The RMCOEH capstone graduate student course, *Occupational Safety and Health Solutions*, now in its fourth year, has developed into a model curriculum that is receiving excellent reviews by business partners in the community, students, faculty, and national and international peers in academia. *Occupational Safety and Health Solutions* is designed as a project course in which students and faculty in each of the disciplines represented at the RMCOEH work with local businesses to develop solutions to health and safety challenges experienced in their facilities. Students work directly under the supervision of expert faculty to investigate challenges or problems identified by our business partners, and in turn develop cost-effective solutions to help address the challenges and resolve those issues. This course also helps students to transition from classroom teaching to solving OSH problems for businesses, providing better prepared graduates. Over the past several years *Occupational Safety and Health Solutions* classes have worked with small and large employers throughout the region on a host of projects at no or low cost to the employers. Some examples of successful projects performed in the past several years include the following:

- Characterizing Noise Exposures and Subsequent Recommendations
- Ergonomic Analysis of Manual Material Handling Jobs in a Printing Facility
- Isopropyl Alcohol: Vapor Concentrations in a Manufacturing Facility
- Isoplethic Characterization of Airborne Particulate in a Smelter Facility

*Occupational Safety and Health Solutions* is offered in the Spring Semester starting in early January. If you or your company have any potential projects with an Ergonomic/Safety, Industrial Hygiene, or Occupational Medicine focus that you would like our faculty and students to help you solve, please contact one of our faculty:

- Rod Larson, PhD, CIH, Industrial Hygiene
  (801) 585-3673
- Andrew Merryweather, PhD, Ergonomics/Safety
  (801) 581-8118
- Eric Wood, MD, MPH, Occupational Medicine
  (801) 581-7780
hether it’s a minor back strain or something as severe as paralysis, injuries on the job can have a significant impact on workers’ lives—and on their employers’ bottom line. Working tirelessly to improve workplace safety in Utah and the surrounding region, the RMCOEH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Robert Gardner has been on the Rocky Mountain Center’s Advisory Board since 2007. For the last 10 years he has been at Liberty Mutual. He has been actively involved in Safety in Utah for over 25 years. He began his career as a safety professional in the high explosives industry working for Ensign Bickford Company. He served as the Safety Director for 15 years. He had previously worked in the manufacturing processes in a variety of positions including Quality Assurance and Supervisor. His experience, knowledge and understanding of the explosives processes contributed to his ability to identify risks and work well with his fellow employees.

During his tenure as Safety Director, the company earned the prestigious Utah Labor Commission Workplace Safety Award. Best practice safety programs were developed with a foundation in both traditional and behavioral safety approaches. Rob encouraged, and was successful in getting, management to directly involve employees in safety and honor their understanding of operations. This helped forge a more cooperative effort between management and employees which greatly contributed to reduced risk and the associated injuries and incidents.

During the years working in the explosives industry, Rob was actively involved in working with Emergency Responders. He helped develop Emergency Action Plans and worked to create good working relationships with local Fire Departments. He also spent time working on the LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee. He was also instrumental in getting many company employees involved in the local CERT – Community Emergency Response Teams.

Rob was awarded the Utah Safety Council’s Individual Achievement in Safety Award while working at Ensign Bickford. Although this award was presented as an individual award, Rob realized that such an award must be shared with his associates. They learned, adopted and executed a well conceived safety process that united the company in a common cause – getting everyone home safely every day.

After gaining a strong foundation in safety, he later chose to pursue an opportunity to work for Liberty Mutual Insurance Group as a Loss Control Consultant. Rob is convinced that his industrial experience has proven to be a distinct advantage in his consulting work. He has worked for Liberty Mutual for the last 10 years and is stationed in the Salt Lake City area. Rob has specialized in Behavior Based Safety and is presently serving as the Pacific/Southwest Organizational Safety Performance Practice Leader. (continue page 3)
In June, the Workers Compensation Fund awarded 10 RMCOEH graduate students Dr. Paul S. Richards Safe Workplace Scholarships. The WCF initiated the Scholarship Program in 1997 to help facilitate the education and training of individuals committed to a career of keeping workplaces safe and protecting workers. Scholarships were awarded to the following graduate students in the fields of Ergonomics and Safety: (Kasey Greeland, Sree Jampala, John Quincy and Rami Shorti), and Industrial Hygiene; (Nancy Brinton, Jamie Freestone, James McDonald, Andrew Migel and Taylor Perkins) and Occupational Medicine; (Christopher Dea)

Scholarships Presented

Christopher Dea, Kasey Greenland, Sree Jampala, John Quincy, Rami Shorti, Nancy Brinton, Jamie Freestone, James McDonald, Andrew Migel, Taylor Perkins

Continuation from page 2

He is responsible for coaching & mentoring OSP Specialists within the Pacific Southwest Region and providing a wide range of loss control services to customers throughout the western United States.

Rob spends much of his time facilitating employee cross-functional teams at large national customer locations. These customers commonly realize significant risk reductions, safety process improvements, operational improvements and leadership development. He enjoys coaching and mentoring customer safety leaders in the risk reduction methodologies so that they can become self-sufficient and realize high levels of success.

Rob is also a recognized speaker at the Worldwide Behavior Safety Now Conference. At this conference, Behavior Based Safety specialists and practitioners gather to share success stories and learn the science and best practices of this progressive area of safety. He has also presented on a number of key safety topics at the Utah Conference on Safety & Industrial Hygiene. He is a passionate advocate of improving safety in the workplace, at home and at play.

Rob attended Springville High School, Utah Valley University and Brigham Young University. He also earned an Associate Risk Manager Certification – ARM. He is the father of 5 children, and presently lives in Provo, Utah with his wife of 33 years, Gayle.
Scholarships Available!

Through the generosity of Workers Compensation Fund, two fully-funded scholarships for Occupational Health Nurses to obtain Master of Science in Occupational Health (MSOH) degrees have been made available. These are for any nurse who is interested in specializing in Occupational Health.

MSOH Courses include:

- Management of Health and Safety Programs
- Occupational Epidemiology
- Introduction to Ergonomics
- Industrial Hygiene
- Capstone Course in Occupational Safety and Health Solutions.

Please send your letter of interest and two letters of support to: Kurt Hegmann, MD, MPH, 391 Chipeta Way, Suite C, Salt Lake City, UT 84108

December Courses
- OSHA 7300 Understanding OSHA’s Permit-Required Confined Space Standard
- Effective Safety Committees
- OSHA 7200: Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control

January Courses
- Asbestos Project Designer Refresher
- Asbestos Worker Refresher in Spanish
- OSAH 510 Occupational Safety & Health Standards for the Construction Industry
- Lead Inspector Refresher

February Courses
- CAOHC—Approved Occupational Hearing Conservation & Refresher
- Lead Inspector Risk Assessor Training
- 40 hr. HAZWOPER Training
- Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner Refresher

March Course
- OSHA 2045: Machinery & Machine Guarding Standards
- Indoor Mold Contamination: Inspecting and Assessing the Risk
- DOT Hazardous Materials Transportation Training
- OSHA 3095 Electrical Standards

April Courses
- Asbestos Contractor/Supervisor Training
- Six Sigma and the Health, Safety and Environmental Professional
- 8th Annual Regional NORA Young/New Investigators Symposium
- OSHA 501 Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry

May Courses
- OSHA 502: Update for Construction Industry Outreach Trainers
- Chemical Compatibility and Storage
- International Air Transport Association (IATA) Refresher Training
- OSHA 500: Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry
- 8—Hour HAZWOPER Refresher

June Courses
- Lead Renovation, Repair & Painting
- OSHA 2225 Respiratory Protection
- Lead Inspector Refresher
- Lead Risk Assessor Refresher
- Air Monitoring for Toxic Substances
- Asbestos Project Designer

For additional information on CE classes, including distant learning courses, please visit the continuing education section of the RMCOEH website: http://medicine.utah.edu/rmcoeh
During the 08/09 academic year, a number of Industrial Hygiene students were recognized for their academic and workplace accomplishments with scholarship awards for the 2009-2010 school year. Nationally, James (Jim) McDonald and Nancy Brinton both received awards from the American Industrial Hygiene Foundation (AIHF), with Jim receiving the Dr. Jeffrey S. Lee Memorial Scholarship and Nancy receiving a general AIHF scholarship. Jim was also awarded the coveted 3M Industrial Hygiene Scholarship. Both recipients were on hand in Toronto at the American Industrial Hygiene Association 2009 Conference and Expo (AIHCE) held in Toronto, Canada. At the regional level, James McDonald, Nancy Brinton, Andrew Migel, Jamie Freestone, and Taylor Perkins were recipients of the Dr. Paul S. Richards Safe Workplace (Workers Compensation Fund) Scholarship. Locally, James McDonald also received the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Utah Section Outstanding Student Award as well as the 3M Industrial hygiene Scholarship.

Six students from the Industrial Hygiene core were in attendance at AIHCE held in Toronto, Canada. Kyle Kimbal delivered a podium presentation regarding his research on real-time monitoring of diesel particulate matter (DPM), while James McDonald, Nancy Brinton, Jamie Freestone, and Jeremiah Webster presented posters on their respective thesis research projects. Similarly, several Industrial Hygiene students were selected to present their respective research projects at the 7th Annual Regional National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Young/New Investigators Symposium held on the University of Utah campus in April 2009. These students were: Jeremiah Webster, Nancy Brinton, Brent Matheson, John Call, Roland Loewer, Ben Dunbar and Kaleena Showell. There was a wide variety of interesting projects, ranging from various aspects of ergonomics to chemical and metal exposure monitoring. The Rocky Mountain Center has been blessed with a bumper crop of high achieving students and their intellect and efforts have not gone unnoticed!

Other RMCOEH News

- RMCOEH student James McDonald honored as Utah Local Section AIHA Student of the Year on March 25, 2009
- RMCOEH part-time student Jeff Throckmorton inducted as a Fellow for ABIH (5% of board certified members achieve this recognition ~ Dr. Larson is also a fellow)
- RMCOEH graduate Dave Roskelley, elected to AIHA National Board of Directors, this is a 3 year term
- RMCOEH graduate and current advisory board member, Michael Taylor, recognized for his leadership in the Chairmanship of the AIHA National Local Section Board.
Senate Bill 15 Signed

Senate Bill 15 is the most important piece of worker’s compensation legislation passed during the 2009 General Session for three reasons:

- SB 15 calls for a dramatic decrease in the Utah premium tax rate culminating with a maximum 1.25% rate in 2013. This rate has been as high as 10% in the past. Such a change will save Utah employers tens of millions of dollars annually. It will move the State’s workers’ compensation system from one of the highest taxing systems in the country to one of the lowest.
- SB 15 establishes an employer and employee agreed upon mechanism to fund the Labor Commission’s Industrial Accident Division and Adjudication Division. Funding comes from premium tax revenues and can even be accomplished with the foregoing tax reduction.
- SB 15 creates the Eddie P. Mayne Workplace Safety and Occupational Health Funding Program. This Program honors Ed’s memory as an advocate of workplace safety and health, including his long tenure at RMCOEH Advisory Board. It further allows the Legislature to appropriate money to the University of Utah’s RMCOEH for the purposes of bringing safety and health programs to the workplace. The Rocky Mountain Center does this by training professional on ergonomics and safety, industrial hygiene, and occupational medicine. Both graduate training and continuing education are offered. Further, research is undertaken to promote the science of workplace safety and occupational health. The Rocky Mountain Center is a NIOSH Education and Research Center, one of only 17 in the entire country. The Legislature appropriated $150,000 into the Eddie P. Mayne Workplace Safety and Occupational Health Funding Program for FY 2009/2010.

New Faculty Member

Dr. Biggs joined the RMCOEH faculty in July 2009 after completing residency training in Occupational and Environmental Medicine at the Rocky Mountain Center. His professional interests include the diagnosis, management and prevention of musculoskeletal injuries and illnesses, return to work programs for ill and injured workers, and workplace health promotion. Dr. Biggs contributes to the development of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine’s Evidence-Based Practice Guidelines. He graduated in 2006 from the University of Utah School of Medicine as a junior member of Alpha Omega Alpha (medical honor society) and was the recipient of the Deans Award. He completed a Master of Science of Public Health degree in 2002 and Occupational and Environmental Medicine residency at the University of Utah in 2009.

Welcome Dr. Biggs!