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**From the Interim Dean**

With evidence all around us, the world, as we know it, is becoming smaller and smaller every day. An independent, international film "Slumdog Millionaire" about overcoming adversity and making a better life, just won most of the 2009 Oscars including best film. When I saw it, the theater was full. At the end, everyone enthusiastically clapped because the film reached out and brought us literally into the minds, hearts and the souls of the people who lived in a different culture. But we recognized them, knew them well, and were happy that, at least in this story, their ending was a happy one.



Last year, one of our graduates, Gerald Martone, Class of 1979, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, was the first SHE alumni to receive an Honorary Degree at the 2008 Commencement for his distinguished work with the International Rescue Committee in humanitarian emergency medical relief work, literally around the world. His resume reads as a world affairs list of medical crises brought on by natural disasters, war, and famine. His work has improved the lives of literally hundreds of thousands of people.

More recently, we had a group of undergraduate nursing students with their Visiting Asst. Professors Valerie King and Miki Patterson, form an organization this past fall, **Nursing Students Without Borders**. Raising money for medical supplies and paying their own way, they extended a helping hand literally across the ocean to another continent over the semester break to help those in need in Ghana. Their stories about the effects this trip had on them are powerful.

Interest in international education programs continues to increase. In the last few months, we have had visitors from Hokkaido University and Kobe Tokiwa University in Japan due to interest in establishing exchange programs. Asst. Prof. Dhimiter Bello has recently represented SHE programs at Tsinghua University in China while Prof. Susan Woskie arranged for a new SHE partnership with Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand. Through our online teaching programs, we have international students in our classes all year bringing a different perspective to the "classroom" that enriches the experience for everyone.

The city of Lowell, Massachusetts has always had an international flair as immigrants from around the world have settled here. In the past, there were people coming from various European countries, then Southeast Asia and India. Now, people from different countries in Central and South America as well as Africa are settling in this area. As they come to our University as students to reach the American Dream through education, we enrich each others lives. We get to know them well and work with them, so that their ending will also be a happy one.

"Jai Ho" (Victory to Thee),

**Kay Doyle  
Interim Dean  
School of Health and Environment  
University of Massachusetts Lowell**

**Student Exchange  
Discussion with Kobe  
Tokiwa University**

**SHE Representatives  
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**Faculty and Staff News**

## Welcome to Dr. Shortie McKinney

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students in the School of Health and Environment, I would like to welcome Dr. Shortie McKinney who will start as the School's new Dean on June 1, 2009.

Dr. McKinney has extensive experience in education, administration, and research as well as an outstanding record in extramural funding. We all look forward to working with her to advance the mission and the goals of the School.

For more information about Dr. McKinney, read the [eNews article](#).

Kay Doyle

## Medical Device Company Looks First to Clinical Lab Graduates to Fill Job Openings

ESA Biosciences, a medical device company located in Chelmsford, turns to the Clinical Laboratory Sciences/Medical Technology Program when staffing.

Medical Technologists Cheryl Callahan, Class of 82, on left, and Devon Carlson, Class of 2007 and 2008, right, are members of ESA's product support team. Kathy Kotlarz, center, a senior Clinical Laboratory Sciences student, has joined the team as an intern this semester.



The quality of students produced by the School of Health and Environment led ESA Biosciences to establish an internship program with the Clinical Laboratory Science program. This allows students the opportunity of industry experience while ESA benefits from the talent and fresh perspectives of the students.

"We are very pleased with the high level of quality of graduates that come from the UMass Lowell's Medical Technology and Clinical Laboratory Sciences Programs. Not only do we get valuable contributions from the students during their internships with us, this is the first place we look to fill our new openings," says Robb Morse, Sales and Marketing Manager of the Blood Lead Products Division at ESA Biosciences.

The company that manufactures a medical device that accurately measures blood lead levels in children sought individuals with a strong understanding of laboratory quality control and analytical troubleshooting who would be able to install the instruments and effectively train individuals at various medical sites.

## Student News

**Junior Nursing students Renee Glennon, Lauren O'Keefe, and Jody Roper,** received the Nashoba Valley Community Healthcare Fund Scholarship Award for 2009. This award is made to non-traditional or second degree students who live or work in the Nashoba Region and are studying in fields with a shortage of medical personnel.

**Nursing Students Without Borders:** Some of the senior Nursing students who traveled to Ghana, Africa in January were featured in their local newspapers:

[Maggie Murphy, Andover Townsman](#)  
[Ashley Hoefler, Tewksbury Town Crier](#)  
[Brianna Norton, Chelmsford Independent](#)  
[All, Boston Globe, Northwest Section](#)



**Physical Therapy doctoral candidates Rachel Blakeslee, left, and Pella Anderson** evaluated the ergonomics of employee workstations. [Read the ENews article](#) and their 10 tips for a proper workstation set up.

## Community Health Education Club Raises Awareness about Global Water Shortages

The Community Health Education Club sponsored an event to raise campus awareness about the growing global crisis of shortages of clean drinking water. They invited Ali Denosky-Smart, Major Gifts Officer of Corporate Accountability International (CAI), to make a campus presentation about the topic and to show the movie **FLOW--For The Love of Water** which was distributed to theaters this past Fall and is now available on DVD.



*From left Ali Denosky-Smart (CAI), Community Health Education leaders: Alicia Rogers, Thais Baiao, Haley Catarius, Gillian Murphy (front).*

Approximately 40 students, and some faculty and staff, attended the event. The club members advertised the event, encouraged some faculty in the SHE and the College of Arts and Sciences to give extra credits to students who attended, and arranged with ARAMARK to provide free food. They engaged students in a lively discussion after the movie was shown.

Since 1977, Corporate Accountability International (formerly Infact) has waged--and won--campaigns that challenge irresponsible and dangerous actions by corporate giants. Its most current campaign highlights the ways in which the actions of water management and distribution corporations and several major beverage manufacturers threaten global public health by exacerbating the global clean water shortage crisis. The campaign "Think Outside the Bottle" works to inform the public and support local control of water supplies.

The Community Health Education Club has decided to work with CAI on a campaign to encourage the campus community to stop using bottled water. They are already starting discussions with ARAMARK and are planning activities to raise campus awareness about the environmental health issue.

## Workshops Help Utilities Save Energy and Water

The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production's Environmental Management System (EMS) Service Program has been helping water and wastewater utilities apply the 'Plan-Do-Check-Act' management system approach to improve their energy management.



*Participating in the workshop at UMass Lowell were (left to right): Andy Kricun, Camden County, NJ Municipal Utilities Authority; Jim Horne, EPA Office of Water; Anne Leiby, EPA Region 1; Gina Snyder, EPA Region 1; Mark Young, Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility; Faith Leavitt, Global Environment & Technology Foundation; Madeline Snow, UMass Lowell; Shreya Vyas, UML graduate student; Heidi O'Brien; Bob Bois, Town of Natick.*

Eight workshops for utilities were held across the country on using the 'Plan-Do-Check-Act' approach to reduce energy use and increase the use of renewable sources of energy.

Funded by EPA's Office of Wastewater Management and the Global Environment & Technology Foundation, Madeline Snow first co-developed **Ensuring a Sustainable Future: An Energy Management Guidebook for Wastewater and Water Utilities** to help utilities assess their energy "footprint," identify opportunities to use energy more efficiently, establish energy efficiency goals, monitor and measure progress toward these goals, and develop a comprehensive energy management plan.

Follow up to the UMass Lowell workshop has included additional work with EPA Region 1, MassDEP, and Massachusetts water and wastewater utilities. A portion of this work has involved assistance by graduate student Patrick Retelle, under the direction of Prof. John Duffy, Coordinator of the Solar Engineering Graduate Program, to develop feasibility studies for renewable energy at the water facilities in the Towns of Spencer and Chelmsford.

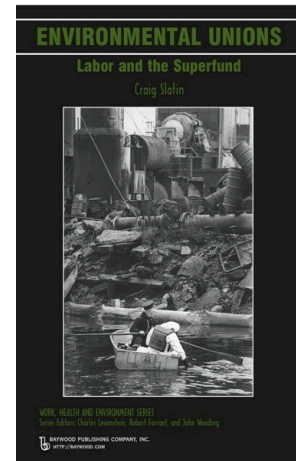
## New Book "Environmental Unions" by Craig Slatin Released

**Environmental Unions: Labor and the Superfund**, by Craig Slatin was just released. Published by Baywood Publishing as part of its Work, Health and Environment Series, the book provides a historical analysis of the U.S. Superfund Worker Training Program, a twenty-two year national worker health education intervention.

The book explores how organized labor came to establish a highly successful health and safety training program for workers engaged in hazardous waste operations and emergency response to hazardous materials incidents.

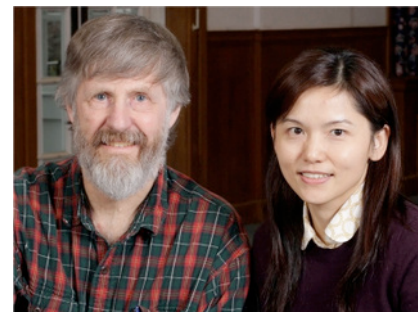
Slatin provides a history of labor's success on the coattails of the environmental movement and in the middle of a rightward shift in American politics. Case studies present the health and safety training programs of two labor unions in the national health and safety training grant program "Worker Education and Training Program" - the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers and the Laborers' Union. Despite different histories and sectors, Slatin shows how the political economy of the work environment led to unexpected similarities between the programs.

Slatin's analysis calls for a critical survey of the social and political tasks facing those concerned about worker and community health and environmental protection in order to make a transition toward just and sustainable production. It builds on UMass Lowell's longstanding experience as the directing base of The New England Consortium, one of the Worker Education and Training Program awardee organizations. Based on empirical evidence, the book provides examples that can inform new efforts to create a green economy and make a transition toward sustainable development built on a foundation of public health.



## Ellenbecker and Tsai Collaborate with Taiwan Colleagues on Nanoparticle Research

Prof. of Work Environment Michael Ellenbecker and Postdoctoral Researcher Candace Tsai have been invited to return to Taiwan in April to give several presentations on the evaluation and control of worker exposure to nanoparticles, research funded by the [Center for High-rate Nanomanufacturing \(CHN\)](#).



Ellenbecker will give the plenary speech, entitled "Occupational Health Implications when Working with Engineered Nanoparticles," at the 2009 Conference of the Occupational Hygiene Association of Taiwan, Taichung, Taiwan, April 25-26, 2009. Tsai will lead a roundtable discussion and present a seminar on nanoparticle exposure assessment.



"Because of considerable activity in manufacturing of nanoparticles in Taiwan and concern over the possible toxicity of some nanoparticles, our counterparts in Taiwan are extremely interested in controlling exposures to nanoparticles," says Ellenbecker.

As an example of the concern, Tsai, who is leading CHN's efforts to evaluate and control nanoparticle exposures, mentioned carbon nanotubes, which are finding many new uses and thus are being manufactured in larger and larger quantities. "Carbon nanotubes are long and thin, like human hairs, but their diameter is one-thousand times smaller so their presence in the air is very difficult to measure and control. Recent research has suggested that they may have toxicity similar to asbestos, another fiber-shaped particle," says Tsai.

In addition to the presentations, Ellenbecker and Tsai will meet with colleagues to discuss cooperative research on new fume hood designs to control nanoparticle exposures. They will also discuss a possible joint epidemiological study of workers manufacturing carbon nanotubes at the Taiwan Facilities Center with UMass Lowell's CHN, the Taiwan Institute on Occupational Safety and Health, and the National Chaio Tung University.

"This is a good collaborative working relationship because we are learning about their industrial use of nanoparticles, and they are learning about exposure monitoring from us," says Ellenbecker.

## Nanoparticle Project on Track

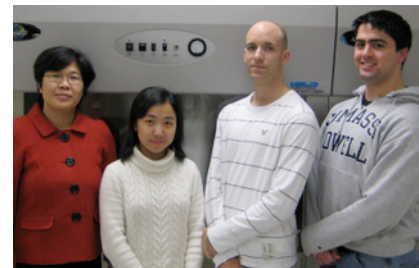
Asst. Prof. Susan He in Clinical Lab and Nutritional Sciences and her students detected the antibacterial function of two types of nanoparticles.

This research is important to the development of an antibacterial drug and a biosensor as well as to further understand the environmental impacts of nanoparticles on cells.

This research is funded by a \$12,000 seed grant from the Nano-Manufacturing Center.

He has built collaborations with several faculty members at the UMass Lowell Nano-Manufacturing Center and the UMass Medical School. She is submitting a National Science Foundation collaborative proposal to continue the research.

*In photo from left: Principal Investigator Guixin He, Doctoral Student Chupei Zhang and students Michael Landry and Conner Thorpe.*



## Chancellor Meehan Visits Sim Family in New Home

During a tour of Weed Hall to see the renovated laboratories and offices, Chancellor Meehan visited the new Patient Simulation Laboratory that includes SimMan, right, and a new addition, SimBaby, below.

SHE Interim Dean Kay Doyle hosted the tour for staff and faculty as well as administration including the Chancellor, Provost Ahmed Abdelal, Vice Provost Donald Pierson, Exec. Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney, and Interim Chief of Information and Facilities Tom Costello.



Assoc. Prof. of Nursing Jacqueline Dowling recently received the second \$48,000 Grant for the SimBaby Patient Simulator from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education's Nursing and Allied Health Education Initiative. Lowell General Hospital, a partner on the grant, donated equipment for the new Sim Lab in the Weed Hall basement.

Soon, the new Sim Lab will be outfitted with a two-way mirror and video taping capabilities to evaluate students' performance.

*Interim SHE Dean Kay Doyle, Director of Nursing Laboratories Joanne Dupuis, and Linda Kilbride, Clinical Labs Alumna and Laboratory Manager at Saints Memorial Hospital with SimBaby, the new addition to the patient simulation laboratory for teaching nursing students the unique way to care*

for infants.



## Hutton's Best and Worst Day in Ghana, Africa

Bringing a Ghanaian woman to the hospital for ulcer pain, staying with her for more than 4 hours, and paying for her medication, gave Katie Hutton - one of 11 UMass Lowell nursing students who traveled to Ghana, Africa during the January break - more satisfaction than she's every felt in her life.

But while waiting in the hospital emergency room, Hutton witnessed a man die and then be pushed to the side where he laid uncovered for hours. "It was more than I could bear," she said. "I felt so sad for the family who had to leave to get a blanket to cover him."

Her experiences in Ghana proved to be both happy and sad. In the end though she believes she's a stronger person and future nurse. She talks about the warmth of the Ghanaian people, what she'll take to her role as a nurse, and what future **Nursing Students Without Borders** members should know.

### What were the Ghanaian people like?

The Ghanaian people were absolutely amazing. They were kind, welcoming, and very excited to see us. Many would not approach us until we made contact with them, but once we did, everyone smiled, said hello, and told us we were welcome. The children were amazing with their bright smiles and beautiful faces. Everywhere we went the children flocked to us, touching our hair and skin. Every morning when we walked outside, every child would yell out yovu (I don't know how to spell it but it means white lady in Awa) and welcomed us. They just make us feel safe, welcome, and a part of the community.



### How do you think this experience will effect how you perform as a nurse here in the U.S.?

Teaching is a major part of what a nurse does. Teaching the people of Ghana gave me the tools and experience to teach anyone about health prevention and promotion. We had to find the most basic ways of explaining our teachings so that they could understand.

### What is your message to future Nursing Students Without Borders members?

My message is to go to Ghana with an open mind. The kind of work you will be doing will be very basic teachings than we learn here in the U.S. at a very young age. You might have to teach people how to brush their teeth, how to wash their hands, and how to sneeze and cough into their elbows. You will not be doing ER-style life saving treatments, but your presence there is going to touch many lives. You may help only one person or you may help many, just remember that any work you do will be helping the people of this developing country live longer, healthier lives.

## SHE Faculty Attend Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference

The second annual [Good Jobs Green Jobs](#) conference attended by Assoc. Prof Craig Slatin and Prof. Ken Geiser was organized to bring advocates of a green economy together from across the

U.S. and Canada. The goal was to learn how to build a successful movement to make the transition from a polluting and unjust economy to a green and democratic economy.

Finding common ground between labor, environmentalists, corporations, government, and human rights and justice groups presents serious challenges. Yet representatives from all groups were eager to use the conference to dig in and find ways to get the movement on track to prevent the worst outcomes of global warming, environmental pollution, unfair trade regimes, and an economy that accepts poverty for a huge proportion of the world's population.



*Craig Slatin, left, and Ken Geiser, attended the 2nd national annual Good Jobs/Green Jobs conference in Washington, D.C. in February.*

Many young people and environmental justice organizations attended the event. Green For All, an Oakland, California organization advocating for a green economy presented a rap video about the ways that a focus on health, environment, and ending poverty can empower young people and change our cities. [The video can be viewed on YouTube.](#)

The School of Health an Environment contributes to green jobs from the work of the [Lowell Center for Sustainable Production](#), the [Center for Health Promotion and Research](#), and the [Toxics Use Reduction Institute.](#)

[New Solutions](#), A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy, has been selected by the conference organizers to publish much of the conference proceedings. The journal was started in 1990 by Professor Charles Levenstein (now Professor Emeritus) of the Department of Work Environment. New Solutions is now edited by SHE professors Craig Slatin and Eduardo Siqueira, along with Beth Rosenberg, a Work Environment alumna who is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health and Family Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. The Green Jobs issue will be published in the latter half of this year.



## Estabrook Travels to Niger to Help Fix Nuclear Weapons Testing Detection Gear

Tom Estabrook took a brief break in January from his duties as lead educator at The New England Consortium and adjunct professor in the Department of Community Health and Sustainability to travel to Niger. Estabrook accompanied his brother, a seismologist, and a team from the United Nations Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) charged with maintaining seismic stations in a rural area of western Niger, in the Sahel region just south of the Sahara Desert.

*United Nations and University of Niamey technicians fix problems at a seismic station near Torodi, Niger.*

Based in Vienna, Austria, the CTBTO has established a global network of earthquake monitoring stations to detect nuclear weapons testing anywhere in the world and ensure compliance with the Test Ban Treaty. The team included scientists from Vienna and the station crew from the University of Niamey's Institute for Radioisotopes. They traveled back and forth within the cluster of sixteen seismic stations situated amongst many small villages of the Fulani society, a pastoral people who raise millet, sheep, goats, and cattle for a living.

The technical team fixed problems at the stations, such as mice chewing through cables, malfunctioning seismic sensors, and moisture damage to equipment in the housing around the sensors. At each station the team was joined by curious Fulani villagers, particularly children. Several of the villagers served as watchmen over the installations.

The villagers have become accustomed to the frequent visits by station technicians, since the stations were operational in 2005. When asked by villagers what the stations are for, Salifou, the head station operator, invariably tells them that they are for global peace.

Estabrook took in the many challenges facing this struggling country of 13 million people, including poverty and underdevelopment, a high illiteracy rate, and a weak health care system. But he was also moved by the resilience and pride of the Nigerian people. "There is much to be hopeful about, particularly a vibrant, but contentious, economic development process, a small but highly visible and growing middle class, a rising democratic political system after years of turmoil, and economic solidarity within francophone central and western Africa," he noted.

## Conference Targets Job Stress

Public health professionals gathered in Worcester in January to learn how to address stress in their disease prevention programs as part of an annual educational conference of the Partnership for a Heart Health, Stroke-Free MA.

"Stress, the Forgotten Risk Factor: Public Health Strategies for Prevention in Healthcare, Worksites, and the Community" drew a diverse audience of 160 health care providers, social workers, and program managers.



Keynote speaker Peter Schnall (left), an internationally recognized job stress expert from U.C. Irvine and new advisor to the UMass Lowell Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW), described the role of work stressors in producing high blood pressure at work and the implications for heart disease. Department of Work Environment Professor Robert Karasek provided opening remarks and introduced Dr. Schnall as long time friend and colleague.

According to Dr. Schnall, a 3-pronged approach is needed for prevention: routine screening of blood pressure and other CVD risk factors at work, incorporating occupational history in routine cardiac work-ups, and integrating work stressor reduction into health promotion and ergonomics programs.

In a follow up workshop, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Inc. V.P. for Human Resources, Kathryn Brooks, presented the Company's healthy workplace policies and programs as a case-study in how to design a positive psychosocial work environment.

Reflecting on UMass Lowell's co-sponsorship of the conference, CPH-NEW Co-Director Laura Punnett said, "This conference was an excellent opportunity to build new knowledge and awareness for health professionals about the impacts of work stressors on disease development. Now more than ever it's critical to broaden workplace health promotion strategies to include a focus on job related stressors."

## Woskie Presents at National Nano Workshop

Work Environment Prof. Susan Woskie spoke at the National Nanotechnology Initiative Workshop on Human and Environmental Assessment of Exposure to Nanomaterials in Washington, DC in February.

The workshop included presentations on the state-of-the-science, followed by workshops to define research needs, opportunities, obstacles and gaps with an aim of producing the applied research needed to enable this promising technology to continue to move forward with minimal risk.

Woskie delivered the keynote talk on "Understanding workplace processes and factors that determine exposure to nanomaterials."

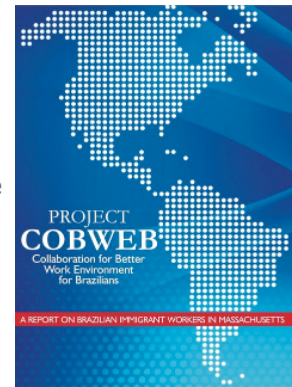
In FY 2009, the National Nanotechnology Initiative has requested \$75 million for the primary purpose of understanding and addressing potential risks of nanotechnology to the health and the environment. The presentations, discussions, and comments provided at this meeting will be summarized into a public document that identifies gaps and priorities for environmental, health and safety research.



## New Report Finds Brazilians at High Risk on the Job

Brazilian immigrants in the Commonwealth are at high risk of injury, illness and death, according to a new report released by UMass Lowell.

The report "Brazilian Immigrant Workers in Massachusetts" highlighted the occupational health risks associated with Brazilian immigrant worker exposures to toxic chemical products in cleaning jobs and lead in the construction trades. It revealed that lead poisoning may be a prevalent problem among Brazilian construction workers - especially painters - and recommends increased lead awareness training as a preventative strategy to reduce lead exposure.



"Due to a lack of training and safety measures, Brazilian workers in construction, housecleaning, food, and restaurant jobs are unfortunately at a high risk as a result of the work they do," says Carlos Eduardo Siqueira, Asst. Prof. of Community Health and Sustainability and author and principal investigator of the research project "Collaboration for Better Work Environment for Brazilians."

in the News: [Metro West. High lead levels in painters' blood](#)

## Work Injury Survey of 10,000 Vietnamese Published

*Rates Ten Times Higher Than Expected*

Helen Marucci-Wellman, a doctoral candidate in Work Environment, has recently published findings from her doctoral dissertation based on a year-long study of work-related injury in a commune in Vietnam.



*Prof. David Kriebel, Helen Marucci-Wellman, Vietnamese team member Tran Hai Yen, Adjunct Professor Tom Leamon, and Prof. David Wegman.*

The paper, published in the January issue of the **International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health**, was co-authored with UMass Lowell Professors David Wegman and David Kriebel, Adjunct Professor Tom Leamon, and Vietnamese colleagues Ta Thi Tuyet Binh and Nguyen Bich Diep.

A research scientist at the Liberty-Mutual Research Institute for Safety in Hopkinton MA that provided support for the study, Marucci-Wellman organized a house-by-house survey of nearly all 2,600 households in the commune of Xuân Tiên, a rapidly-industrializing rural community located about 80 miles southeast of Hanoi. Community health volunteers were recruited and trained to administer surveys to gather data on every injury that occurred among all 10,000 residents of the commune over a one-year period.

Marucci-Wellman and her team found a rate of work-related injury that was about ten times higher than previous estimates. These high injury rates represent a substantial economic and social burden on a rapidly industrializing country, underscoring the importance of injury prevention.

To complete this study, Marucci-Wellman made numerous trips to Vietnam to direct the work of more than 70 researchers. She has been frequently called on to brief senior Vietnamese government officials including the Chairman of the National Economic and Budgetary Committee, Nguyen Duc Kien. "It's a privilege to lead the injury burden study in Vietnam. Rarely, does one get the opportunity to affect real lives - real people - real societies, and yet this is exactly what we're doing in Vietnam," says Marucci-Wellman.

The results of the study have been shared with Vietnamese government partners, and Marucci-Wellman is working with several levels of the public health system to develop ongoing surveillance and prevention programs.

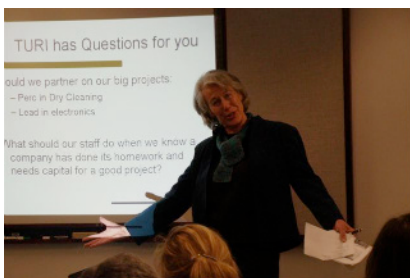
## Physical Therapy Student Awarded a \$1,000 Grant for Fight Obesity Program

Graduate Physical Therapy student Amanda Royce Tolland won the 2009 Carter Academic-Service Entrepreneur Award for Campus-community Collaboration. Amanda wrote a compelling application and was awarded \$1,000 to implement her vision for campus partnerships.

To fight obesity, Royce Tolland and partners will develop "Lowell Community in Motion," an hour-long curriculum that will improve physical activity and nutrition in daily lives.

Royce Tolland will work with student Lauren Mistretta, Asst. Prof. of Physical Therapy Deirdra Murphy and the Lowell Community Health Center community educators to pilot the program that will be interactive for participants. It will include take home strategies that can be integrated into daily activities.

The project team will engage in partnerships with local community agencies and faith-based organizations, provide knowledge at an individual level, and create interest and support and expand the Lowell Community Health Center wellness programs.



## TURI Helps Small Businesses Go Green

At a recent workshop sponsored by the Small Business Administration, TURI Senior Associate Director Janet Clark stressed that reducing toxics doesn't just benefit larger companies. In attendance were bank loan officers who support capital requests from companies with good business ideas.

"We're working with smaller companies like dry cleaners and cleaning product manufacturers to find safer alternatives," says Clark. "The concept can be applied to any sized company."

While large Massachusetts companies have been implementing Toxics Use Reduction techniques for 20 years, the same techniques such as substituting materials and changing processes can be used by any company. Small companies may use paints, solvents, oils, greases, inks, cleaning materials, flame retardants, or other materials. They may need to pay chemical fees or report usage to state or federal agencies as well as worry about worker and environmental safety.

"Greener alternatives can usually be found. It's not always easy but with the increase in demand for safer materials from everyone from consumers to companies, substitutes are more available," says Clark.

There are good business reasons for reducing toxics. Companies usually save money by eliminating chemical fees and hazardous waste disposal costs. And in today's more environmentally aware society, companies also benefit from a marketing perspective.

Clark cited recent small company examples where safer alternatives are available--water-based technology to replace the cancer-causing chemical perchloroethylene used in dry cleaning; safer industrial cleaning products for makers of engine components and solar panels; and greener fire retardants for wire and cable and plastic equipment.

## Student Exchange Discussion with Kobe Tokiwa University

Hideo Sakamoto, Professor of Medical Technology at Kobe Tokiwa University, Japan (left), visited with SHE Interim Dean Kay Doyle (middle) and Nursing Chair Karen Devereaux Melillo to discuss an exchange program for students.

Sakamoto was interested in the UMass Lowell Medical Technology and Clinical Pathology Graduate Certificate Programs.



Melillo discussed the possibility of Kobe Tokiwa students attending the Ph.D. Nursing Program.

UMass Lowell Prof. Krishna Vedula (right) who was named by the Provost as special assistant for international partnerships, attended the meetings. He is charged with providing leadership for strengthening the University's collaborative efforts with international institutions and enhancing opportunities for students to learn and work in other cultures as part of preparing globally competent graduates.

## SHE Representatives Participate on UMass Lowell 2020 Strategic Planning

The following SHE representatives will work on the UMass Lowell 2020 committees that will assess the University's current academic, research, partnership, fiscal, and physical plant status and recommend strategies to improve the campus's achievement, reputation and rankings across these areas:

Lisa Abdallah, Sean Collins, Jacqueline Dowling, Kay Doyle, Ken Geiser, Nicole Champagne, Deirdra Murphy, Laura Punnett, Eugene Rogers, Bryan Buchholz, Susan Houde, and Thomas Wilson.

In the fall, the entire campus will be invited to open house meetings to hear the recommendations and provide comment on the University's next generation strategic plan that will provide a blueprint for how the campus will achieve national and international recognition as a world-class institution over the next decade.

## President's Cancer Panel Reports Available

The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production prepared four reports about the state of the evidence on chemicals linked to cancer for testimonies to the **President's Cancer Panel**.

The four reports call for a comprehensive cancer prevention agenda that includes more prevention-oriented research, programs and policies associated with these risk factors. The President's Cancer Panel's final report to the President Obama summarizing findings and recommendations is expected in early fall 2009.

Molly Jacobs, Project Manager in the Lowell Center and Richard Clapp, Adjunct Professor, worked in partnership with the Collaborative on Health and the Environment, Breast Cancer Fund and the Science & Environmental Health Network to develop the facts sheets focused on each of the four President's Cancer Panel meeting topics.

- [Industrial Carcinogens: A Need for Action](#)
- [Air and Water Pollutants: A Need for Action](#)
- [Agriculture and Cancer: A Need for Action](#)
- [Radiation and Cancer: A Need for Action](#)



## Faculty and Staff News

### Publications

Virji, MA; Woskie, SR.; Pepper, LD. **Task-Based Lead Exposures and Work Site Characteristics of Bridge Surface Preparation and Painting Contractors**, Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene 6(2), 99-112 (2009),

Tak S; Paquet V; Woskie S; Buchholz B; Punnett L: **Variability in risk factors for knee injury in construction**, Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene 6(2), 113-20 (2009),

Virji, MA; Woskie, SR.; Pepper, L D. **Skin and Surface Lead Contamination, Hygiene Programs,**

**and Work Practices of Bridge Surface Preparation and Painting Contractors**, Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene 6(2), 131-142. (2009),

Shepherd, S.; Woskie, S. R.; Holcroft, C.; Ellenbecker, M. **Reducing Silica and Dust Exposures in Construction During Use of Powered Concrete-Cutting Hand Tools: Efficacy of Local Exhaust Ventilation on Hammer Drills**, Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene , 6(1), 42-51 (2009).

Remington, R., Chan, A., Shea, T. B. (2009). **Efficacy of a vitamin/neutriceutical formulation for moderate to late Alzheimer's disease: A placebo-controlled pilot study**. American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease & Other Dementias. doi 10.1177/1533317508325094

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Abdallah, L., Remington, R., Houde, S., Zhan, L., & Melillo, K.D. (2009). **Dehydration reduction in community-dwelling older adults: Perspectives of community health care providers**. Research in Gerontological Nursing, 2(1), 49-57.

### Peer Reviewed Abstracts

2009 Hillier A, Murphy DA. **Reduction in Salivary Cortisol Following Physical Exercise and Relaxation among Adolescents and Young Adults on the Autism Spectrum**. International Meeting for Autism Research, Chicago, IL May 7-9th, 2009

### Presentations

Murphy DA, Ferrara CM. **Promoting Health on a College Campus: The Physical Therapist's Role**. Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association. Las Vegas, Nevada, February 9-12, 2009.

Melillo, K.D., Dowling, J., Abdallah, L., Findeisen, M., Knight, P. The New England Regional Minority Health Committee (NERMHC) chose the Abstract, **Bring Diversity to Nursing** for a workshop at the 6th New England Regional Minority Health Conference Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities by 2010, From Disparities to Equity: The Power to Make Change. The conference will be held at the Westin Hotel in Providence, Rhode Island on October 14, 15 and 16, 2009.

Phillips McEnany, G (January 2009). **Issues in sleep regulation in psychiatric illness: Concerns for nursing practice and research**. McLean Hospital Nursing Research Day, Belmont Massachusetts.

Phillips McEnany, G (January 2009). **Methodologic issues in sleep research**. University of Massachusetts Worcester PhD Nursing Colloquium.

Phillips McEnany, G (February 2009). **How about your sleep? Let's talk about sleep and health**. Community education presentation made to the senior community at Orchard Cove. Canton, Massachusetts.

2009 Abdallah, L. (January 20th) **The Significance of Dehydration in the Elderly**. Invited speaker for Nursing Research Rounds at Bedford VA Memorial Hospital, Bedford Massachusetts.

Prof. Garry Handelman gave a lecture at the 11th International Conference on Dialysis, Las Vegas, Jan, 2009, **Bacterial DNA in water and dialysate: detection and significance for patient outcomes**.

He also chaired the session **New strategies for management of anemia and fluid volumes in renal disease**.

### Report and Presentation

TURI Policy Analyst Rachel Massey presented, and co-wrote, the report [Toxic Substances in Articles](#) at the International Workshop on Chemicals in Articles, sponsored by the UN Environment Programme, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in February.

### Grant Funding

The New York Community Trust awarded the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production (Assoc. Prof.



Joel Tickner and Researcher Sally Edwards) a \$150,000, two-year grant for **Engaging Pro-Active Industry in Advancing Safer Chemicals and Products**. The goals of the project are to:

- 1) Expand Lowell Center efforts to engage industry in transitioning towards green chemistry and design for environment.
- 2) Advance a stakeholder dialogue in the children's product sector to promote sustainable product design and development.

Prof. Garry Handelman of Clinical Lab Sciences and Nutrition and Assoc. Prof. Jim Lee of Community Health, jointly with Assoc. Prof. Lori Pbert of UMass Medical School have been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund. The grant funds the project, **A Community Partnership for Prevention of Type-2-Diabetes in Youth at High Risk**, which will be conducted with the Lowell Community Health Center and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lowell.

### **New Staff Member**

[Ann Bratton](#) joined the Physical Therapy and Exercise Physiology Program as Program Administrator. She works directly with undergraduate and graduate students through recruitment, retention and advising. She assists in the development and coordination of exercise practicum experiences and with program assessment and development. Previously, Mrs. Bratton worked in the Admissions office and as the Coordinator of Administrative Services in the Provost's Office of Academic Affairs. Interested in advising and retention, her Regional Economic and Social Development masters project was on the effects of advising academically at risk students and the impact on retention.

### **Appointments**

Asst. Prof. of Nursing Annette McDonough was appointed external faculty nurse scientist by Dorothy Jones PhD, RN FAAN, director of the Yvonne L. Munn Center for Research and Guardia Banister, PhD, RN, executive director of the Institute for Patient Care Nursing, both at Massachusetts General Hospital. This appointment will allow her opportunities to advance her own program of research, access to diverse patient populations, potential to mentor and engage doctorally-prepared nurses and staff in clinical research, and expand her research activities with members of an interdisciplinary health care team.

Asst. Prof. of Nursing Peggy Knight has been appointed to the Human Rights Committee at the Whittier Pavilion in Lawrence.

Pauline Beaulieu of Nursing has been appointed a board member of the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary that develops programs and relationships in the community to encourage financial support for Lowell General Hospital. The Auxiliary generates more than \$100,000 annually through events such as the "Taste of the Town," book fairs, holiday gift fairs, Daffodils & Desserts, and the ongoing operations of The Lowell General Gift Shop.