



Our Scholars	1
Student Research Day	3
2012–2013 Graduation	5
Award Winners	6
Peppers Prevent Parkinson's?	7
New Report on the Health Impacts of the Duwamish River Cleanup	8
Safe Tunneling	9
People & Places	10
Comings & Goings	12

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OUR DEPARTMENT IS ABOUT... CELEBRATING OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OUR SCHOLARS

Award winners from the department at the 2013 School of Public Health

Celebration of Public Health.

Front row (l to r): Adrienne Hidy, Terumi Capeling, Momoka Nakamura;

back row (l to r): Pamela Roqué, Vanessa Galaviz, Lyndsey Banks.

Photo: Elizabeth Sharpe

TWO OF OUR DOCTORAL STUDENTS won this year's top honors among the School of Public Health's five departments. Four additional outstanding scholars were recognized at the school's Celebration of Public Health and our department's Graduation Recognition Ceremony.

Cynn timer Curl

Cynthia "Cynn timer" Curl was named the school's Magnuson Scholar for 2013–2014. Curl is one of six students in UW Health Sciences to receive \$30,000 to support her studies. The scholars were selected on the basis of academic performance and potential contributions to research in the health sciences. The award is named in memory of Senator Warren G. Magnuson and his healthcare legacy.

"I'm so honored," said Curl. "I'm a non-traditional student because I'm doing this while trying to work." She works with Professor Joel Kaufman in the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis and Air Pollution, where she manages the 10-year, \$30 million grant funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).





OUR SCHOLARS (CONTINUED)

Left: Anna Fretheim stands with Chair David Kalman; right: Cynn timer Curl spoke at the Public Health Café in January. *Photos, l to r: Sarah Fish, Jon Sharpe*

Curl studies human exposures to pesticides from diet and is interested in understanding if these exposures result in health effects. In particular, she is researching whether eating an organic diet can provide a health benefit. Curl expects her work to be among the first to evaluate the potential for a link between pesticides, diet, and health in older adults.

She previously received the highly competitive STAR fellowship sponsored by the EPA.

Vanessa Galaviz

Vanessa Galaviz earned this year's Gilbert S. Omenn Award for Academic Excellence at the doctoral level. The award is named for a former dean of the School of Public Health.

Galaviz has a strong interest in protecting the environmental health of minority and low-income communities and a passion for mentoring undergraduate and high school students. Her doctoral research on diesel exhaust exposures combines these passions, because diesel exhaust exposure disproportionately affects low-income and minority communities. Her study addresses cross-border health issues along the US-Mexican border.

Lyndsey Banks

Lyndsey Banks was given the department's Outstanding Master's Student Award. Her research looks at the pros and cons of using mobile monitoring methods to measure air pollution near roads, which could have practical applications for communities. In April, she led the coordination of a campus-wide event to mark Worker Memorial Day.

Anna Fretheim

Anna Fretheim received the 2013 Jack Hatlen Scholarship, named for one of our influential emeritus faculty and awarded yearly to a promising undergraduate. She is co-leader of the Student Environmental Health Association (SEHA). Last summer she interned with the state's Office of Shellfish and Water Protection. This fall she will start a Master of Public Health program in Environmental Health at Emory University.

Momoka Nakamura

Momoka Nakamura was given the department's Outstanding Undergraduate Award. She has made the Dean's List every quarter at UW and has been an active leader in SEHA. Last summer she was one of four students selected nationally for an environmental health internship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. She will graduate this fall with a double degree in Environmental Health and Environmental Studies.

Pamela Roqué

Pamela Roqué received the department's Outstanding Doctoral Student Award. She entered the Environmental Toxicology program after a career in a fine art sculpture foundry. Her curiosity about health hazards in the arts led her back to school at age 36. Roqué's research is related to fetal alcohol syndrome. She received a fellowship funded by the National Institutes of Health to support her studies. She has broad interests, spanning environmental justice and international and labor law. She also has a keen interest in policy and regulations and how they affect public health. ■

At this year's Student Research Day on May 30, a second-year master's student from each of the five graduate degree programs gave a presentation on his or her research. Faculty preceptors are listed in parentheses. The remaining master's students graduating and the trainees in Biostatistics, Epidemiologic, and Bioinformatic Training in Environmental Health presented posters of their work.



Student Research Day presenters (l to r): John Linnett, Jessica Youngblood, Samantha Serrano, Andrew Forbes, Jill Schulte. *Photo: Sarah Fish*

Evaluation of Anti-Vibration Gloves

Andrew Forbes, MS, Occupational & Environmental Exposure Science (Peter Johnson)

While anti-vibration gloves are a common way to reduce employee exposure to hand-arm vibration, their effectiveness hadn't been studied in a real manufacturing environment. Forbes tested four types of gloves, each worn by workers using a sander while also wearing measuring devices called accelerometers. The workers' bare-handed measurements were used as a control. The gloved transmissibility factors were compared to the bare-hand sample to find the overall effectiveness of the glove. This method may allow for a better evaluation of the effectiveness of anti-vibration gloves for specific tasks.

Insulin and Liver Effects of Occupational Exposures

John Linnett, MPH, Occupational & Environmental Medicine (Joel Kaufman)

Occupational exposures to organic solvents are associated with liver toxicity, fatty liver disease, and insulin resistance. Linnett evaluated the relationships between occupational exposures to vapors and gases (a marker for solvent exposure), fatty liver disease, and insulin resistance in workers aged 45–64 who are participants in the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA). A small, but not statistically significant, increase in liver fat was seen with increasing exposure to vapors and gases. An unexpected trend toward decreased insulin resistance occurred with higher exposures.

Spatial Modeling of Diesel Exhaust Markers in South Seattle

Jill Schulte, MPH, Environmental & Occupational Health (Joel Kaufman)

The South Park and Georgetown neighborhoods of Seattle have high volumes of commercial truck traffic, prompting concern among residents about exposure to ambient diesel exhaust. Through the Diesel Exhaust Exposure in the Duwamish Study (DEEDS), Schulte measured, modeled, and mapped the gradient of two markers of diesel pollution throughout these neighborhoods. She found that pollution levels varied across small areas, and residents near busy roads and industrial areas faced disproportionately high levels of diesel exhaust pollution.

Phthalate Exposure in Pregnant Women

Samantha Serrano, MS, Environmental Health (Sheela Sathyanarayana)

Phthalates, a family of synthetic chemicals in consumer and industrial products, have been linked to harmful health outcomes following prenatal exposures. Food is considered the largest source of the most toxic phthalates for the general population. This study investigated dietary phthalate exposures in pregnant women. Soy consumption was found to be associated with increased levels of the urinary biomarker, mono-n-butyl phthalate (MBP). Even women who reported eating chemical-free foods had increased levels, suggesting that environmentally friendly consumption practices may not be protective against phthalate exposures.

—continued on page 4

Metagenomic Characterization of Puget Sound

Jessica Youngblood, MS, Environmental Toxicology
(Elaine Faustman)

This longitudinal study used metagenomics in combination with high-throughput genetic sequencing, field metadata, and bioinformatic analysis to profile bacterial communities in the surface waters of Puget Sound. Metagenomics is the study of genetic material recovered directly from an environmental sample that does not use culture and isolation methods. Youngblood examined the composition of bacterial communities, their functional potential, and determinants that could potentially be harmful to human health. Her study aimed to further characterize the Puget Sound metagenome and to explore both human impacts on the marine environment and marine influences on human health. ■

RESEARCH BRIEFS

Senior Carly Strecker (Biology) has been working in Professor Elaine Faustman's laboratory on a project for the Pacific Northwest Center, National Children's Study funded by the National Institutes of Health. The goal of the project is to determine the potential effect of prenatal exposure to maternal stress on offspring health. In particular, Strecker analyzed salivary cortisol concentrations from samples collected in agricultural and urban communities, as part of a study that aims to identify the best method of assessing stress within and between individuals across socioeconomic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. She presented her results on May 17 at the Mary Gates Undergraduate Research Symposium.

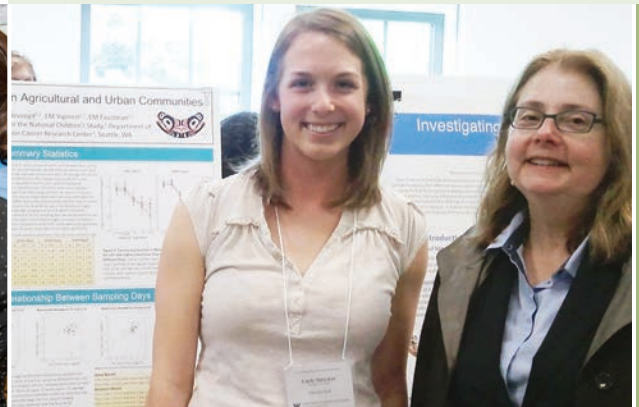


Above left: Jill Schulte talks about her research and practicum project at Student Research Day.

Photo: Sarah Fish

Above right: Carly Strecker with Professor Elaine Faustman at the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Photo: Courtesy of Carly Strecker



MPH student Jill Schulte (Occupational and Environmental Health) found traffic noise and pollution disproportionately affect people with low income and people of color in King County. She analyzed traffic density and demographic data as part of her practicum with King County's Equity and Social Justice Initiative. Her results were reported in *Sightline Daily* and *Real Change News* and to county and civic leaders. ■

RECOGNITION CEREMONY

On June 14, nearly 50 students were recognized at the department's graduation ceremony, 64 years after the first class of Sanitary Science majors received their diplomas in 1949. Our department has the longest running degree program in the School of Public Health.

Chair David Kalman welcomed the graduates, their families, and other attendees as well as recognized students who received awards.

Two students gave program addresses. Grace Liao (BS) urged fellow graduates to think of the impact they can make beyond family and friends, on a larger community. "Our sphere of influence is limitless," she said. Vanessa Galaviz (PhD) persuaded graduates to use their knowledge and skills to better serve and engage others in their communities. "We can help create a passion in others. It drives public health," said Galaviz.

Finally, alumnus Matthew Keifer (MPH, Occupational Medicine, 1989) gave the keynote address. He now directs the National Farm Medicine Center at the Marshfield Clinic in Wisconsin. Keifer remains an affiliate faculty in our department where he was a faculty member for 19 years. He talked about the difficult, but important work graduates face in protecting human health. He cautioned that the "truth" may not please everyone. "The profession does not come with the expectation to please," Keifer said. Instead, part of their "job description" will be "to get as close to the truth" as they can with their skills and training, he explained. ■

DEGREES AWARDED

Autumn 2012

Jenna Armstrong, PhD
Nicholas Clark, MS
Jesse Port, PhD

Winter 2013

Cody Cullison, MS
Angel Ip, MS
Grace Liao, BS
Chenyue Liu, BS

Spring 2013

Lyndsey Banks, MS
Ryan Blood, PhD
Rin Chung, BS
Ling Cui, PhD
Lea Duffin, MS
Martin Estira, BS
Anna Fretheim, BS
Ara Jo, BS
Hee Yeon Kim, MS
Nicholas Larned, BS
Amy Leang, MS
Julie Leano, BS
John Linnett, MPH

Eyob Mazengia, PhD
Wendy Miklos, MPH
Toluwalose Okitika, MPH
Laura Okocha, BS
Dareen Qalfat, BS
Jill Schulte, MPH
Jessica Youngblood, MS

Summer 2013

Mohamed Abdillahi, BS
Tania Busch-Isaksen, PhD
Andrew Forbes, MS
Vanessa Galaviz, PhD
Molly Halverson, MS
My-Dung Le, BS
Amber Lenhart, MPH
Salifu Mansaray, BS
Roda Mohamed, BS
Momoka Nakamura, BS
Julie Park, MS
Daniella Pizzurro, PhD
Pamela Roqué, PhD
Gurpinder Singh, BS
Jennifer Singh, BS
Abigail Sutphen, MS

2013 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE GRADUATES

Front row, l to r: Grace Liao, Julie Leano, Jennifer Singh, Momoka Nakamura, Roda Mohamed, Dareen Qalfat; back row, l to r: Mohamed Abdillahi, Martin Estira, Nicholas Larned

Photo: Sarah Fish





I to r: Terumi Capeling, Adrienne Hidy, Michael Yost *Photos: Sarah Fish*

congratulations

Terumi Capeling

DEOHS Distinguished Staff Award

As manager of the Pacific Northwest OSHA Education Center in the department's self-sustaining Continuing Education Programs, Terumi Capeling has a busy job. The center is the only authorized OSHA training facility in the Pacific Northwest. It offers high-quality, standards-based training for workers, management, and health and safety professionals in the private and public sectors. Between 2011–2012, it offered 123 classes that included 22 different course titles to approximately 1500 trainees. Capeling has worked for the Continuing Education Programs since May 2006. Over the years, she has accepted increasingly higher level duties and has continued to impress the program's directors with her leadership and ability to work with a diverse group of instructors, clients, and staff members. Her nomination cites her "calm focus during times of significant change, which has helped to ensure a consistently high level of service and quality." Capeling was recognized at the department's annual Staff Appreciation Brunch on April 27 and at the School of Public Health awards ceremony on May 17.

Adrienne Hidy

SPH Community Service by Staff Award

DEOHS Administrator Adrienne Hidy puts public health principles into practice. She is helping Seattle's Asa Mercer Middle School on Beacon Hill address pedestrian and bicycle safety. Working with the parent-teacher-student association, she wrote and received grants totaling \$100,000 from the national SAFE KIDS organization, FedEx, and Seattle Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School program. Other community partners include Beacon BIKES and Feet First. Working collaboratively, they provided key information about pedestrian and bike safety to children and their families. In addition, with the construction of a sidewalk adjacent to the school, the project has improved safety in the community. The project also generated a coordinated effort to support healthy transportation choices for the Mercer School community, encouraging more bicycling- and walking-to-school options. Hidy was recognized for her community service at the School of Public Health awards ceremony on May 17.

Michael Yost

Graduate Student Advisory Committee's 2013 Outstanding Faculty Mentor

Professor Michael Yost was named the 2013 Outstanding Faculty Mentor, the first "repeat" award winner since the DEOHS Graduate Student Advisory Committee began the award in 2006. The award recognizes a faculty member's exemplary mentorship of students in terms of availability, collegiality, and support, among other criteria. In nominating Yost for the award, one student wrote that "he has a dedication to his students that goes beyond the role of mentor. This is reflected through his unconditional sincerity, passion, patience, support, generosity, devotion, guidance, and encouragement." Graduate students Jill Schulte and Tyler Nicholas presented Yost with the award at the department's Graduation Recognition Ceremony on June 14. He was previously recognized by students in 2010.

peppers prevent parkinson's?

NEW STUDY SUGGESTS DIETARY NICOTINE MAY BE PROTECTIVE

A new study from the Schools of Public Health and Medicine have found that peppers—in the same botanical family as tobacco—may reduce the risk of Parkinson's disease. Findings are reported in the May 9 edition of the *Annals of Neurology*, a journal of the American Neurological Association and Child Neurology Society.

Nearly one million people in the United States are living with Parkinson's disease, a neurodegenerative disorder that results from the loss of dopamine-producing brain cells. In early stages, the disorder is characterized by difficulties in controlling movement, such as hand tremors, limb rigidity, and difficulty walking. As the disease progresses, cognitive problems may develop, advancing into dementia.

Dietary sources of nicotine may prove protective. "Eating peppers twice or more per week was consistently associated with at least 30 percent reduced risk of developing Parkinson's disease," said the study's lead author, Susan Searles Nielsen, a research scientist in the department.

The investigation of dietary sources of nicotine stems from the puzzling epidemiologic findings that repeatedly show that people who have regularly used tobacco have about half the risk of developing Parkinson's disease, explained Searles Nielsen. In 2012, she published a study that suggested that second-hand smoke also might reduce risk of the disease.

"It's possible that people predisposed to Parkinson's disease simply don't respond well to tobacco smoke and therefore avoid it. However, if tobacco is actually protective, and if the reason is nicotine as some experimental studies suggest," said Searles Nielsen, "then our hypothesis was that other plants in the *Solanaceae* family that contain nicotine might also be protective."

The subjects interviewed for the study included 490 Parkinson's patients newly diagnosed at the UW Neurology Clinic or Group Health Cooperative between 1992–2008. The control study subjects were 644 unrelated, neurologically normal people.

While she and the study co-authors investigated the association between Parkinson's and the subjects' dietary consumption of a variety of vegetables, including nicotine-containing peppers, tomatoes, and potatoes in the



All varieties of peppers are in the same botanical family as tobacco and contain nicotine. A new study shows that eating peppers may reduce the risk of Parkinson's disease.

Photo: Luc Viatour/www.Lucnix.be

Solanaceae family, peppers showed the greatest protection. The decreased risk of disease grew stronger with increasing pepper consumption and occurred mainly in people with little or no prior use of tobacco, which contains much more nicotine than the foods studied.

Searles Nielsen cautions that further studies are needed to confirm these findings and explore whether a similar but less toxic chemical shared by peppers and tobacco might be equally or more protective than nicotine.

Study co-authors included department faculty Harvey Checkoway and Gary Franklin and W.T. Longstreth Jr. and Phillip Swanson from the Department of Neurology.

Funding for the study was provided by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, in part through the University of Washington Superfund Research Program. ■



Susan Searles
Nielsen

Photo: Sarah Fish



Photo: Linn Gould, Just Health Action

NEW REPORT ON THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF THE duwamish river cleanup

A new report examines the potential health impacts from the Duwamish River cleanup on Tribes and people who use the river or live and work nearby. The report recommends ways to minimize negative health impacts, maximize health benefits, and reduce health disparities.

The Health Impact Assessment was conducted by researchers in our department, Just Health Action, and the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group (DRCC/TAG). The team submitted a report to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the public comment period on its proposed plan in June, and a final version should be released in July and available online at: <http://deobs.washington.edu/hia-duwamish>.

“Our findings demonstrate how EPA’s cleanup plan could significantly impact particular communities,” said William Daniell, an associate professor in our department. “EPA studies focused on disease outcomes and didn’t identify and evaluate broader implications for health and well-being,” he explained. “We hope that they will incorporate our findings and recommendations.”

More than a century of industrial and urban wastes have contaminated the river with a mix of 41 toxic chemicals. Of the chemicals most concerning to human health, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs), arsenic, and dioxins and furans top the list. Exposure comes from eating resident fish or shellfish and contact with contaminated sediment. EPA’s plan will reduce health risks, but it will not succeed in lowering contamination levels to background levels seen in Puget Sound. Nor will resident seafood be safe to eat for subsistence fishers or for Tribal members.

The health impacts report outlines recommendations to protect the health of three Native American Tribes impacted by the cleanup: the Duwamish, Muckleshoot, and Suquamish. In particular, the researchers suggest EPA

collaborate with Tribes to address their health concerns and restore safe access to natural resources and fish.

For local residents, construction-related activities and rail and truck traffic could increase air and noise pollution and could negatively affect residents if not properly managed. In addition, the cleanup may increase ongoing gentrification and cause displacement of local community members. With advance planning, the cleanup may generate new jobs and revitalize the South Park and Georgetown neighborhoods.

“Disadvantaged people who have more life stress, such as poverty, exposure to crime, and less leisure time, are more vulnerable to contamination, which can explain some health disparities,” said Linn Gould, executive director of Just Health Action.

“Residents and other people who use the river have valid concerns about how to best protect their health during and after cleanup. This study helps identify ways we can improve the result, especially for those who are most affected,” said BJ Cummings, community health projects manager for DRCC/TAG.

The project also investigated the possible effects of the cleanup on workers and employment in local industries. The cleanup could add to existing pressures on industry. Changes in land use could result in loss of jobs or reduction in employment hours. Alternatively, businesses and employment may experience growth if the cleanup reversed constraints and removed the stigma of a blighted river.

Graduate students Jonathan Childers and Amber Lenhart were also involved in the project.

Support for the health impact assessment was provided by the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, and by the Rohm & Haas Professorship in Public Health Sciences, sponsored by the Rohm & Haas Company. ■

the art and science of safe tunneling

More than a century ago, a tunnel deep in the Cascade Mountains opened, linking the Great Northern Railway between Minneapolis and Seattle in an attempt to avoid problems on the original line caused by heavy winter snowfalls. The earth was dug out with a steam-powered mucking shovel aided by crews of workers with hand shovels. Ventilation was later added to the original tunnel because it had a build-up of fumes from train locomotives. Recent years have seen increasing sophistication in the equipment and methods used to build and safeguard tunnels for transportation and other purposes. Considerations involved in constructing safe tunnels have also grown.

The art and science behind tunneling construction safety was the focus of a course offered at the University of Washington, May 29–30, and sponsored by our Northwest Center for Occupational Health & Safety.

“The purpose of this course was to discuss the scientific basis for health and safety best practices, learn about regulations, and provide an opportunity for owners, contractors, regulators, and health and safety professionals to talk about strategies for building tunnels in the safest way possible,” said Course Director Nicholas Reul, a postdoctoral fellow in the department and physician in the Occupational and Environmental Medicine Clinic at Harborview Medical Center.

More than 125 people participated in the course, which included a tour of the State Route (SR) 99 tunnel boring machine. The machine—which is nearly as tall as a five-story building—will burrow two miles along the waterfront. The SR 99 tunnel corridor will replace the aging Alaska Way Viaduct.

Speakers addressed dangers and necessary precautions in tunneling, among other topics. “A fair number of tunnels cave in, catch fire, blow up, and kill people,” said Stephen Hart, a safety engineer for the Mining and Tunneling Unit of California’s Department of Occupational Safety and Health. In his long career in the industry, there have been 57 worker fatalities in California. Hart presented on the need for regulations, more frequent inspections, and updated standards.

Use of tunnel boring machines puts some workers under pressurized conditions, similar to conditions faced by deep-



Course participants tour the State Route 99 tunnel boring machine at Alaska Way. *Photo: Elizabeth Sharpe*

sea divers. Decompression sickness or “the bends” can result in injury, even death, if not treated quickly. According to John Freiburger (Duke Center for Hyperbaric Medicine and Environmental Physiology), fatality from pressure can occur between 26.4 and 32.4 pounds per square inch gauge. Dive tables for deep-sea divers set limits on exposure to pressure and ascent speed. In tunneling, similar tables are available and hyperbaric or decompression chambers are required on site to treat decompression illness.

The risks also include workers’ exposure to diesel exhaust, carbon monoxide, and silica in soil and rock. Senior Lecturer Martin Cohen and Professor Emeritus Michael Morgan talked about regulations, sampling methods, and controls to better protect workers.

The pending release of a one-hour safety training video for workers involved in tunnel construction (H.O.L.E. - Hazard Observation & Labor Education) was also announced. The video was created by Associated General Contractors of Washington, Anita Johnson (Sound Transit), Mike Warren (Northwest Laborers-Employees Trust Fund), and Integrity Safety Services and funded by the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries Safety & Health Investments Projects (SHIP). ■

Chair and Professor **David Kalman** announced his plan to step down as chair of the department, a position he has held for 15 years. A chair search will take place in 2013–2014. Kalman will remain on faculty and active in the department.

Several faculty members have been appointed or promoted: **Michelle Averill** to acting assistant professor; **Janice Camp** to principal lecturer; **Chris Carlsten** to affiliate associate professor; and **Tim Takaro** to clinical professor.

Professor (and Dean of the Graduate School) **David Eaton** was named a member of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Council.

Professor **Elaine Faustman** was appointed to the US Environmental Protection Agency Fracking Committee.

During Paul Anastas' (Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering, Yale University) visit to Seattle in May, he and **David Kalman** met with Governor Jay Inslee's staff about green chemistry initiatives in Washington state.

Undergraduate Program Manager **Trina Sterry** is involved with the Food Exploration Living Learning Community in Mercer Court, one of the residence halls on campus. The learning community pairs students with similar interests together and includes activities and opportunities centered around food. It is sponsored by the School of Public Health, College of the Environment, and Housing and Food Services.

Sterry participated in the Native Health Career Day at Northwest Indian College on April 24.

Research Technologist **Euvin Kim** and his family are the March of Dimes Pierce County Ambassador Family. Kim, whose daughter, Hana, was born early, raised \$6,870 as part of the organization's May 18 walk in Tacoma.

Faculty, staff, and students participated in the American Industrial Hygiene Association Conference and Expo,



Students in the department volunteered at one of three locations for the April 6 School of Public Health Service Day—part of National Public Health Week. They included: Ornwipa Thamsuwan, Jon Nagata, Trevor Peckham, Kristin Liu, Tyler Nicholas, Kristina Blank, Becca Ticknor, and Wafa Tafesh (at right in photo above). Staff member Phillip Buff also participated.

Photo: Trevor Peckham

May 18–23, in Montreal, Canada, and along with alumni, took home honors. Awarded Distinguished Fellow: Senior Lecturer Emeritus **Lee Monteith**, **Alan Rossner** (MS, Industrial Hygiene and Safety, 1986), and **Joe Coble** (MSPH, Industrial Hygiene and Safety, 1984). Jeffery Lee Award: **Paul Demers** (MS, Industrial Hygiene and Safety, 1987); Top Volunteer Award: **Don Garvey** (MSPH, Industrial Hygiene and Safety, 1982). Two graduate students took home best poster awards: **Boris Reiss** and **Andrew Forbes**.

Senior Lecturer **Martin Cohen** produced a training video on the use of respirators for healthcare workers.

Amanda Gasset, research scientist in our department and biostatistics graduate student, won the Outstanding Master's Student Award from the Department of Biostatistics.

Two undergraduate students majoring in public health, José Carmona and Nohely Diaz, will be Summer Environmental Health Interns in the **Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center**. They are particularly interested

Andrew Forbes, **Lyndsey Banks**, and **Boris Reiss** presented posters at the American Industrial Hygiene Association Conference and Expo in Montreal. Forbes and Reiss took home best poster awards. *Photo: Courtesy of Boris Reiss*





IN MEMORIAM

Pamela Deutsch (MS, Industrial Hygiene & Safety, 1990) passed away May 14 at age 51 after a long illness. She grew up in Eugene, Oregon. After receiving her bachelor's degree, Deutsch worked in the US Congress, then in the Massachusetts Health Department. She did graduate studies at Harvard University and the University of Washington, where she was the first student in DEOHS to study ergonomics. She went on to work for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and helped start the Washington Committee for Occupational Safety & Health, a nonprofit organization that brought academics and labor groups together. ■

in environmental health disparities that affect migrant and seasonal agricultural workers in rural Washington, where they themselves were born and raised. The internships are funded by the Stipends for Training Aspiring Researchers (STAR) Program, which is part of the UW Health and Sciences Minority Students Program.

Undergraduate **Andy Tang** received a GO! Scholarship funded by the Washington State Legislature to participate in a four-week study abroad exploration seminar in Santiago, Chile, focused on public and mental health care systems.

Junior **Tessa Concepcion** was named the 2013 Harvard Multidisciplinary International Research Training Program Double Eagle Scholar. She will travel to Chile and help evaluate sleep problems in children.

Rosie Schaffer, manager of the Environmental Health Laboratory, volunteers with the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services group for the Emergency Services Coordinating Agency, which supports government emergency management and service agencies during an emergency or disaster. Schaffer also helps support several charity events, transmitting information along the route.

On May 21, Research Industrial Hygienist **Gerry Croteau** presented in a webinar on reducing occupational lead exposures sponsored by the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice.

Annie Bruck, assistant director of our Continuing Education Programs and affiliate assistant professor in the UW School of Nursing, launched an online and in-person hybrid occupational health nursing course.

Out of 167 applications, seven students were selected for the NIEHS-funded Environmental Health Research Experience Program, which is a nine-week summer program for undergraduate students, particularly those from under-represented minorities, interested in environmental health sciences research. Students work with leading scientists and give poster presentations on their research at the Undergraduate Summer Research Symposium in August. Students selected include: Madison Baxter (Baylor University), Mallory Bell (Northwestern University), Adriana Falcon Vazquez (University of Puerto Rico), Jeron Jacobsen (University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire), Yesinia Jaramillo (University of California, Davis), Kelsey Robertson (Santa Clara University), and Allan Somers (Salish Kootenai College). ■

The Superfund Research Program and Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health sponsored a public forum on April 29 at the UW, bringing in experts to explain the Duwamish River cleanup plan.

Photo: Jon Sharpe





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COMINGS & goings

Helen Lee replaces **Alicia Pearce** as the Exposure Science program assistant, beginning June 17.

Ke'ale Louie left Professor Evan Gallagher's laboratory to begin dental school, and **Richard Ramsden** joins the group.

Research Coordinator **Kathleen Egan** (Occupational Epidemiology and Health Outcomes Program) has left to travel around the world.

Don Lofgren is a new research industrial hygienist in the Field Research and Consultation Group.

The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis and Air Pollution welcomes **Casey Olives** as lead statistician.

Research Scientist **Marissa Smith** was hired by the Institute for Risk Analysis and Risk Communication.

Professor **Harvey Checkoway** will be leaving the department after 26 years for a professorship in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine that begins this fall at the University of California, San Diego.

Peter Rabinowitz will be a new professor in the department, starting September 1. ■

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