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**From the Dean**

I continue to be impressed with our faculty, staff students and alums. Take a look at the article about our faculty involvement in the editing and authoring of articles for an environmental justice issue for the prestigious American Journal of Public Health.

And how about our nursing students traveling to Ghana to provide care to people during their winter break and our physical therapy students winning the college bowl.

What an honor for Kay Doyle who was recognized by the UMass President's office for her outstanding public service contributions to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I wish you all a wonderful, happy holiday season.

All my best,

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



**Kay Doyle Earns UMass President's Public  
Service Award**

Prof. Kay Doyle grew up in a time when many women didn't attend college and even fewer pursued careers in the sciences. But from an early age, Kay was intrigued by science. It answered her many questions about how the world worked. More importantly, it helped her find ways to make the world a better place.

Last month, she was recognized for enhancing lives through developing strong partnerships between science and people who are influenced by it. She was one of five recipients of the UMass President's Public Service award that honors faculty who have provided exemplary public service to the Commonwealth.

"I am humbled and honored to receive this public service award from the President's office," says Doyle who is chair of the Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences Department. "My work in a



public university is important to my life as an educator and member of this community, where I can make a difference in students' lives who appreciate the value of an education and the opportunities it brings."

Every year, the Chancellor from each campus nominates one faculty member to be considered for the award.



"Kay Doyle has enormous compassion and dedication for her community and her students who study science and health," said Chancellor Marty Meehan (right, in photo with UMass President Jack Wilson and Prof. Doyle). "She is a true leader and model for others in her roles as educator, UMass Lowell department chair and community advocate."

[Read more](#) about the Kay's accomplishments and the UMass President's Public Service Awards.

## Alumni News

**Scott Waugh, Physical Therapy alum**, spoke to students last month about how he established his career as a physical therapist for the Boston Bruins and director of rehabilitation for the Boston Red Sox. [Read the ENews article about his talk.](#)

**Alice Bonner**, PhD, RN, (MS GNP 1989), is featured in a [Boston Globe article "A higher level of care"](#) about her new role at the bureau of health care safety and quality at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

**Judy Gold, a Work Environment ergonomics alumna** has gotten a lot of press about her research about texting. Read the Science Daily article: [Pain In The Neck: Too Much Texting Could Lead To Overuse Injuries](#)

**Mary M. Aruda**, a PhD alumna and former Nursing Advisory Board member, was the 2009 recipient of the Distinguished Nurse Practitioner Award from the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners. Mary is an assistant professor at Boston College William F. Connell School of Nursing.

**Rachel Davis Chaddock**, a 1981 nursing alum, was recently selected as VNA's new director.

## Student News

**Priya Dasgupta of Work Environment** presented her doctoral research, "Assessing the Ergonomic Hazards for Piledrivers," at the 2009 Student Research Conference of the New England Chapter of the Human Factors & Ergonomics Society. Her co-authors on the work were Scott Fulmer, Xialou Jing, and Bryan Buchholz.

**Theresa Foley, a student in the Honors Program at UMass Lowell majoring in nursing and minoring in nutrition**, wrote a guest editorial for the Newburyport Daily News, [Rx for Health: Haunting Facts about the Obesity Epidemic.](#)



**Junior Medical Technology students Randy Lai (right) and Rachel Nicholson (sitting)** volunteered their time to help the Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences department conduct interactive activities during the November 1 Open House.

Potential students engaged in role play that emphasized the interaction between patients and physicians and their dependence on highly trained Medical Technologists to give accurate results for a correct diagnosis. Volunteers from the tour groups played the role of the technologist (volunteer Catherine Leone is pictured on left) and were challenged to analyze the lab results.

**Work Environment Doctoral ergonomics student Tuan Do** was awarded a \$638 Dean Janice M. Stecchi Scholarship. Tuan conducted a landmark study of musculoskeletal disorders among seafood processing workers in his home country of Vietnam. He will return to Vietnam to help his

country reduce the human health costs of rapid economic development. This scholarship was created to honor Dean Janice M. Stecchi, who retired in 2003 after 32 years of service to the University.

**Rohini Vishwanathan, a Ph.D. candidate** in the Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology program and research assistant in the Center for Health and Disease Research under Prof. Robert Nicolosi's supervision, was lead author of a paper published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. Reuters Health wrote an article titled [Egg yolks may reduce risk of age-related macular degeneration](#).

## Physical Therapy Students Win New England College Bowl

Four UMass Lowell Exercise Physiology students won the sixth Annual New England American College of Sports Medicine College Bowl competition, beating 15 universities and colleges in New England.

The competition, set up like the Jeopardy quiz show, tested the knowledge of undergraduate student teams on physiology, anatomy, nutrition and pathology.



As difficult as the rapid-fire questions were, the UMass Lowell team members of Rachel DeBlois, Adam Potts, Connor Ryan and alternate team member Katelyn McMahon, all seniors, kept their cool and won. [Read more in the ENews article](#).

*In photo, from left, back row, faculty coaches Cynthia Ferrara and Danielle Day with student Katelyn McMahon, the team alternate; front, students Rachel DeBlois, Connor Ryan and Adam Potts.*

## 20 Years of Reducing Toxics Celebrated

Twenty years ago, on the heels of Woburn's toxic contamination nightmare that inspired the movie "A Civil Action," the Exxon Valdez tanker oil spill poisoned waters and wildlife in Alaska. It was also the first year that the Environmental Protection Agency made public, under the federal Community Right-to-Know Act, that manufacturing facilities released 14.8 billion pounds of toxic chemicals into the nation's water, air and land.



This was the backdrop for the birth of a new way of examining and reducing toxic chemical use in Massachusetts. The law that was enacted in 1989 under Gov. Michael Dukakis - the Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) - involved Profs. Ken Geiser and Michael Ellenbecker of Work Environment, who described the legislation's lengthy and breakthrough negotiations at the TURA 20th Anniversary Symposium on Nov. 4. [Read the rest of the ENews article](#).

*In photo from left, Prof. Ken Geiser, Dean Shortie McKinney and Prof. Michael Ellenbecker at the TURA Symposium.*

## Welcome to New SHE Faculty and Staff

**Asst. Prof. Mahdi Garelnabi** teaches physiological chemistry and clinical laboratory instrumentation courses in Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences Department. His research interest focuses on the role of oxidative stress, inflammation and lipoproteins modification in atherosclerosis as well as new method development and validation studies in clinical laboratory. He received a doctorate in Clinical Chemistry at Delhi University followed by five years Postdoctoral fellowship training in Cardiovascular and lipoprotein pathophysiology research at Emory University School of Medicine. He later pursued a research



scientist position at the Ohio State University School of Medicine before joining Siemens Healthcare Diagnostic Company as a Clinical Scientist. [Read more.](#)

**Malinda Buchanan** joined the Community Health and Sustainability Department in September as an administrator. She provides clerical and logistical support to department faculty and oversees graduate assistantship students and student employees. Previously, she worked at the Toxics Use Reduction Institute for 12 years.



**Assoc. Prof. Juliette Shellman** recently joined the faculty in the Department of Nursing. Shellman is a certified community health clinical nurse specialist with a focus on improving care to older adults. She has a broad range of community experiences including international work involving collaborative projects with colleagues at the University of Cartegna, Spain and graduate work in Jeremie, Haiti. [Read more.](#)

**Robin Gavin** joined the Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences Department in September as an administrative assistant. She maintains databases and student files as well as supervises work study students. Previously, she worked at the Toxics Use Reduction Institute for 16 years.



**Asst. Prof. Karen B. Foulke** is a full-time clinical faculty member for the clinical practicum Health Promotion and Risk Reduction of Families II. She also teaches an introductory course, Strategies for Academic Success, for the Department of Nursing. She is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Her experience includes a total of 24 years in the field of psychiatric nursing in a variety of treatment settings. She currently practices in an outpatient psychiatric practice in North Andover conducting psychiatric evaluations for children and adolescents, as well as prescribing and monitoring their psychiatric medications. [Read more.](#)

**Assoc. Prof. Angela Nannini of Nursing** earned her Ph.D. from Brandeis University where she studied health policy and focused on health disparities resulting in a dissertation on sexual assault of women with disabilities. As a family nurse practitioner, conversant in Spanish, Assoc. Prof. Nannini has worked for more than 30 years with various Latino populations as well as other underserved low income groups. Her experiences in clinical care have inspired her work in public health policy and nursing education. She has taught nursing at the associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels in health policy, urban health and epidemiology. [Read more.](#)



**Clinical Asst. Prof. Tanya Coutu** of Nursing co-coordinates the Health Promotion and Risk Reduction of Families I Practicum, teaches a maternity clinical section, Nursing Fundamentals Labs, and Simulation lab. She began her career as a nurse, LPN, in 1992, working for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at Tewksbury State Hospital. Then as an RN, she worked in local community hospitals on medical-surgical and maternity units. Tanya received her undergraduate nursing degree and Masters of Science from Rivier College. She is currently finishing her post-Masters degree in the Family Nurse Practitioner track. Before joining UMass Lowell, Tanya was a maternal-child clinical adjunct faculty for other local nursing schools -- Rivier College and Greater Lowell Adult LPN program.

## Nursing Students Without Borders Headed to Ghana

Ten nursing seniors will travel to Ghana, Africa on December 27 with Asst. Prof. Valerie King to provide care, medical supplies and education to people in the Kpando district.

*In photo, back row, Liz Long, Stephanie Whippen, Lauren O'Keefe, Jody Roper, Michelle Peterson, Asst. Profs. Valerie King and Miki Patterson, and Zanele Denaro; front row, Jocelyn Lilly, Brittany Aggott, Renee*



Glennon, Allison Geissert; missing from photo, Mary Mosewick and Linh Phan.

The students will bring supplies, including first aid equipment, medication, vitamins, surgical gloves, needle syringes and iron-enriched baby formula as well as soap, shampoo and other hygiene products.

To fund their mission, the group has held various events including one at the Allen House that raised more than \$2,000. The students and the group's faculty advisor Valerie King are paying for their own travel and personal expenses.

"We have raised around \$9,000, a far cry from our goal, but still plenty of money to purchase supplies for our journey," says Jody Roper, supply coordinator and secretary of NSWB. "I have been so impressed with people's generosity. I have over 400 pounds of supplies in my basement that will go to great use when we arrive in Ghana this December."

Nursing Students Without Borders (NSWB) was the brainchild of Brianna Norton who established the group in 2008 in her junior year of nursing. The first group of students that visited Ghana in January 2009 educated HIV patients about nutrition, health, and medication regimens. They held blood pressure clinics, conducted HIV testing, taught good hygiene and set up a clean water well in a fishing village.

Inspired by Norton and the entire group, Roper joined NSWB to make a difference.

"I think that most of us enrolled in the nursing program at UMass Lowell because we care about people, have a passion for medicine and science, and want to make a difference in people's lives when we join the work force," says Roper. "NSWB is providing me with an incredible opportunity to put all of these passions into action. In a few short weeks, I will be traveling to another country and learning about a culture by living with, and caring for, the people there. I couldn't imagine a more enriching experience."

Asst. Prof. Miki Patterson, who is the group's faculty advisor along with King, will remain in the states as an emergency contact person. Two junior students -Mary Mosewick and Lihn Phan - will not be traveling with the group this year, but have been active participants in fundraising and supply gathering. Both students plan to attend NSWB's trip next year.

If you are interested in donating funds, please visit the [online donation website](#).

## Students Attend Clinical Chemistry Meeting

The Northeast Section of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) recently sponsored the registration and dinner expense for 22 senior and five MS Clinical Laboratory Science and Medical Technology students to attend the November meeting.



A presentation was given by Dr. Michael Holick entitled: "The D-Lightful Vitamin D for Health." Student sponsorship was facilitated by Professor Eugene Rogers who is both a local Board of Directors member of the NE AACC Section and national officer in the House of Delegates where he represents the interests of AACC members in New England and Eastern Canada.

Prof. Rogers also moderated the meeting and mentioned to all attending that "A vital part of the mission of the NE AACC Section is education and their decision to support the attendance of these laboratory science students for the fourth year in a row tonight clearly indicates that they are accomplishing that goal."

In addition to the students and Rogers, Asst. Prof. Mahdi Garelnabi, and Profs. Garry Handelman and Kay Doyle also attended. [View more photos on the NE AACC web site](#).

## Brunette Presents Ergonomics Research at Peruvian Conference

Asst. Prof. Maria Brunette of Work Environment was one of the key presenters among other international experts from Belgium, Chile and Colombia, at the First Ergonomics Congress in Lima, Peru in November.



*Brunette (left) participates in a post-conference work meeting with members of the Peruvian Society of Ergonomics.*

The event, organized by the Peruvian Society of Ergonomics, attracted more than 100 public health, engineers and other related professionals. Several presentations illustrated the challenges Peruvian workers face and encouraged the audience to take formal and collaborative steps to work together to reduce the exposure to well-known physical, chemical and psychosocial hazards.



Brunette discussed the broader holistic concept of ergonomics and provided a framework that primarily considers the various levels of the work system. She provided a synthesis of her doctoral research conducted in Peru and the implications of the findings considering the current regulatory system for occupational safety and health in Peru. She discussed the current safety and health conditions of the rest of Latin Americans who live and work in the United States. Finally, she presented general aspects of two research approaches relating to participatory ergonomics and community ergonomics.

At the conference, Brunette was recognized as an official member of the Peruvian Society of Ergonomics (in photo with Anibal Hermosa, engineer and president of the society).

She is now working with this organization to develop a strategic plan of research initiatives named "Ergonomics Peru 2020."

## Faculty Published in American Journal of Public Health

A November supplement of the American Journal of Public Health was supported by UMass Lowell and three federal partners -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Asst. Prof. Eduardo Siqueira of Community Health and Sustainability was guest editor of the Environmental and Occupational Justice supplement. He also authored an editorial titled **Community-Engaged Environmental Justice Research at University of Massachusetts Lowell** and co-authored an article **The Vida Verde Women's Co-Op: Brazilian Immigrants Organizing to Promote Environmental and Social Justice**.

Prof. Margaret Quinn of Work Environment was the lead author for the article **Sharps Injuries and Other Blood and Body Fluid Exposures Among Home Health Care Nurses and Aides**.

According to the EPA press release, "the compilation of articles demonstrates the advancement and evolving sophistication of environmental and occupational justice work, and the use of community-based participatory research approaches over the past decade. The special online issue highlights various contributions of environmental and occupational justice projects across the country."

To read the articles, visit the [American Journal of Public Health web site](#).

## Students Awarded Dr. David H. Wegman Scholarship

Mary Mosewick, a junior Nursing student, and Haley Catarius, a junior Community Health and Sustainability student, were each awarded the Wegman Scholarship for \$1,130. Named after David H. Wegman, currently a professor in Work Environment and former Dean of the School of Health and Environment, the scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate a commitment to an integrated vision of health and the environment.

### About Mary Mosewick

As an active participant in UMass Lowell's Bring Diversity to Nursing Program, Mary Mosewick has accompanied Nursing Professors to Lawrence High School to encourage students to consider nursing as a career. Mary is also a SHE Scholar and has worked with community groups to develop health promotion programs. She is the Secretary to Nursing Students Without Borders and assists with fundraising efforts to obtain necessary medical supplies for the students' annual winter trip to Ghana. Mary demonstrate a strong commitment to health and environment through her work with at risk youth at Girls, Inc, her work with enhancing literacy skills at the Tewksbury High School Library, her work with HIV Vaccines at Brigham and Women's Hospital and with hunger and homelessness at the Tewksbury Food Pantry. The Wegman Scholarship and the educational opportunities it represents, provides Mary with the opportunity to continue her commitment to health, social and environmental issues.

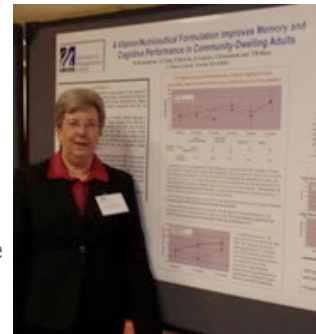
### About Haley Catarius

As President of the Community Health and Education Club, Haley collaborated with other club leaders to help UMass Lowell students see how protecting the environment can promote public health. The group sponsored three movie presentations to encourage student awareness of environmental issues such as clean water problems, and the role of Corporate Accountability International in water protection. She also rallied for Public Higher Education and volunteered for the RiverHawk Raise Up Rations Food Drive for the homeless population. Haley wrote a letter to the editor of the Lowell Sun to address the issue of wastewater treatment as both an environmental and public health issue. She demonstrates her commitment to her personal health in her role as an outstanding UMass Lowell athlete. In May 2009, she was named an All-American for the second straight year to lead UMass Lowell at the NCAA Division II Track and Field Championship at Angelo State University. This was her fifth time earning All-American status.

## Vitamin/Nutraceutical Improves Memory

A recent study presented at the Gerontological Society of America's 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting shows that a combination of vitamins and nutraceuticals improves memory and cognitive performance in community-dwelling adults.

A team of researchers at the University of Massachusetts Lowell tested the efficacy of a specially designed formulation on cognitive performance in healthy adults. The nutraceutical formulation includes vitamin B12, folate, vitamin E, S-Adenosyl L-methionine (SAM-e), Acetyl-L-carnitine (ALCAR) and N-acetyl cysteine (NAC).



"These findings suggest that people taking the nutraceutical formulation on a regular basis may be able to carry out complex mental tasks more quickly and more efficiently," said Prof. Ruth Remington of Nursing (in photo) from the University of Massachusetts Lowell team. "This is very exciting news in the area of cognitive health and shows an approach that healthy adults can take to stay sharp as they age," she continued.

[Read the press release.](#)

## Faculty and Staff News

### Publications

Quinn M, Markkanen P, Galligan C, Kriebel D, Chalupka S, Kim H, Gore R, Sama S, Laramie A, Davis L. **Sharps injuries and other blood and body fluid exposures among home healthcare nurses and aides**, Am J Public Health 99:S710-S717, 2009.

[Surface Mount Technology, Evaluation of Lead-free Solders, Halogen-free Laminates, and Nanomaterial Surface Finishes for Assembly of Printed Circuit Boards for High Reliability Applications](#). By Gregory Morose, Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute; Robert Farrell, Benchmark Electronics; and Profs. Sammy Shina, Michael Ellenbecker, and Rafael Moure-Eraso of UMass Lowell.

Remington, R., Chan, A., Tchantchou, F., Oritz, D., & Shea, T.B., (2009). **Neuroprotective effects of apples on cognition and Alzheimer's disease**. AgroFood Industry High-Tech, 20(6), 30-32.

## Testimony

Assoc. Prof. Joel Tickner of Community Health and Sustainability was invited by the co-chairs of the **Congressional Children's Environmental Health Caucus (Representatives Rush Holt and Frank LoBiondo)** to brief federal lawmakers on chemical regulations in individual states that will inform the re-vamping of the 30-year old federal law, the Toxics Substance Control Act.

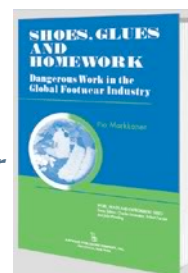
## Textbook

Norkin, C. and White, J.: **Measurement of Joint Motion** (4th edition). Philadelphia, F.A. Davis, 2009. This textbook is translated and published in six languages in addition to English. It continues to be a classic in the area of physical therapy and is second on the list of most required textbooks in Physical Therapy and Physical Therapy Assistants programs - as determined by survey conducted by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy several years ago.

## New Books

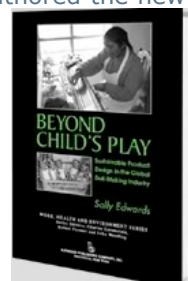
Two new books, published by Baywood Publishing as part of its Work, Health, and Environment Series, were edited by UMass Lowell professors Charles Levenstein, Robert Farrant, and John Wooding.

Pia Markkanen, Research Professor in Work Environment, authored a new book **"Shoes, Glues, and Homework: Dangerous Work in the Global Footwear Industry."**



About the book: This study of working conditions in shoemaking in the informal sector in Indonesia and the Philippines, along with their gender dimensions and national and international policy implications, is based on Pia Markkanen's experience in both countries during 2002, with applied qualitative research techniques: in-depth interviews and worksite visits. The use of organic solvents makes shoemaking a particularly hazardous occupation. The book illustrates the global need for safe and healthy chemical alternatives and for their introduction at the beginning of use and supply chain applications. [Read more about the book.](#)

Sally Edwards, research associate at the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, authored the new book **"Beyond Child's Play: Sustainable Product Design in the Global Doll-Making Industry"**



About the book: Sustainable product design is more than eco design: it goes beyond "green" to consider the work environment, community impacts, consumer health, and economic viability, as well as environmental attributes. Beyond Child's Play explores the concept of sustainable product design in the context of the global doll-making industry. To initiate this research, the author reviewed eco design parameters and developed criteria for sustainable product design in the doll-making industry. Using this framework, she conducted three case studies of doll making: the American Girl doll produced in China, the Käthe Kruse doll produced in Germany and the Q'ewar Project doll produced in Peru. Themes emerged from this research that have relevance beyond the doll-making industry: the value of making a product with care; designing work for human dignity; intention and vision for sustainability; the implications of materials choices; and transparency and sustainability. [Read more about the book.](#)

## Presentations, Trainings, Conferences



Ramraj Gautam who is a visiting lecturer from Nepal, attended the Gerontology Society of America conference and presented his poster "Intergenerational social support, conflict, and mental health of older adults in Nepal." Pictured with Nursing Department Chair Karen Devereaux Melillo.

Asst. Prof. Valerie King presented at the UMass Lowell 10th Annual International Education Week event in November. She discussed her poster presentation on **The Nursing Experience in Ghana** which was done as part of the presentation for the Center for African Partnerships.



Poghosyan, L, Kelleher, K., & Nannini, A. (2009, November 9). **Health and health care access of unemployed during a recession: An investigation in a state with health reform.** Poster presented at the 137th Annual Meeting American Public Health Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Assoc. Prof. Tom Wilson presented two talks to nutrition classes at Middlesex Community College in Lowell and Bedford titled **Nutrition and Fitness.**

### Awards & Acknowledgments

**Chair of Nursing Karen Devereaux Melillo** was awarded Fellow status with the Gerontological Society of America, through the Social Research, Policy and Practice Section. She was presented with the award at the annual Fellows Reception in November at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Atlanta.

She was also acknowledged as Participant and Planning Committee Member in "A Report from the Invitational Working Session. Strengthening Partnerships: Enhancing Options for Clinical Placements in Long-Term Care and Home Health Care Settings." The report was funded by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education's Nursing and Allied Health Initiative.

### Appointments

**Chair Kay Doyle** has been appointed to the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Institute Advisory Board. This board will advise the ASCP Executive Board about Health Services Research, Domestic Outreach, Research-Related Needs of the Workforce and Global Outreach including their PEPFAR initiative in Africa, Haiti and other AIDS endemic areas, and other extramural activities for the future.

**Assoc. Prof. Cynthia Ferrara** of Physical Therapy was appointed a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine.

**Assoc. Prof. Joyce White** of Physical Therapy was appointed chairperson of the UMass Lowell's Institutional Review Board. This board reviews all studies conducted at the University for ethical treatment of human subjects.

### In the News

**Chair Kay Doyle** was recently interviewed for the cover story article [The Workforce Challenge: Will Simplifying Credentialing Speed Change?](#) in the November issue of Clinical Laboratory News. Doyle discusses the current workforce shortage, the effect of the recent economic downturn and why Massachusetts clinical laboratories are willing to take students for clinical internships. Clinical Laboratory News is a publication of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) and has a worldwide audience.

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