

In This Issue

**Bring Diversity to Nursing
Students Welcomed**

Student News

**SHE Scholars Program
Welcomes 28 New
Students**

**Colleagues Celebrate
Geiser's University
Professorship**

**TURI Saved with Stimulus
Funding**

**Walk with the SHE Team
on October 3rd**

**Spinal Cord Injury Hall of
Famer, Author Speaks**

**Registration Open for
Ounce of Prevention
Conference**

**New Dean Welcomed to
School of Health and
Environment**

**Professors Train
Ecuadorian Auto Workers
on Health and Safety**

**Newly Detected Chemicals
in Great Lake Slip by
Current Regulations**

**Company Donates Patient
Lift Devices to Nursing Lab**

**Murphy Joins Medical
Team in Rural Nicaragua**

Faculty and Staff News

From the Dean

Warm greetings!

Since I joined the School of Health and Environment as dean on June 1, I've had a busy summer learning about the wonderful departments and centers. I've spent time with each of the department chairs as they shared the accomplishments of the past year and their goals for the current year. Many thanks to Prof. Kay Doyle who led the school as Interim Dean. She has been a tremendous resource in guiding me through the maze of academic events and procedures.



I'm very happy to have been selected by UMass Lowell as the next dean. This position is a good fit for me and I already feel at home. But just like a new member of the family, I have much to learn. I look to faculty, staff, alumni and friends of SHE to help me learn more so I can do my best to help you achieve the aspirations of the school. Don't hesitate to share your perspective.

One of the ways that I learned about SHE during the selection process was by reading this newsletter. I was impressed by the accomplishments of the faculty and students. As you will see in this issue, SHE continues to be a source of pride for the university.

We are especially delighted to be the academic home of the newest University Professor, Prof. Ken Geiser. Ken is only the second University Professor to be named, joining Dr. Susan Brauhn of the Dept. of Biology. See the article about the reception for Ken and read the wonderful poem he shared with his colleagues.

Watch for some changes in our communications as we begin to incorporate more electronic media. Our website will be expanding and we expect to be using more social networking sites as the year progresses.

I look forward to meeting each of you and hearing your UMass Lowell/SHE stories.

Enjoy the remaining warm days of fall.

All my best,
Shortie

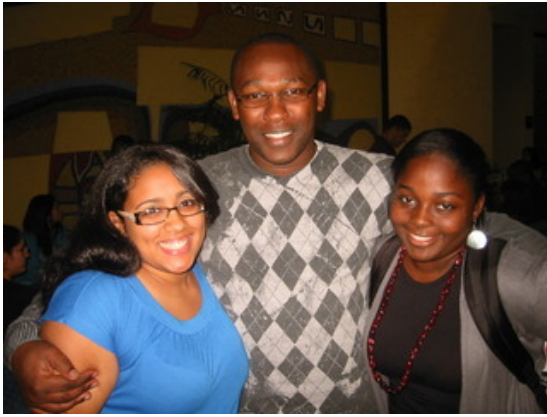
**Shortie McKinney
Dean
School of Health and Environment
University of Massachusetts Lowell**

Bring Diversity to Nursing Students Welcomed

The Nursing Department welcomed ten new students to the Bring Diversity to Nursing Program, bringing the total number in the program to 28.

The Program, funded with \$1 million in federal and state grants, was developed to recruit, retain and graduate high-quality minority and economically disadvantaged nursing students at UMass Lowell.

The students who were accepted will receive scholarships, equipment, tutoring and mentoring to help them succeed in the nursing program.



Diorra Guzman, Alex Kinyanjui and Ava Richardson.



Sarah Namale and Chovy In.

View the [Photo Gallery from the Welcome Reception.](#)

Student News

Graduate Nursing Student Marco Belluardo-Crosby has been awarded the 2009 American Psychiatric Nurses Association Janssen Student Scholarship. This award is based on scholarship and leadership abilities in the field of psychiatric mental health nursing. Attendance at the annual APNA conference in Charleston, South Carolina in October is part of the scholarship as well as recognition at the annual conference banquet.

Rohini Vishwanathan, Ph.D. candidate in the Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology program and research assistant in the Center for Health and Disease Research under Dr. Robert Nioclosi's supervision, received a Pre-Doctoral Fellowship for a second year for \$40,000 from the Egg Nutrition Center and USDA.

SHE Scholars Program Welcomes 28 New Students

The new class of SHE Scholars met the sophomores and juniors already active in the program. The "Meet and Greet" gathering was an opportunity for the 40-plus active Scholars to get to know each other with the faculty--Assoc. Prof. Nicole Champagne, Asst. Prof. Deirdra Murphy, and Prof. Ted Namm.

Students in the program work in an interdisciplinary manner to identify, analyze, and address health concerns in the Greater Lowell area. Now in its third year, the the program offers students experiences that help to increase capacity to incorporate a social justice perspective, civic commitment, sustainability, and community health into your their chosen professions.

This year SHE Scholars will be involved in service learning projects in the City of Lowell, as well as active in community-oriented research being undertaken by SHE faculty.

Colleagues Celebrate Geiser's University Professorship

Prof. Ken Geiser was awarded the honor of "University Professor," the most esteemed title bestowed on a faculty member. He joins Prof. Susan Braunhut (left in photo) who received the same honor in 2008.

"Ken is everything a faculty member should be," says Chancellor Marty Meehan who spoke at a celebration that marked the beginning of Prof. Geiser's three-year University Professorship. "His life's work has been about making a difference in this world, from environmental leadership to teaching and mentoring."



Comments from colleagues confirmed that Geiser meets all criteria-associated with the honor: an individual who has consistently demonstrated exemplary teaching, nationally significant research and extraordinary service to the University community.

"Ken believes that problems in this world cannot be solved in silos," says Prof. John Wooding of the Regional, Economic and Social Development Department. "He takes an intellectual framework and applies it to solve complex issues in the real world. He's also an excellent teacher who not only asks compelling questions but listens carefully to his students' responses."

During the ceremony, Ken shared the following poem:

After a While You Learn

After a while you learn
The subtle difference
Between holding a hand
And chaining a soul.
And you learn
That love doesn't mean leaning
And company doesn't mean security.
And you learn that kisses aren't compromises
And presents aren't promises.
And you learn
That living is more than working
And giving is more than taking.
And you come to accept your defeats
With your head up and your eyes ahead
With the grace of a man or a woman
And not the grief of a child
And you learn to build all of your loads on today
Because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain
And futures have a way of falling down in mid-flight
After a while you learn
That even sunshine burns if you get too much.
So you plant your own garden
And decorate your own soul
Instead of waiting for someone to buy you flowers.
And you learn
That you really can endure
That you really are strong
And you really do have worth
And you learn
And you learn
With every moment of achievement and failure you learn.

--Adapted from Anonymous

[Read the ENews Article.](#)

[View the Photo Gallery.](#)

TURI Saved with Stimulus Funding

UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan announced that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has designated \$1.3 million in federal recovery act funds to keep the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell running through the end of the current fiscal year, June 30, 2010.

"Governor Patrick and the Legislature stepped up the plate to ensure that TURI can continue to help reduce the use of toxics in the Commonwealth," says Meehan. "The one-time federal funding will allow UMass Lowell to cover the costs of the institute this year, without disinvesting in our core mission - providing high quality, affordable higher education."

The State cut TURI's budget due to the economic crisis. Hundreds of supporters, including companies that pay fees to the state that fund the Institute, wrote letters urging legislators to re-instate the funding.

Established by the state's Toxics Use Reduction Act of 1989, TURI provides research, training, technical support, laboratory testing services and grant programs to reduce the use of toxic chemicals throughout the Commonwealth. Visit www.turi.org for more information.

A Small Sampling of Media Articles

Boston Globe, October 1, 2009: [UMass Lowell institute gets reprieve](#)

Boston Globe Editorial, August 7, 2009: [Broken promise in toxic times](#)

Boston Globe Op-Ed, July 14, 2009: [When haste makes toxic waste](#), by Prof. Geiser and Assoc. Prof. Tickner.

Metro West, July 9, 2009: [It was 20 years ago today](#), by Janet Domenitz, Executive Director of MASSPIRG and Jim Gomes, Director of the Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise at Clark University.

Walk with the SHE Team on October 3rd

We urge all SHE faculty, staff, students and alumnus to participate in the 2009 American Heart Association Walk right here in Lowell. Join Asst. Prof. Deirdra Murphy and Assoc. Prof. Nicole Champagne, physical therapy students and the SHE Scholars on Saturday, October 3 at the Sampas Pavilion right on the Merrimack River (500 Pawtucket Blvd). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The walk starts at 10:00 am.



Sign up for the School of Health and Environment Team on the [American Heart Association web site](#) and click on "Join Team." You are not obligated to make a donation.

Spinal Cord Injury Hall of Famer, Author Speaks

The Physical Therapy Department invites you to a talk by Gary Karp who has been a wheelchair user since injuring his spinal cord in 1973 at age 18. He will present "Thriving Through and Beyond Trauma" on Monday, October 5 at 4 p.m. in Weed Lecture Hall 3 (875 Broadway Street, Lowell).



modern disability

"It's all changed."

Disability Awareness with Author/Speaker Gary Karp

He is an author and Spinal Cord Injury Hall of Fame educator that inspires and delights as he explores the innate spirit and life force that arise in the face of traumatic injury. His talk is sponsored by the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation Paralysis Resource Center.

Registration Open for Ounce of Prevention Conference

Registration is now open for the 2009 Ounce of Prevention Conference sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health:

"Facing the Future: Healthy People, Places and Policies"
Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more details and to register, [visit the Ounce of Prevention Web site](#)

New Dean Welcomed to School of Health and Environment

Faculty, staff and administration welcomed Shortie McKinney as the new dean of the School of Health and Environment at an outdoor reception at the Allen House. The informal "meet and greet" event gave McKinney an opportunity to mingle with staff and faculty as the new school year begins.

Dean McKinney, middle, is joining by Charlotte Mandell, vice provost of undergraduate education, and Donald Pierson, vice provost of graduate education.



"It's a pleasure to be here," she said. "I'll be meeting with you one-on-one within the next few months to find out more about what you do and how we can work together to continue to grow the school."

McKinney was formerly dean of the College of Health Professions at Marshall University in Huntington, W.V. She succeeds Prof. David Wegman, who stepped down earlier this year.

[View the Photo Gallery.](#)

Professors Train Ecuadorian Auto Workers on Health and Safety



Profs. Laura Punnett and Rafael Moure-Eraso of Work Environment trained 125 automobile assembly workers and their union health and safety committee members in Quito, Ecuador about occupational occupational health and safety. They discussed ergonomics, musculoskeletal disorder prevention and surveillance, and related topics in economics and labor relations.

In photo, Rafael Moure-Eraso, left, reviewing the training plan with the chair of the union health and safety committee.

The Department of Work Environment is also working with Ecuadorian hospitals on the environmental impacts of mercury contamination, a project funded by an EPA grant.

Both activities are part of the new International Center on Latin American Partnerships recently announced by UMass Lowell's Provost Ahmed Abdelal.

The objectives of the Center are to develop strong, long-term connections that will:

- Increase the number and quality of academic interactions emphasizing sustainable systems with institutions in Latin America
- Provide opportunities for domestic students to conduct service learning at an international level (also research, and other interpersonal relationships)
- Provide faculty and students of Latin America countries with exchange educational and research experiences based on their own countries

Newly Detected Chemicals in Great Lakes Slip By Current Regulations

Current chemical regulatory frameworks in Canada and the U.S. are not protecting people from newly detected chemicals in the Great Lakes, says a new report co-authored by the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production.

Known as "chemicals of emerging concern," these contaminants are primarily coming from the use and disposal of everyday products, such as pharmaceuticals, pesticides, cosmetics, personal care and plastic products. Established policies and control mechanisms, such as wastewater treatment plants, were not designed to manage these types of substances, and as a result, they are now found in the Great Lakes basin.



"If governments do not take decisive action now, there is a reasonable chance the Great Lakes will see another catastrophe like that of PCBs at some point in the future," says Joel Tickner, co-author of the report and associate professor in Community Health and Sustainability and project director in the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production. "The only way we can truly eliminate the emissions of these chemicals is to redesign products so that they do not contain dangerous chemicals."

The International Joint Commission Work Group on Great Lakes Chemicals of Emerging Concern commissioned the report, "[The Challenge of Substances of Emerging Concern in the Great Lakes Basin: A review of chemicals policies and programs in Canada and the United States.](#)" Work group members will present the findings at the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Biennial Meeting in Windsor, Ontario on October 7, 2009 and discuss the issue with the public to help inform the Commission's 15th Biennial Report.

Company Donates Patient Lift Devices to Nursing Lab

With the help of \$15,000 of donated equipment from Guldman, Inc., UMass Lowell nursing students will learn safe patient handling, right from the start of their careers to reduce injuries on the job. The company has provided a ceiling hoist system that serves two hospital beds and a mobile lifter for alternative lifting needs.

"The new equipment will be essential in the educational preparation of safe patient handling for the nursing students," says Prof. Karen Devereaux Melillo, chair of the Nursing Department.



Student Suzie Oeur, right, demonstrates the new patient lift system. Asst. Prof. Miki Patterson, Lab Director Joanne Dupuis and student Sarah Keeler look on.

[Read the ENews Story.](#)

Murphy Joins Medical Team in Rural Nicaragua

Rain, mud, equatorial heat - nothing stops Asst. Prof. Deirdra Murphy of the Physical Therapy Department when delivering services to underserved rural areas.

The destination was Nicaragua, where 90 percent of the people get their health care at understaffed and underequipped public clinics. Those in the northeastern, more rural areas have virtually no access to care.



[Read the ENews Story.](#)

Faculty and Staff News

Awards

Karen Devereaux Melillo, chair of the Department of Nursing, has been awarded Fellow status with the Gerontological Society of America. The GSA fellowship is the highest class of membership and an acknowledgment of outstanding and continuing work in the field of gerontology. The annual Fellows Reception will occur on Thursday, November 19 at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the GSA in Atlanta. Drs. May Futrell and Bob Binstock were Karen's nominators and supporters.

Publications

Su-Jung (Candace) Tsai, Mario Hofmann, Marilyn Hallock, Earl Ada, Jing Kong and Michael Ellenbecker Environmental Science and Technology, July 1, 2009, **Characterization and Evaluation of Nanoparticle Release during the Synthesis of Single-Walled and Multiwalled Carbon Nanotubes by Chemical Vapor Deposition.**

Paper published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition: Vishwanathan, R., Kotyla, E.F. Wooten,

B.R., Wilson, T.A., and Nicolosi, R.J. **Consumption of 2 and 4 egg yolks/day for 5 wk increases macular pigment contractions in older adults with low macular pigment taking cholesterol-lowering statins.**

Koren, A., Reece, S., Kahn-D'Angelo, L. & Medeiros, D. (In Press). **Infant positioning: Information practice and behavior**, Journal of Pediatric Health Care.

Phillips McEnany G - Book contract signed as co-editor with Nancy Redeker, PhD, RN with Springer Publishing for the first sleep-focused book in nursing: **Sleep Promotion and Sleep Disorders in Nursing Practice**. The book is slated for publication in July 2010.

Boyer J, Galizzi M, Cifuentes M, d'Errico A, Gore R, Punnett L, Slatin C, PHASE (Promoting Healthy And Safe Employment) in Healthcare Project Team. **Ergonomic and socioeconomic risk factors for hospital workers' compensation injury claims.** Amer J Industr Med 2009; 52(7): 551-62.

Buchanan S, Vossen P, Krause N, Moriarty J, Frumin E, Shimek JAM, Mirer F, Orris P, Punnett L. **Occupational injury disparities in the U.S. hotel industry.** Am J Industr Med 2009; on-line at DOI: 10.1002/ajim.20724.

Choi BK, Bjorner JB, Ostergren P-O, Clays E, Houtman I, Punnett L, et al, Karasek R. **Cross-language differential item functioning of the Job Content Questionnaire among European countries: The JACE Study.** Internat J Behav Med 2009;16(2):136-47.

Gold JE, d'Errico A, Katz JN, Gore R, Punnett L. **Specific and non-specific upper extremity musculoskeletal disorder syndromes in automobile manufacturing workers.** Amer J Industr Med 2009; 52:124-132. (doi10.1002/ajim.20653)

Holcroft C, Punnett L. **Work environment risk factors for injuries in wood processing.** J Safety Research (2009, in press).

Park J, Boyer J, Tessler J, Casey J, Schemm L, Gore R, Punnett L, PHASE (Promoting Healthy And Safe Employment) in Healthcare Project. **Inter-rater reliability of PATH observations for assessment of ergonomic risk factors in hospital work.** Ergonomics 2009 Jul;52(7):820-9.

Punnett L, Cherniack M, Henning R, Morse T, Faghri P, CPH-NEW Research Team. **A conceptual framework for integrating workplace health promotion and occupational ergonomics programs.** Public Health Reports 2009; 124(suppl 1): 16-25. PMID: 19618803.

Punnett L. **Ergonomics and public health.** Oxford Textbook of Public Health, 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 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.

Angela Nannini's 2008 study titled **Physical injuries reported on hospital visits for assault during the pregnancy-associated period**, published in Nursing Research is used as an example in Denise Polit's upcoming statistics textbook, Statistics and Data Analysis for Nursing Research (2nd Ed).

Research

Asst. Prof. of Nursing Darcy Brewin is part of a team that received Creative Economy Initiatives Funding to conduct the **Massachusetts Midwifery Workforce Profile Project**. This survey-based study describes the role that midwives play in the Massachusetts healthcare system to meet the health needs of women, families, and communities. The research team is led by Center Research Director Christa Kelleher and also includes Françoise Carré, Ph.D., of the McCormack's School's Center for Social Policy.

Presentations, Trainings, Conferences

Thomas Wilson of Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences gave two talks--one for nurses working at D'Youville Nursing Home in Lowell titled **"Women, diet, and heart disease."** This talk was about the development, diagnosis, and dietary treatment and prevention of heart disease in women. The second talk was to parents and children at the Merrimack Valley YMCA in Lawrence titled **"Healthy Nutrition"** about healthy foods as part of the food pyramid and how to prevent childhood obesity.

Dowling, J. S. (2009, June). **Gaps and overlaps: What's in your curriculum?** 17th Annual Conference for Nurse Educators in Practice Settings and Schools of Nursing: Creating the nurse of the future: Competency and compassion.

Many graduate students, research staff and faculty members from the Department of Work Environment participated in the "X2009" **Sixth International Conference on Innovations in Exposure Assessment**, including Margaret Quinn, David Kriebel, Susan Woskie, Laura Punnett, Scott Fulmer, Tuan Do, Alicia Kurowski, Dhimiter Bello, and Bryan Buchholz.

Grant Funding

Robert Nicolosi and Thomas Wilson of the Center for Health and Disease Research in the Department of Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences received their 3rd \$50,000 grant from the US Army Natick R&D Labs in two years **examining the effect of nanoformulations of nutraceuticals on bioavailability**.

Melillo, K.D., Dowling, J., Abdallah, L., Knight, M., **Bring Diversity to Nursing**, MDPH Reducing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities: Workforce Development, Educational Opportunities Grant, Year 3 funding, 2009-2010, \$26,773.

Melillo, K.D., Dowling, J., Abdallah, L., Knight, M., **Bring Diversity to Nursing**, HRSA Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant, Year 2 funding, 2009-2010, \$314,831.

Appointments

Asst. Prof. of Nursing Peggy Knight was elected to a one-year term as President of New England Chapter of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.

Prof. Laura Punnett has been appointed as a member of the International Advisory Board for a meta-review of the literature on physically heavy work and musculoskeletal disorders at the National Research Centre for the Working Environment of Copenhagen, Denmark. The Board will produce a critical review of the existing evidence for risk factors and aggravating factors for musculoskeletal health problems to inform the Danish government.

Jason Marshall, Laboratory Director of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute, was appointed to the advisory boards of three organizations--Healthy House Institute, International Executive Housekeepers Association and the Housekeeping Channel. He will provide expertise related to green cleaners, sustainability and disease prevention.

Assoc. Prof. Ruth Remington and Karen Devereaux Melillo have been appointed to the Institutional Review Board at UMass Lowell which is responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of human research participants.

Guixin He was invited to be a panelist for the National Science Foundation Academic Research Infrastructure program: Recovery and Reinvestment (ARI-R2) to review biological research infrastructure proposals. The panel is scheduled in October.

Newsletter Archive

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