobic condition, FUNFitness is an opportunity to educate special Olympic athletes, families and coaches about how to improve function and performance. It was launched as part of the Healthy Athletes program for the first time at the Senior Sport Classic on October 17th in Bourne.

More than 65 screenings were conducted by 17 Physical Therapy students, three Physical Therapists, including alum Ed Kostek, and four medical students.

The Physical Therapy students participated as part of their service-learning experience. The four first year medical students from UMass Medical School participated in the volunteer experience as part of their Community Health Clerkship with Robert Baldor and Alixe Bonardi from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center in collaboration with Asst. Prof. Deirdra Murphy.

Ed Kostek, class of 2001, has been recently appointed as a Clinical Director for Massachusetts FUNFitness Healthy Athletes Program. Murphy is the Physical Therapy Northeast Regional Clinical Director for Massachusetts Healthy Athletes Program with Special Olympics.



Study Links Domestic Violence with Child Deaths in India

A new, large-scale study conducted jointly by Asst. Prof. Leland Ackerson (in photo) of UMass Lowell and the Harvard School of Public Health found that Indian children whose mothers experience domestic violence are more likely to die before age 5.



The research results which will be published in the November issue of Pediatrics journal involved more than 39,000 children younger than 5 from the 2005-2006 Indian National Family Health Survey.

Trained personnel interviewed mothers of the children face-to-face to collect information on personal exposure to domestic violence and child health outcomes.

"Domestic violence is a terrible ordeal for any woman to go through, and we have long known that such abuse has harmful effects on a woman's health. Here is strong evidence that violence against women has ripple effects that can have a detrimental, even lethal, impact on her children," says Ackerson of the Community Health and Sustainability Department and lead author of the study.

The researchers found that children whose mothers reported being physically abused by their husbands had a 21 percent increased likelihood of dying before age 5 as compared to children with no family history of violence. Infants seemed particularly vulnerable to multiple forms of familial abuse, as those less than a year old were nearly 50 percent more likely to die if their mothers suffered physical abuse in combination with sexual or psychological abuse.

[Read the entire ENews Story.](#)

Read the Times of India article, "[Abused mums' kids may die before 5 yrs.](#)"

Student News

PhD Nursing students, **Ameia Yen-Patton and Laurie Welch**, are two of four winners of the Eta Omega Research Grant funding for 2008-2009. View their bios on the [UMass Lowell Nursing Web site](#).

Xia Tao, a Biomedical Biotechnology doctoral student in Prof. Garry Handelman's research clinical laboratory, has been invited to present a lecture presentation on her work, "DNA transfer across hemodialysis cartridges," at the annual meeting of the American Society of Nephrology in San Diego.

Peter Megdal, who received his PhD with Prof. Handelman as his advisor, has published his study, "Fingerstick Measurements to Determine Changes in Insulin and Glucose after Snack Food Consumption," in the Journal of Diabetes.

Stressed Out? This Web site Could Help

Stress on the job is a cause of heart disease and stroke, but there are steps we can take to decrease such dire consequences. In fact, researchers estimate that up to 23 percent of heart-related deaths could be prevented every year if levels of job strain are reduced.

Co-investigators of the Stress@Work project are from left Assoc. Prof. Nicole Champagne and Project Manager Suzanne Nobrega, and graduate student Julie Brodie.



A new web site [Stress@Work](#) developed by UMass Lowell's Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace, encourages both organizations and individuals to identify sources of stress and tackle them head on for both health and financial reasons.

"Stressful working conditions can not only lead to heart disease and other chronic illnesses, they cost American companies more than \$300 billion a year in health costs, absenteeism and employee turnover," says Assoc. Prof. Nicole Champagne of the Community Health and Sustainability Department and co-investigator of the Stress@Work Education, Translation, Communication and Dissemination Project.

According to Champagne, just saying "I'm stressed" isn't enough. People and organizations must determine the root causes of stress so that they can influence change in both their personal lives and within their organizations.

Although being overworked is one source of stress, the real culprits are when employees feel that they have little control and no support from their work environment.

Visit the [Stress@Work](#) web site for tips to reduce stress in the workplace.

[Read the entire ENews Story.](#)

TNEC Receives Stimulus Funds to Protect Workers

The New England Consortium (TNEC) at UMass Lowell has received more than \$373,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds to train workers who are at risk from exposures to hazardous waste materials while working on ARRA projects.

Employees in need of health and safety training work for state and municipal organizations (departments of public works, highways). They will be able to retain employment as government facility and transportation system construction, restoration, repair, maintenance, and renovation projects come on line with ARRA funding. These projects will require workers to have received various forms of health and safety training as a component of worker protection against health risks resulting from potential exposures to hazardous materials and wastes.

Unemployed workers engaged in workforce development program job training programs for environmental and energy conservation sectors will also be trained to be eligible for employment in the field.

ARRA funds will also help to support the expansion of the green energy sector and help to ensure an employee health and safety emphasis in these 'green' jobs. For example, TNEC will be working with [Nexamp](#), a rapidly growing start-up company based in Andover that provides full service clean energy solutions.



State Officials Tap Expertise of Melillo on Elder Affairs

Chair of Nursing Karen Devereaux Melillo was asked to submit written testimony to the Elder Affairs Committee at the Massachusetts Statehouse for the September 23 hearing: Regarding SB 318 "An Act to Prevent Falls Among Older Adults" and SB 317 "Resolve Relative to the Prevention of Falls in the Elderly Community" (Sen. Richard Moore, D-Uxbridge).



The committee is considering two bills that would initiate a statewide education campaign on the dangers of falling for seniors. One-third of all people over the age of 65 will fall this year, and falls are the leading cause of injury death for seniors, according to the testimony.

Melillo was interviewed by State House News Reporter for the Lowell Sun Sara Thomas regarding the senate legislation. Read the article: "[Bill would create alerts for missing seniors.](#)"

Faculty and Staff News

Publications

Houde, S. (2009). **The systematic review of the literature: A tool for evidence-based policy.** Journal of Gerontological Nursing, 35(9), 9-12.

Morgan, B. Psychiatric Issues in Palliative Care. (In press). Ferrell, B. & Coyle, N. (Eds.). **Textbook of Palliative Nursing (3rd Edition).** Oxford University Press.

Morgan, B., White, D. & Wallace, A. **Substance abuse in older adults.** In Melillo, K., Houde, S. (Eds.). (In press). Geropsychiatric and Mental Health Nursing (2nd Ed.). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Gautam, R., Saito, T., Kai, I. **Correlates of Life Satisfaction among Older Nepalese Adults Living with a Son.**, BioScience Trends 2008; 2(5):187-192.

Nannini, A. (October, 2009). **The health policy pathfinder: An innovative strategy to explore interest group politics.** Journal of Nursing Education, 48(9).

Videos

Research Professor Cora Roelofs of Work Environment contributed expertise to the development of these training videos produced by the Safe Nail Salon Project of the Boston Public Health Commission.

[Safe Nail Salons Part 1](#)

[Safe Nail Salons Part 2](#)

Presentations, Trainings, Conferences

Assoc. Profs. Jim Lee and Patrick Scollin of Community Health and Sustainability organized and presented at a two-day technology summit for HealthConnection (the healthcare division of PCCConnection). Attendees included 60 HealthConnection sales personnel and 25 hospital IT clients. Presentation topics included **health informatics concepts and promising technologies from an academic perspective.**

Prof. Eduardo Siqueira of Community Health and Sustainability gave a talk titled "**Profile of Environmental Health in Brazil**" to staff of the Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 as part of its International Environmental Lunch Series.

Director of Academic Administration in SHE Pauline Ladebauche was the guest speaker at D'Youville Senior Care in Lowell. She presented a continuing education program for D'Youville's nursing staff on "**Lessons in Liability for Nurses and Other Health Care Workers.**" The program focused on the

litigation process as it relates to nursing practice and identified potential risks in clinical situations. Consistent with current national health care reform efforts, the program also presented many risk management strategies which cannot only limit liability but also improve the quality of patient care.

Professor Margaret Quinn of Work Environment participated in a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panel "**The Role of Human Factors in Home Health Care,**" She presented findings of Project SHARRP (Safe Homecare and Risk Reduction for Providers), a study of sharps injuries and other health and safety hazards experienced by home care nurses and aides, and served as a discussant for NAS panel papers related to the role of human factors for informal and formal caregivers.

Melillo, K.D., Dowling, J., Abdallah, L., Knight, M., & Findeisen, M. "**Bring Diversity to Nursing,**" Symposium presentation at the 6th New England Regional Minority Health Conference.

Morgan B. "**Use of Opiates and Other Substances in Older Adults: Taking a Closer Look.**" 15th Annual Conference for Gerontological Nurses: Update for Clinical Geriatric Practice.

Phillips McEnany, G. "**Are the Patients Sleeping? If Not, Why Not?**" 15th Annual Conference for Gerontological Nurses.

Phillips McEnany, G. "**Who is a Candidate for Behavioral Sleep Medicine for Insomnia?**" Pre-conference sponsored by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine at the 23rd Annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.

Phillips McEnany, G. "**Overview of Sleep Assessment in Adults.**" Pre-conference sponsored by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine at the 23rd Annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.

Awards

The New England Consortium trainers Bridget McGuinness and Thomas Estabrook received National Environmental Safety and Health Training Association (NESHTA) Awards. They were recognized for their workshop titled "**Research to Practice: Using NIOSH Research to Design Effective Health and Safety Training, and In Pursuit of a Safer Work Environment: Delivery of Small-group Activities that Support Critical Thinking, Analysis and Action.**"

Professional Appointments

Asst. Prof. Deirdra Murphy of Physical Therapy has been appointed to the Physical Therapy and Society Summit. It is a first-of-its-kind event that will bring together a select group of physical therapist and non-physical therapist thought leaders from across the country to determine areas of opportunity to empower physical therapists to be leaders in integrating innovative technologies and practice models and establishing collaborative interdisciplinary partnerships that address current, evolving, and future societal health care needs.

Clinical Prof. Karen Foulke of Nursing has been elected President-Elect for a one-year term for the New England Chapter of the New England Nurses' Association.

Clinical Prof. Laurie Soroken has offered to serve on the advisory board for the Greater Lowell Vocational High School. The board's function is to help guide the school in preparing their students for the workforce and for Post-Secondary Education.

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