

The Rocky Mountain Center

Volume 5, Issue 2

MSOH/MOH

NEW DEGREES AT RMCOEH

In January 18, 2008, the Board of Regents approved the addition of a Master of Science in Occupational Health (MSOH) degree and a Master of Occupational Health (MOH) degree granted through the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. The primary difference between the two degrees is the MSOH degree includes a requirement for a thesis, and the MOH degree will primarily be a professional degree. Until recently, most students graduating from the occupational health programs received Public Health Degrees. Changes in accreditations requirements to attain a degree in Public Health have resulted in a significant increase in numbers of public health courses and credit hours for the occupational health students to complete their training. Further, these changes resulted in limiting the occupational health core course requirements. These issues provided impetus for the MSOH/MOH proposal to be approved unanimously at all levels of the University.

The programs will consist of Core Curricula for each occupational safety and health (OSH) program: 1) Industrial Hygiene (IH), 2) Hazardous Substances Academic Training (HSAT), 3) Occupational Medicine (OM), 4) Occupational Injury Prevention Research Training (OIPRT), 5) Occupational Safety, 6) Ergonomics and 7) General Occupational Health. Electives will be selected from a list of options with guidance from the student's assigned faculty advisor. The electives will focus on those needed for the student's area of emphasis and interest.

The IH and HSAT Programs' graduates remain in demand. Most of our Industrial Hygiene trainees are placed in advanced careers jobs before they complete the training program. Occupational Medicine Physicians are similarly in demand and most jobs in the US go unfilled. Ergonomics and Safety students are also placed without difficulty. Occupational Injury Prevention Research is a relatively new doctoral field involving designing interdisciplinary solutions to workplace injury problems.

Continue on page 3

Gateway to OSH

Occupational Safety and Health

RMCOEH RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING

The legislative Session this year was another beneficial one for the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH), although it was somewhat bitter-sweet with the absence of Senator Eddie Mayne.

On January 28, 2008, Senator Karen Mayne, Ed's wife and replacement, assisted by Dr. Kurt Hegmann briefed the Commerce and Workforce Services Appropriations Subcommittee. Senator Mayne urged the creation of a restricted account within the General Fund known as the "Eddie P. Mayne Workplace Safety and Occupational Health Account" which provides funding for programs at the Rocky Mountain Center. Senator Mayne requested \$100,000 one-time and \$150,000 ongoing funding for education programs, research, administration and related costs of the Center. The Legislature did provide the requested appropriations as part of the State's final budget, thus the RMCOEH is apparently the first ERC written into a state budget in years.

Funds are being used to partially fund 4 new faculty hires. They are:

- Matthew Hughes, MD, MPH: Occupational Medicine
- Matthew Thiese, PhD: Occupational Injury Prevention
- Andrew Merryweather, PhD: Ergonomics & Safety
- TBN Industrial Hygiene

Inside this Issue:

MSOH/MOH Degrees
1 & 3

Advisory Board Spotlights
2

Updates
3

Upcoming Continuing Education
4

Utah's WCF Scholarship Recipients
4

RMCOEH News Corner
5-6

RMCOEH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

*D*ennis Lloyd, J.D. is the RMCOEH Advisory Board Chair and was elected to that position in May 2007. Previously he served as Vice Chair. He has been a member of the RMCOEH Advisory Board since 2000.

Mr. Lloyd is the Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Counsel of the Workers' Compensation Fund. WCF is a quasi-public corporation insuring approximately 30,000 policyholders, and provides a full array of workers compensation insurance services, and is statutorily the insurer of last resort in the State of Utah. WCF insures approximately 64% of the insured market in Utah.

He received his education at the University of Utah with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1976, a

Masters of Business Administration 1978 and his Juris Doctorate in 1979.

Dennis serves many professional associations and affiliations including: Legislative Liaison Utah Workers' Compensation Defense Bar, Member Board of Trustees of the University Hospital Foundation, and Bar Examiner. He was selected as the 2006, Connect Magazine XO Award as a Community Hero for his efforts with the WCF Legacy of Learning Scholarships Program.

Mr. Lloyd is well known for his sharp wit, tireless work on statutory language (e.g. on bills supporting the University of Utah and the RMCOEH), boundless energy, and tremendously creative mind.



*D*on Marano is the RMCOEH Advisory Board Vice-Chair and was elected to that position in May of 2007. Before that he was the Chair for many years.

Don brings over 36 years of experience in the field of occupational safety and health. He graduated with honors from Rutgers University with a degree in Industrial Engineering and was commissioned in the U.S. Public Health Service and assigned to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Since 1980, he has been President of IHI Environmental and Adjunct Professor at the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Utah. Don is certified in the comprehensive practice of industrial hygiene by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, and is registered as a professional safety engineer in the state of California.

Throughout his professional career, he has participated in, designed, evaluated, or directed a large number of projects involving the measurement and/or assessment of worker exposures to a wide variety of substances, including asbestos. These studies have taken place in a diverse range of industrial, commercial and governmental establishments, including such workplaces as mines, mills, smelters, foundries, oil refineries, metal fabrication shops, aircraft maintenance and manufacturing facilities, agricultural establishments, federal and state government buildings, and chemical manufacturers.

In recent years Don has also participated in epidemiological research studies where he has reconstructed the historical exposures to a variety of chemicals for a large cohort of workers, many of whose employment began in the 1940s.

Mr. Marano has been particularly helpful in assisting the RMCOEH with countless accreditation and NIOSH grant site visits.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

RMCOEH Faculty

Elected to Fellow

*W*e are looking for photos of RMCOEH Alumni. It would be preferable to have the photo be of you at work or next to your organization's name. We would also like to have your business card.

We would like to spotlight our alumni and where they work, in future editions of the newsletters and on the web. Tell us about your work, how your education is assisting in that work, etc.

MOH/MSOH Continue from Page one

The RMCOEH has successfully received funding for the OIPRT doctoral program, but we plan to also incorporate a masters level curriculum in the near future.

MSOH students will typically have completed bachelors training, usually sciences-based, although students occasionally matriculate with other degrees. Competitive students applying for the MSOH degree will have strong baccalaureate backgrounds in sciences and math. Entering MSOH students will have had to achieve competitive GRE scores. The MOH program is for physicians seeking additional training in occupational medicine and aerospace medicine to become qualified to sit for the American Board of Preventive Medicine examination in their specific sub-specialties. As entering MOH students will have an MD or DO degree, they will not be required to take the GRE.

*T*he American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) announced the 2008 Fellow Award winners and they include **Rod R. Larson, PhD, CIH** – Director, IH Program, University of Utah, RMCOEH, who was one of 40 new fellows. Rod was nominated by D. Jeff Burton, CIH, PE.

“The Fellow Award has become a mark of excellence and achievement for AIHA members,” said AIHA Past President Frank M. Renshaw, PhD, CIH, CSP.

Members chosen to be Fellows have been nominated by colleagues in the profession for their significant contributions to the practice of industrial hygiene or related disciplines. The awarding of Fellowship is limited to no more than 5 percent of AIHA membership.

Utah Police Officers and Firefighters

Needed for Study

*O*n July 9, 2008, the RMCOEH issued a press release regarding the study, titled “Exposures in Firefighters and Police Officers: A Study of Health Effects”. Hundreds more Utah police officers and firefighters are needed for this critical statewide study. Participation is voluntary, simple and quick, requiring only a confidential survey online OR over the phone.

The criteria are simple: all full-time police officers and firefighters who served in Utah for at least one year between 1980 and 2004 are eligible to participate. The University of Utah's RMCOEH is conducting the study on behalf of the Utah Labor Commission. The study, titled “Exposures in Firefighters and Police Officers: A Study of Health Effects” is examining the relationship between health problems and chemical exposures on the job.

The RMCOEH has issued letters to firefighters and police officers statewide. While participation has been steady, many more participants are needed to make a more powerful and accurate analysis.

The impetus for the study came when a number of police officers, firefighters, and their families sought workers' compensation benefits for illnesses or deaths they felt were the result of exposure to the production of methamphetamines (police officers) and combustion products (firefighters) while performing duties on the job. The Utah Labor Commission and Legislature may use the results of the study to help determine future policy and legislation related to workers' compensation benefits for officers similarly exposed.

The study was appropriated through House Bill 009 during the 2006 Utah Legislative session and must be completed this fall, with a final report presented to the Business and Labor Interim Committee of the Utah State Legislature.

Upcoming Continuing Education Classes and Events

August Courses

- Chemical Hazards in the Workplace
- Comprehensive Review of Industrial Hygiene
- OSHA 510: Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry
- Asbestos Project Designer Refresher
- Asbestos Worker Refresher (In Spanish)
- 40 Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Course (HAZWOPER)
- OSHA 500: Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry

September Courses

- OSHA 503: Update for General Industry Outreach Trainers
- Pulmonary Function Testing
- COAHC-Approved Occupational Hearing Conservation
- Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner Refresher (Pocatello, Idaho)
- Asbestos Abatement for Contractors and Supervisors
- Utah Council for Worksite Health Promotion
- OSHA 2250: Principles of Ergonomics Applied to Work-Related Musculoskeletal & Nerve Disorders

October Courses

- Intermediate Industrial Toxicology & Quantitative Risk Assessment
- Asbestos Contractor/Supervisor Refresher (Saturday)
- Asbestos Inspector Management Planner Refresher

November Courses

- Lead Supervisor/Contractor Training
- OSHA 500: Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry
- Respiratory Protection & Fit Testing
- 3rd Symposium on Beryllium Particulates and Their Detection (Albuquerque, NM)
- Asbestos Contractor/Supervisor Refresher

December Course

- Effective Safety Committees
- OSHA 7300: Understanding OSHA's Permit-Required Confined Space Standard
- OSHA 7410: Managing Excavation Hazards
- OSHA 7200: Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control
- OSHA 7505: Introduction to Accident Investigation
- OSHA 7510: OSHA for Small Businesses
- OSHA 7105: Introduction to Evacuation and Emergency Planning
- OSHA 7500: Introduction to Safety & Health Management

Correspondence Courses (Anytime)

- Accident Investigation, Analysis & Prevention
- Environmental Management in the 21st Century
- Groundwater Contamination Remediation
- Practical Aspects of Health and Safety Management

For additional information on CE classes, please visit the continuing education section of the RMCOEH website: <http://uuhsc.utah.edu/rmcoeh/>

Utah Worker's Compensation Fund Scholarship Recipients

In June, the Workers Compensation Fund awarded five 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 Occupational Medicine; (Jeremy Biggs, and Anne Donohue), Safety and Ergonomics; (Kasey Greenland, Robert Poulson, and ByungJu Yoo), and Industrial Hygiene; (John Call, Jared Lee, and Justin Mecham).



Jeremy Biggs



Anne Donohue



Kasey Greenland



Robert Poulson



ByungJu Yoo



John Call



Jared Lee



Justin Mecham

RMCOEH News Corner

Deanne Clegg was selected to receive one of four 2008 Health Sciences District Staff Awards. This award is designed to recognize service excellence and commitment to the University of Utah. Deanne's name will be forwarded as a nominee for one of six University Staff Excellence Awards (formerly known as University Presidential Staff Awards).

Deanne came to the RMCOEH in October 1996 as the Executive Secretary to the Center's Director and Deputy Director. Her prior accounting experiences resulted in her promotion in March of 2003 to Administrative Assistant, with overall responsibility for managing and monitoring the Center's 48 financial accounts.

Her loyalty, excellence, precision and dedication to the RMCOEH, the DFPM, and the University are unsurpassed. Her entire focus in all her activities is to accomplish actions that will benefit one or more of these groups. She has been a full-time employee of the University for almost 12 years, and her contributions during that period have included coordination of multiple grant submissions. She has played important roles in developing RMCOEH staff and faculty interactions, including planning and managing meetings as well as social functions.

Deanne has been performing accounting services for the RMCOEH (recognized as the most complex group of accounts in DFPM), for the past several years as well as coordinating and organizing all of our numerous grant and progress report submissions. She has more recently taken on the tasks of working with and helping manage staff. This is a great honor as there are few recipients of this award chosen from so very many staff.... And the award is SO very well deserved!!

Congratulations Deanne!



Deanne Clegg

Student Choice Teaching Awards were recently awarded. RMCOEH is proud to recognize Richard Seseck, PhD, CSP, MPH, in the Mechanical Engineering Dept. as being honored with this award.

These six, university-wide awards are the primary way students honor outstanding professors at the University of Utah and it is particularly prestigious as the award represents a unique honor that is completely student-driven.

Students nominated Dr. Seseck with an essay, and then a committee of students reviewed the nominations and chose six winners. The criteria used to assess the professors were dependability, access to students, class performance, personal experience, teaching style, and motivation.

We all know of Dr. Seseck's dedication to students and unique ability to connect, transfer knowledge and encourage individual investigation that reaches students like few others can.



Richard Seseck with his wife Kim and son, Tony

Congratulations to Dr. Seseck!

Directorship of the RMCOEH Hazardous Substance Academic Training (HSAT) program has changed. Leon Pahler, PhD, MPH, CAIH is now Director of the RMCOEH HSAT Program. Dr. Larson will continue to serve as the Industrial Hygiene (IH) Director.

Congratulations to Dr. Pahler!



The University of Utah

Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational
& Environmental Health

391 Chipeta Way Suite C
Salt Lake City, UT
84108

Phone: (801) 581-4800
Fax: (801) 581-7224
[http://uuhsc.utah.edu/
rmcoeh/](http://uuhsc.utah.edu/rmcoeh/)

More RMCOEH News

*A*ppplied Ergonomic Conference: Student Design Competition.

Members of the ASSE Student Section competed in this year's competition. The team comprised of Andrew Merryweather, Derrick Franklin, Ryan Choi, Byungju Yoo, and Nathan Godfrey. Richard Sesek was the team's faculty advisor. This competition provides an opportunity for graduate students studying ergonomics and related fields to assess, design, and present solutions to a challenging ergonomic problem.

The preliminary competition was based on ergonomics solutions for small lawn care maintenance companies with a focus on identifying hazardous physical activities and developing cost-effective solutions. Based on their report, the

Utah team was selected as one of five finalists and was invited to the Applied Ergonomics Conference in Orlando, Florida, to participate in the final design competition.

The team was given the task of evaluating both grocery store checkout and stocking operations in order to identify and develop solutions to reduce ergonomic risk. They had less than 48 hours to design, solve and present their findings, and submit a report to a panel of ergonomics experts. The team worked hard with little sleep and did a great job presenting their findings. The Utah team placed second among the finalist teams. Team members each received a \$200 cash prize. It was a good opportunity that gave the team exposure to a high-stress, time-pressured, real-



Ryan Choi, Andrew Merryweather, Byungji Yoo, Derrick Franklin, back, Nathan Godfrey

world problem. To view the video made for the competition go to <http://gallery.mac.com/nate.godfrey/100075>.

Congratulations!