From the Interim Dean

My favorite time of the academic year is here - graduation. While I know that we are in the business of education, scholarship and service, graduation always reminds me that we are also in the "making dreams come true" business. As I said in my very first SHE Newsletter, this University is the American Dream University - where student dreams come true before our very eyes.

The 'pomp and circumstance' and the pageantry of graduation reminds us of its importance as a milestone in the lives of our students, and our own university community. This is the time when we get to see our students with 'stars in their eyes' as they reach the finale of their hard work and dreams. We get to meet their extended family and friends to share in all of their joy for the culmination of a job well done. We also get to see our students become members of the community of educated citizens and scholars with the knowledge that they have earned their rightful place there.

Joseph Campbell, a famous American writer, stated that a "life lived in self-discovery is never more rational that when you find within yourself the resources of character to meet your destiny" and become the person that you were meant to be. We play a major role in making this happen for so many, if not for all of our students, and graduation is the result of all of our collective efforts.

So, congratulations to our graduates, to those who supported them in each and every way, and to all of us for being a part of an institution that is dedicated to changing lives in very positive ways.

Since this is the last SHE Newsletter for this academic year, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Department Chairpersons, the faculty, staff and students for their hard work and dedication as we worked together during this year. It was a team effort in every sense of the word. We accomplished much and had a great time doing it. Dr. McKinney, our new Dean, arrives June 1 and we look forward to working with her.

Best wishes for a wonderful and productive summer!

Kay Doyle
Interim Dean
School of Health and Environment
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Physical Therapy Club takes on the Bay State Wheelers

First and second year Department of Physical Therapy students and Members of the Bay State Wheelers competed in a basketball fundraiser.

The Physical Therapy Club took on the basketball team The Bay State Wheelers during an annual spring fundraiser on April 30th. The Bay State Wheelers organization provides instruction and recreational programs in Central Massachusetts for people with disabilities.

The PT club students use wheelchairs to compete against the swift, skillful team. The game is a social event that raises money for the PT Club and awareness about disabilities. The event highlighted the abilities of the Wheelers who won hands down.

Read All About it!

Bringing politics into epidemiology is necessary but fraught with difficulties, say experts, Emerging Health Threats Forum
Prof. David Kriebel is quoted in this article about whether epidemiological studies can produce clear evidence of how macro-economic or social policies can affect people’s health. Emerging Health Threats Forum is a new not-for-profit information agency focusing on global health threats, set up with the support of the UK Health Protection Agency.

Kids of shorter mothers more likely to die before age 5, The Times of India
Asst. Prof. Leland Ackerson’s research, part of an international team studying health disparities in India, was reported by the Times of India - an Indian newspaper with the status of the New York Times. The work it describes was published in the April 22, 2009 issue of JAMA and reveals a relationship between lower maternal height and increased risk of child mortality. The paper discusses possible reasons for this finding which focus on maternal disadvantage throughout life.

'Factory farms': What link do they have with swine-flu virus?, Lowell Sun
Asst. Prof. Nancy Goodyear of Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences and Asst. Prof. Mansoureh Tajik of Community Health and Sustainability, were quoted in this article about the
potential link between the swine flu and hog-raising facilities.

SHE Faculty Earn Healey, Public Service and Teaching Awards

Several SHE faculty members received funding from various UMass Lowell grant programs for the following projects:

**Healey/Research/Scholarship Grants**

1) Asst. Prof. Maria Brunette (left with student Paula Bustos) of the Department of Work Environment
   
   **Hispanic Women in Academic Engineering: Role models for current and future generations of women engineers**
   
   The study will increase understanding of the individual, institutional, and societal factors that promote or hinder academic success for Hispanic females in Engineering. [Read the ENews article for the full story.](#)

2) Asst. Prof. Danielle Day of the Physical Therapy Department
   
   **Microdialysis**
   
   The studies use a technique called microdialysis that allows for the collection and analyzing of hormones directly released from muscle and fat tissue in animals and humans. Current projects include measuring factors released from skeletal muscle that relate to pain and inflammation and factors released from fat tissue that relate to appetite and metabolism.

**Public Service Grant Awardees**

1) Asst. Prof. Ainat Koren and Prof. Susan Reece, both of Nursing, and Prof. Linda Kahn-D'Angelo of Physical Therapy
   
   **Development and Pilot Testing of Supervised Tummy Time Educational Package**
   
   The development of an educational program to inform pediatric health care professionals and parents about the importance of placing newborn infants on his or her stomach several times a day while supervised.

2) Asst. Prof. Deirdra Murphy of Physical Therapy
   
   **Fit and Fun: A physical activity and relaxation program for community dwelling underserved youth on the autism spectrum**
   
   The development of an interdisciplinary physical activity and relaxation program for underserved youth with autism spectrum disorders in the Lowell area.

**Teaching and Learning Grant Awardee**

Asst. Prof. Cynthia Ferrara of Physical Therapy

**Strategies for Success in the Freshman Year: Improving academic performance and student retention in the Exercise Physiology Program**

Freshman will participate in a new seminar specifically for students majoring in Exercise Physiology in the fall semester. They will be invited to participate in additional social and learning activities offered by the faculty in Dept. of Physical Therapy and the Exercise Physiology Club to improve retention.

**Student Activities and the Graduate Student Association Pay Tribute to Students and Faculty**

The Graduate Student Association recognized the following students at the banquet on May 2nd:

- Patricia Gordon received Health Management and Policy Dean's Award
- Marc Guillemette received the Outstanding Graduate Student for Health Management and Policy
- Rebecca Nadeau of Work Environment received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award
- Jen Robinson from Nursing received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award
- Amira Alley of Clinical Laboratory Sciences received the Dean's Award

The undergraduate students receiving awards at the Student Activities Banquet were:
Abbey Denaro, Exercise Physiology major - Student Leader of the Year
Tom Sniezek, Exercise Physiology major - Excellence in Diversity Programming, part of the leadership team of the Campus Activities Programming Assoc.

Asst. Prof. Danielle Day of the Physical Therapy Department received the Student Government Association Exceeding Excellence Award for Teaching at the Student Activities Banquet.

Assoc. Prof. Ruth Remington, right, received the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year Award from the Graduate Student Association.

From left, Prof Susan Houde Graduate Coordinator, Assoc. Prof. Betty Morgan, Nursing Faculty Mary Ellen Cooper, Nurse Practitioner, Class of 2008, Jennifer Robinson, 2009 Outstanding Graduate Student in Nursing, and Prof. Remington

Doyle Attends 'Hill Day' in Washington

Prof. Kay Doyle attended the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Hill Day and visited with the congressional staff of Rep. Niki Tsongas, Senator John Kerry and Senator Ted Kennedy to discuss the medical laboratory workforce shortage as well as current and pending legislation related to Laboratory Medicine.

Along with John Ball, MD, Executive Director of ASCP and Blair Hollady, Vice President for the ASCP Board of Registry, Doyle also presented the ASCP Patient Advocacy Award for Senator Kennedy.

This award is for his lifelong commitment to quality healthcare for all as well as his recent work on behalf of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) and the establishment of a new Joint Pathology Center.

This center will "provide high quality care to the veterans and the military health care systems as well as the civilian community through second opinion pathology consultations." The award was presented to a senior staff member in Senator Kennedy's office on Tuesday, April 21, 2009.

Lawrence High School Students Prepare for College in Clinical Labs

Lawrence High School students--Lissette Santiago, Rosanny Jaime, and Yomaira Lopez--spent the afternoon in a Clinical Laboratory Sciences student laboratory learning hematology techniques.

Lawrence High School students are participating in the laboratory experience as part of a dual enrollment experience offered through a grant funded to the College of Education. The students
take college-level courses during their junior and senior years of high school to help them better prepare for college.

The students are enrolled in a new course designed by Prof. Alease Bruce called Bodies and Bones that uses an investigative approach to examine concepts related to the fields of anatomy and physiology, biochemistry, and forensic science. The course will be offered again in the fall.

Student News

Two senior Medical Technology students presented posters at the Massachusetts Association of Blood Banks 37th Annual Spring Seminar and Exhibits. The seminar attracted hundreds of professionals dedicated to the advancement of high standards for transfusion medicine.

Both students were awarded gift certificates in recognition of their outstanding presentations.

Left, Senior Vidleisy Almonte's research into Therapeutic Apheresis was the topic of her poster. Right, Senior Anna Khachatryan's poster reflected her research on Umbilical Cord Blood Stem Cells.

Nineteen Senior students from the Department of Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences attended the 23rd Annual Northeast Region Conference and Exhibition of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry on April 14th and 15th. More than sixty exhibits and 40 educational sessions were featured.

Sixteen Medical Technology students received the American Society for Clinical Pathology National Student Honor awards—Vinayta Ahuja, Marianne Bou-Habib, Gerson Duarte, Tina Ewing, Joanna Hibbard, Hien Kha, Anna Khachatryan, Vivian S. Lasnier, Bichuyen Le, Kenton Lor, Tammy Nguyen, Navadhia R. Patel, Ellen Proeung, Keith Sickorez, Brittany Whittaker, Melissa Zahralban. This Honor Award recognizes students in the laboratory professions who demonstrate both academic excellence and a commitment to community service and leadership activities.

Congratulations to the following Work Environment students for winning the following awards:

· Outstanding Graduate Student: Rebecca Nadeau
· Barry Commoner Award: Cheryl West
· Work Environment Scholarship Award: Gregory Morose
· Margaret Becklake Award: Helen Wellman
· Harriet Hardy Award: Mabeth Burgos-Hernandez
· Lorin E. Kerr Award: Jon Boyer

Lowell Center Receives Award from EPA to Reduce Mercury Use in Hospitals

The Sustainable Hospitals Program (SHP) of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production has received a one-year award from the US Environmental Protection Agency to conduct mercury reduction pilot projects in hospitals in Ecuador and Mexico.
The project team will assess current mercury use, policies, and practices; develop a mercury reduction how-to guide, and pilot a mercury-free product alternative.

The Latin American project partners include the Institute for the Development of Production and the Work Environment, Quito, Ecuador as well as the Department of Chemical and Biological Sciences of the Federal University of Sonora, Hermosillo, Mexico. The project will also engage the Pan American Health Organization and other members of the Sustainable Hospitals Program’s occupational and environmental health network to foster mercury reduction worldwide.

Registration Open for 'Heart-Healthy Stroke-Free' Meeting
The Partnership for a Heart Healthy, Stroke-Free MA composed of representatives from more than 100 organizations committed to working together to reduce risk for heart disease, stroke, and associated risk factors through environmental and systems change, is holding a working session on June 5th.

The Department of Work Environment participates as a lead partner and member of the Partnership's Executive Committee, with specific responsibility for educating health professionals about the role of workplace stress as a risk factor for cardiovascular disease.

Please come to the Partnership's 5th annual business meeting to learn about new directions in federal and state programs addressing heart disease and stroke and local initiatives to combat heart disease in community, workplace and healthcare settings.

Date:  Friday, June 5, 2009
Time:  8:00am - 2:30pm
Location:  Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough.

View the agenda and register by visiting the Heart-Healthy Stroke-Free Massachusetts web site.

Lowell Center Authors Green Cleaning Paper for Hospitals
The Global Health and Safety Initiative and Health Care Without Harm commissioned the Lowell Center's Sustainable Hospitals Program (SHP) to develop a white paper entitled Cleaning in healthcare facilities: Reducing human health effects and environmental impacts.

The report authored by Pia Markkanen, Prof. Margaret Quinn, Catherine Galligan and Anila Bello summarizes the main health and environmental impacts related to conventional surface cleaning, describes a systems approach for designing and implementing healthier and environmentally friendlier cleaning strategies and indicates areas where future research and policy initiatives are needed.

Many hospitals have increased the use of cleaning and disinfecting products to address healthcare acquired infections as well as other infection prevention and control concerns. However conventional cleaning products and disinfectants bring a host of health hazards, in particular asthma and other respiratory disorders, and environmental impacts along with their capacity to fight against multi-drug resistant organisms.
Physical Therapy Department Goes Live on Facebook

The Physical Therapy Department and Exercise Physiology program now have a Facebook Page.

The primary purpose is to provide a dynamic and interactive mechanism of communicating information to students, staff, faculty and alumni.

Log onto your Facebook account and search on "UMass Lowell Physical Therapy Department" and become a "Fan." You'll receive quick updates in your Facebook account on student and faculty news, acknowledgments as well as photos and videos of events. It's a great way to stay connected.

SHE Scholars Connecting with Communities

The School of Health and Environment Scholars Program provides students a balanced understanding of health and health systems by participating with students in other disciplines in a three-year exploration of "real world" health problems in the Greater Lowell community.

This spring, the freshman SHE Scholars conducted service-learning projects in the community as part of their course work in Community Health. Four of the SHE Scholars worked with middle school kids in an after school "Get Fit" program. They worked with Physical Therapy students on exercise and fitness implementation for eight weeks.

Each of the SHE Scholars presented two educational programming sessions that supported the fitness component that was designed by the Physical Therapy students. Another group of Scholars provided nutrition and physical activity information to staff at two nursing homes run by Genesis Healthcare, Westford House and Sutton Hill. The final group of Scholars provided Girls Inc. with educational programming on staying healthy.

Yankee Alliance Headlines Dinner Forum

Senior Vice President for Business Development at Yankee Alliance Cathy Spinney was guest speaker at he Spring Health Management and Policy (HMP) Dinner Forum in April.

Cathy, an HMP graduate and Adjunct Professor in the program spoke about hospital supply chain management and a program developed by the Yankee Alliance called 'Supplyview' that provides hospital staff with the necessary data to reduce supply purchasing costs.

The event was attended by nearly 40 HMP students, faculty and alumni.

Photo: Prof. A. James Lee, Cathy Spinney and Assoc. Prof. Patrick Scollin.

Clinical Lab Students Participate in Poster Competition

The junior Clinical Immunology class of Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Science participated in
the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science - Central New England's Student Poster Competition. This was the sixth year of judging and displays of student posters for the organization.

There were 63 posters in the competition held at the Providence Convention Center in Rhode Island, May 5-7. UMass Lowell was well represented with nine entries from the student group presenters.

The posters were entered in the Clinical Laboratory Science Division and focused on using cases to examine and understand immunological disorders. The students all praised the professional experience that they gained from writing and submitting abstracts to the professional design of their posters. Prof. Alease Bruce was the students' instructor.

SHE Researchers and Faculty Influence Asthma Policy

Research Professor Polly Hoppin of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production partnered with the Asthma Regional Council (ARC) to convene a series of conversations among leading asthma clinicians in Massachusetts. The result is a statement of consensus--recommended steps for providers and health systems, payers and public agencies to reduce the burden of asthma.

With planning assistance from a group of SHE faculty, more than 100 providers had input to the draft recommendations at an asthma conference sponsored by SHE, ARC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. To read the consensus statement released this spring entitled "What the Health Sector Needs to Implement Best Practices for Asthma," visit the Asthma Regional Council's web site.

SHE faculty and staff are also influencing policy by helping to draft the Massachusetts strategic plan for asthma. Because of SHE's involvement, the state's plan includes a recommendation that the Department of Public Health focus on reducing the incidence of asthma--rather than focusing just on controlling the disease in people who already have it.

The plan, with its groundbreaking topics at the intersection of health and environment, will be released by Dr. John Auerbach, Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, on May 29, at a Summit sponsored by MAAP in Worcester, MA. For more information on the Summit, contact Stacey Chacker, interim Director of MAAP. To register, contact Charlie Patton.
TURI and Legislators Recognize Leaders at State House Ceremony

Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) will present its **2009 Champions of Toxics Use Reduction Awards** on June 10th to companies, community organizations and a UMass Lowell faculty member. The annual Awards ceremony honors outstanding leaders who have reduced toxic chemical use in Massachusetts through research and outreach. This year's keynote speakers include the two new Chairs of the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Committee--Senator Anthony W. Petruccelli and Representative William M. Straus. Chancellor Meehan above was the keynote speaker at last year's ceremony in the Great Hall at the State House.

The 2009 honorees are:

**Community Toxics Use Reduction Champions**
Brazilian Women's Group, Allston
Center Pond Weed Project, Becket
School Disinfection Workgroup, statewide project
Townsend Conservation Commission
Viet-AID, Dorchester
Wampanoag Tribe, Martha's Vineyard
Lowell Green Building Commission
Northeast Organic Farming Association, Barre

**University Research Champion**
Dr. Sanjeev Manohar, Associate Professor and Director of the Green Technology Laboratory, University of Massachusetts Lowell

**Toxics Use Reduction Planner and Industry Champion**
Ron Westgate, Lightolier, Fall River

**Small Business Champion**
Silver Hanger Cleaners, Bellingham

**Industry Champion**
Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Woburn

Geiser Named University Professor

Prof. Kenneth R. Geiser of Work Environment has been named UMass Lowell's second University Professor in recognition of his esteemed teaching, research and service to the University. He joins Prof. Susan Braunhut of the Biological Sciences Department, who was designated University Professor last year.

Among his numerous accomplishments, Geiser is co-director of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at UMass Lowell. He is also one of the authors of the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act and served as director of the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) from its founding in 1990 to 2003.

His research and writing focus on pollution prevention and cleaner production, international chemicals policy, safer technologies and green chemistry. In 2001, he completed a book - "Materials Matter: Towards a Sustainable Materials Policy" - published by MIT Press. As a recognized expert on environmental and occupational health policy, he has served on various advisory committees for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the United Nations Environment Program.
The University Professor is nominated by members of the faculty. Geiser's professorship runs from September 2009 through May 2012. As part of the designation, he will deliver a University-wide lecture during each year of the appointment.

Tickner Leads Green Chemistry and Commerce Council

The Green Chemistry and Commerce Council, led by Assoc. Prof. Joel Tickner of Community Health and Sustainability, met in early May at Staples in Broomfield, Colo., to challenge themselves and their suppliers to develop products that are safer for human and environmental health.

The conference included big-picture topics, such as the state of chemicals policy in the Obama administration, and specific discussions of tools that help assess chemical exposure, hazards and safer alternatives. The GC3 introduced a new resource guide, developed with the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, that includes practical tools and databases to help state agencies, companies, and academia transition to a green economy.

Photo: Joel Tickner, right, and Chief Scientist Roger McFadden of Staples, Inc., in front of Staples in Broomfield, Colo., where more than 60 organizations met to discuss the development of products that are safer for human and environmental health.

Prof. Wegman Appointed Chair of Ergonomics Committee

The National Academy of Sciences appointed Prof. Wegman chair of the new committee on "The Role of Ergonomics in Home Health Care."

The study committee will examine the impact of human factors issues relevant to the safety and quality of home healthcare. They will synthesize and analyze the research literature to gain an understanding of the human factors challenges relevant to sensory, behavioral, and cognitive capabilities of patients and caregivers and the increasing use of medical devices, equipment, and technologies in the home environment.

The committee will develop a conceptual and methodological framework to guide the study, conduct a review of the existing research literature and sources of evidence; and describe its findings, conclusions, and recommendations regarding strategies, methodologies, and best practices of successful homecare practices.

Wegman Honored for Service as Dean

The formal recognition event for the former Dean of SHE David Wegman that was postponed last December due to a severe ice storm, took place in May.

Wegman, middle, was recognized by more than 100 colleagues for his five years of leadership as Dean of the School of Health and Environment. Wegman is shown after the May 8th ceremony with Assoc. Prof. Joel Tickner, Prof. Sean Collins, Asst. Prof. Lisa Abdallah and Prof. Margaret Quinn. More than $150,000 was raised for the Dr. David H. Wegman Endowed Scholarship Fund that will provide support to students.
SHE Awards Seed Grants

The following faculty have been awarded SHE Seed Grants for the following projects:

**Sleep Dysregulation in Immigrant Communities in Lowell: Implications for Practice**
Prof. Geoffrey Phillips McEnany of Nursing will educate community health centers in Lowell about the fundamentals of sleep and its relationship to medical illnesses, particularly diabetes. He will begin dialogue with providers who are serving minority patients in community settings related to their clinical learning needs about sleep disorders to reduce risks and promote health.

**Healthy Campus, Healthy Communities**
Co-PIs, Asst. Profs. Deirdra Murphy and Cynthia Ferrara, will collaborate with the Revolving Museum, Community Teamwork Inc (CTI)'s Farmer's Market, the City of Lowell, and the Greater Lowell Health Alliance to promote a healthier community. They will assess perceptions of healthy eating and active living of customers visiting the Lowell Farmers Market. Some of the funds will support a media campaign using artwork produced by the Teen Art Group at the Revolving Museum to promote the Farmers Market.

Faculty and Staff News

**Publications**


**Presentations**

Prof. A. James Lee held a luncheon seminar presentation to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (in Boston) entitled *EMRs, Health Information Exchange and Occupational Health.* David Wegman and Lenore Azaroff were among those attending.

Prof. Susan O'Sullivan of Physical Therapy gave a talk at the New England Rehabilitation Hospital about Post Stroke Locomotor Training.

Donna Rogers, Professional Technologist in the Department of Clinical Laboratory & Nutritional Sciences, attended a career fair at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence to promote Medical Technology as an exciting and rewarding career choice. The three sessions to sophomore students were standing room only.

Prof. Karen Devereaux Melillo and two BS Junior Nursing Honors students, Kaye Kenney and Allison Geissert, visited the Statehouse for Legislative Day sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Colleges of Nursing in honor of National Nurses Week and International Nurses Day on Tuesday May 12th.

Prof. Karen Devereaux Melillo, chair of the Department of Nursing and Ramona Nunez (Bring
Diversity to Nursing, Minority Nurse Recruiter) represented Nursing at the Lawrence High School Career Fair Day on May 13th.

Visiting Asst. Prof. Valerie King, King, Poster presentation at the Regional Nurse Practitioner Conference, Newton, MA, The Nursing Experience in Ghana.


The Physical Therapy Department hosted the Clinical Instructor Education and Credentialing Program in March. The course was attended by more than 60 clinicians, many of whom are UML-PT alumni, from regional Physical Therapy clinics, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities. The two-day course lead trainer (instructor) was Asst. Prof. Deirdra Murphy.


Grant Funding

Research Prof. Cora Roelofs of Work Environment participated in a national meeting to improve health and safety conditions for nail salon workers. She was interviewed in a TV news story on the issue. She is also the recipient of a second year of funding as a consultant to the Boston Public Health Commission and their Safe Nail Shops project.

Appointments

Prof. Ken Geiser of Work Environment was named Co-Chair of California's new Green Ribbon Science Panel, an advisory group created for the state's new Green Chemistry program.

Awards

Prof. David Kriebel, Chair of Work Environment, was selected for the "Faculty of the Year" award for 2008-2009, voted by the Work Environment Student Association (WESA).

Asst. Prof. Lisa Abdallah received the Excellence in Nursing Practice Award from the Theta Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, University of Massachusetts Boston. She also received the Faculty Recognition Award at the National Student Athletes Day Award Ceremony at UMass Lowell.

Asst. Prof. Miki Patterson along with her research colleagues in the Safe Patient Handling Task Force will be awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Orthopaedic Nursing Award on May 20th at the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses meeting in Tampa Florida.