Carisa Harris-Adamson Appointed New Director of Ergonomics

It has been a standout year for Carisa Harris-Adamson, PhD ‘11. In January 2016, she was appointed director of the University of California Ergonomics Program, replacing professor emeritus and former director David Rempel. In June 2015, she was awarded the Don Chaffin Award for Best Ergonomics Speaker/Presentation at the American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Yet one of her most memorable achievements came from her lesser known role as co-founder and board chair of the Treasure Island Sailing Center, a non-profit that launched Set Sail Learn in October 2015 as a permanent STEM program for fourth graders in the San Francisco Unified School District. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. Set Sail Learn students are taught about sustainable and renewable energy while being introduced to sailing. “That’s been really fun because it’s a way to get every fourth grader out on the water,” says Harris-Adamson. “They all get asked back and we’ve never turned a child away — anyone in the city who wants to go to sailing camp — we find money for them to go.”

An accomplished sailor, Carisa Harris-Adamson says the sport taught her skills that she uses to this day, “everything from time management and independence to resilience.” After training for the 1996 Olympics, Harris-Adamson’s first job was teaching a high school sailing team in San Francisco. “I looked around me and realized the only kids that were on my team were ones whose parents either sailed or could afford a membership. It just needed to change.” That realization led

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Summer 2016 Letter from the Director

Over the 40 years that I have been working in occupational health, a major disappointment has been the failure of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue new regulations or modify existing regulations when evidence supports such action. It has been particularly frustrating when the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the agency charged with making recommendations to OSHA for standards development, has recommended stricter permissible exposure limits to better protect workers, but has been ignored. In the specific cases of crystalline silica and beryllium, NIOSH has long recommended stricter permissible exposure limits based on considerable published research. Unfortunately, opponents of new rules on silica and beryllium have been able to tie up OSHA in bureaucratic knots for many years such that new rules have not been promulgated. This failure to act has unnecessarily led to disability and lives lost from silicosis, chronic beryllium disease, and lung cancer.

At the outset of the Obama Administration almost eight years ago, OSHA, under the leadership of new head David Michaels, started to move forward on long-promised efforts to lower the permissible exposure limit for beryllium. I was a consultant to OSHA on that effort and was initially excited about the possibility of finally getting something done to reduce the risk of workers becoming sensitized to the metal. The only U.S. supplier of beryllium products, Brush Wellman, insisted that low levels of beryllium exposure were not hazardous and fought tightening of the exposure standard as part of a larger defense against product liability lawsuits. Things began to change about five years ago when the company, now called Mateon, approached the United Steelworkers to support their effort to work together to recommend a new standard to OSHA. In 2012, after more than 30 years of negotiations, Mateon and the United Steelworkers submitted a joint plan that served as the basis for the proposed OSHA standard that would lower the permissible exposure limit from 2.0 to 0.2 micrograms per cubic meter. Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, David Michaels, was appointed to the New York Times editorial board in 2015 as follows: “In some ways, this is the final chapter of making peace with the past. Once we finish, these workers will be protected and we will end the epidemic of beryllium exposure in the United States.”

The story about the new OSHA silica standard is even longer. The agency’s best – announced in March – replaces one set in 1971. It reduces the permissible exposure limit for respirable crystalline silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter, five times less than the previous limit for the cement, construction, and shipyard sectors and half the current limit for other workplaces. In 1974, however, multiple studies demonstrated that silica dust can result from exposures far below the old standard, and in 1989, OSHA recommended that OSHA substantially tighten the silica exposure limit. But industry groups, primarily from the construction sector, fought efforts to tighten the silica permissible exposure limit, arguing that a tighter rule would be too expensive, too unemployable, and too job-killer. Labor groups kept pushing for a new standard, and 42 years after NIOSH’s recommendation, we finally have one.

The silica story is prima facie evidence of an OSHA standards-setting process that is broken and does not protect worker safety and health. The agency is hemmed in by court rulings, corporate resistance, and bureaucratic procedures that have essentially stymied the process of development of new standards. OSHA has updated few of its 470 permissible exposure limits since adopting them shortly after the agency’s birth in 1971. Perhaps because he is reflecting on his legacy, President Obama seems to have finally recognized the need to do a better job at protecting worker safety and health. On April 28 of this year, he issued the first ever Presidential Proclamation on Workers’ Memorial Day and noted “the movement for worker safety was inspired by a simple notion: that those who contribute so much to the economy and spirit of our country should have every chance to work safe and healthy.” He went on to say, “This Workers’ Memorial Day, as we join in solemn remembrance of those who lost their lives undertaking their labor, let us carry forward the vision of just and safe working conditions for all of America’s workers.”

To underscore this vision, OSHA has recently issued a new final rule to “Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses” that requires businesses with 250 or more employees currently required to keep OSHA injury and illness records to electronically submit this information to OSHA, which will make the data publicly available. Businesses with 20-249 employees in certain industries must electronically submit information to OSHA. With this rule, OSHA hopes to encourage businesses to use the data to improve their efficiency and identify new safety hazards. In addition, the final rule includes provisions that encourage employers to report workplace-related injuries and illnesses to their employers and prohibit employers from retaliating against workers for making those reports. Let’s hope OSHA vigorously enforces this new rule and that employers embrace its spirit.

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) aims to lower the eight hour permissible limit for beryllium to 0.2 micrograms per cubic meter of air from the current limit of 2.0 micrograms per cubic meter, a change that would save approximately 100 lives and prevent serious illnesses each year, according to OSHA.

The ruling would apply to an estimated 35,000 general industry workers exposed at their workplace and benefit the families of workers who may come in contact with contaminated dust on work clothing and in vehicles.

In November 2015, the American Thoracic Society sent an official statement to OSHA urging them to act quickly on the new rule. The statement came from an ATS review of the existing scientific literature by an international committee of 13 experts led by chair John Balances, director of COEH. Published in November 2014 in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, lead author Balances and colleagues assessed the latest evidence on the diagnosis, management, and prevention of chronic beryllium disease (CBD) and beryllium sensitization (BeS), the pre-cursor to CBD, and recommended protocols for diagnosis and management plus “surveillance in workplaces that use beryllium-containing materials to identify individuals with BeS and at-risk groups of workers, which can help prioritize efforts to reduce inhalational and dermal exposures.”

Beryllium is a naturally occurring element added to aluminum, iron, metal, and copper during industrial processes. A known carcinogen, beryllium is commonly used in the manufacture of computers, aerospace, and defense equipment. Beryllium exposure occurs through dermal contact and the inhalation of airborne dust and fumes in the workplace. Exposure can lead to CBD, a potentially life-threatening lung disease.

Symptoms such as fatigue, weight loss, cough, and shortness of breath can appear immediately after exposure or months or even years later. OSHA confirms workers can develop beryllium at levels below the OSHA permissible limit of 2 µg/m3 adopted 40 years ago in 1971.

Industrial operations known to process beryllium materials in the United States offer workplace protection and work with NIOSH to reduce exposures, explains Balances, but the hazards of beryllium are not widely published to downstream industries. Recyclers that disassemble and repurpose technology components and employees in machine shops that grind or polish with motor vehicle or construction parts containing beryllium materials may not realize the risks posed by contaminated dust and fumes.

Balances sees the downstream workers that have been sensitized to beryllium at the UCSF Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM) Clinic at San Francisco General. In addition, the OSHA Program has sent medical students for clinical placements related to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory’s beryllium disease prevention program and surveillance activities. Examples of how Balances and COEH work together to help reduce efforts to prevent beryllium exposure in the workplace and raise awareness in the field of medicine.
When Michael Bates, PhD ‘91, first began investigating the health effects of household air pollution (HAP) in developing countries back in the early 2000s, it was a struggle to get any funding. “But, thanks in large part to Hillary Clinton, it’s now recognized as a major health issue in the world,” credits Bates. After Clinton launched the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves in 2000, it was a struggle to get any funding for Bates, Principal Investigator of new grants from the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and an R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health, among others.

For an environmental health scientist who, as a PhD student, published some of the first findings of the carcinogenic effects of arsenic in drinking water, Bates’ outlook on his current success is a surprise. “I think luck plays a big role in people’s lives. It certainly has played a big role in my life.” Bates, for example, considers it lucky that his research shifted from arsenic to HAP when the field was still in its infancy, working with COEH faculty Kim Smith and possibly the best known researcher in the field. “I’ve been extremely fortunate to have opportunities that have come up at the right time.” As a young man growing up in New Zealand, Bates came from a non-academic background. “My father was a milliner, which is a profession few people these days have ever heard of.” He was the first in his family to attend college. “Instead of going into science, I could have studied history as an undergraduate, but at the time I was terrified of becoming a history teacher.” History became a hobby rather than a vocation — for Bates, who chose chemistry for his first degree.

After earning an MSc in Toxicology from the University of Surrey, England, opportunity knocked when fellow New Zealander and COEH faculty Allan Smith encouraged Bates to apply to graduate school at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, where he received his MPH in 1989. “My PhD research was some of the first work looking at arsenic ingestion and internal cancers. At the time this was cut off, this became an enormous environmental health topic,” says Bates.

Adding to his HAP research, Bates studies exposures from kerosene and solar lamps among families in Busia County, Kenya, with funding from Google. “Kerosene has been used since the 19th century, particularly for lighting. In developed countries electricity replaced it almost universally. But, in the developing world - in Africa and large parts of South Asia - kerosene is widely used,” says Bates. “Over the last Christmas, we’ve been finding that it’s maybe not a safer, cleaner fuel as many people have assumed. Several of our studies suggested it may be as much of a problem in some contexts as burning firewood for cooking. The topic deserves more research because we really don’t understand the full impact of kerosene.”

Building on his NIH-funded study of the health effects of low-level exposures to geo-thermal emissions of hydrogen sulfide in Rotorua, New Zealand, Bates, along with COEH Director John Balmes, will soon launch a similar study in the mountainous Puna Region of Hawaii, funded by the County of Hawaii.

In addition to his research and teaching, Bates directs the Targeted Research Training (TTT) Program for doctoral students, which is part of the NICOSH-funded Northern California Education and Research Center. With Kim Smith, he co-directs the Global Health & Environment Program for master’s degree students. Bates is transitioning his directorship of the STEER under-graduate fellowship program to the full-time directorship of the STEER Program.

Working closely with public health students across the spectrum of post-secondary education, Bates advises them not to narrow their options too early. “The way I see it, the progress in my career from chemistry to toxicology to epidemiology to global health, was a surprise. ‘I sometimes see students with very fixed ideas of what they want to work on, but once they get a little bit more training a lot of other possibilities open up. So I say keep your options open.’”

A keen hiker, Bates treks trails in Nepal, New Zealand, and across the Bay Area. About two years ago he hiked into the hill villages in Nepal with field staff. “We were walking down the mountain pass to reach our vehicle when I saw a Nepalese woman carrying heavy loads of firewood. The topic deserves more research because we really don’t understand the full impact of kerosene.”

In the summer of 2015, nine talented undergraduates continued their learning outside the classroom through COEH’s program, Short Term Educational Experiences for Research in Environmental Health for Undergraduate Students (STEER), an eight week, paid internship that pairs students with mentors in the fields of toxicology, biology, epidemiology, exposure assessment, and ergonomic impacts from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health (SPH). Interns conduct a research project and participate in a series of interdisciplinary seminars with mentors in the fields of environmental health sciences (EHS). Last summer, for example, Ashial Abdalla investigated the long-term effects of early-life arsenic exposure on immune function. Luoping Zhang, her mentor, is associate director of the Genes and Environment Laboratory, associate director of the Global Health & Environment Program, and an adjunct professor of EHS.

Molly McCullough worked on a pilot project to study the health benefits of replacing kerosene lamps with solar lighting in 20 households located in Busia County, Kenya. Her mentor, Michael Bates, is co-director of the STEER program and an adjunct professor in EHS. With funding from Google, the project is collecting evidence to suggest the switch from kerosene to solar will reduce household air pollution, a leading contributor to illness and mortality in the developing world.

STEER — A Gateway to Opportunity

Many STEER interns progress to graduate school and careers in public health. Following her internship in 2014, Tashnia Hossain was accepted into the UC Berkeley EHS program. Her mentor and academic supervisor, Nina Holland, is director of the SPH Biorepository, director of the Children’s Environmental Health Laboratory, and an adjunct professor of EHS. “STEER gave me an opportunity to get hands-on experience with various environmental health issues,” says Hossain. “I thank the program for further developing my interest in environmental health and allowing me to take part in research that was challenging and unlike anything I had ever done before.”

Marvin So, who went on to a MPH at Harvard after interning in 2011, is now an evaluation officer at the CDC National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. He conducts research to assess the efficacy of interventions to mitigate child development outcomes, particularly for vulnerable children and toxins in color markers used by children. Avery helped Bradman prepare journal articles by performing literature reviews and summarizing research results. Bradman, associate director of the Center for Environmental Research and Children’s Health, is a leading expert on exposures to environmental contaminants and the new chair of Biomonitoring California’s Scientific Guidance Panel.

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Harris-Adamson Appointed New Director of Ergonomics

and his research team

and

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Harris-Adamson Appointed New Director of Ergonomics

various cardiovascular endpoints with occupational health, particularly for understanding how a range of water-borne and vector-borne infections in Ecuador and China, our NSF-funded project is developing new computational approaches for understanding how a range of water-related diseases respond to rapid environmental change—including diarrheal diseases, leptospirosis, soil-transmitted helminths, and vector-borne infections—so that we can more effectively interrupt their transmission,” says Remais. His team is modeling the fine scale interactions between social dynamics, hydrodynamics and pathogen fate and transport in two contrasting settings in Western China and Northern Ecuador, using massive, longitudinal epidemiological datasets drawn from both active and passive surveillance systems.

We’re coming upon an era where vast sets of public health data are widely available, even in resource-limited settings, allowing more data-oriented problem solving,” says Remais. "This is compelling us to develop and apply new analytical tools that can identify subtle patterns in complex spatio-temporal disease data,” he adds, “providing insights on how, mechanistically, environmental dynamics influence the transmission of infectious agents.”

One example of Big Data that Remais is working with is China’s national infectious disease reporting (NIDR) system, which records the incidence of about 40 mandatory notifiable infections at every clinical site across China’s entire healthcare system. “We now have long-term NIDR data sufficient to examine China’s epidemiologic transition with respect to infectious diseases,” notes Remais, “and at Berkeley we are working to understand how individual-level data from multiple scales—within individuals, across populations, regions, and the globe.”

This work reflects a long-standing collaborative effort between Remais and his colleagues in Beijing and in the western province of Shaan, where he has conducted research for more than a decade.

Two research scientists from Emory University—Philip Collender and Chris Hoover—moved to the Bay Area to continue their work with Remais at the School of Public Health. Collender’s work involves the analysis of complex, spatial-temporal environmental exposure and health data, with a particular focus on understanding the role of flood and other surface water dynamics in the transmission of water-borne infectious diseases. He is playing a lead role on the NSF-funded project in China and Ecuador, says Remais. Hoover is a spatial scientist who has expertise in modeling infectious disease dynamics, particularly using mathematical models to understand the transmission of pathogens through environmental pathways. He is taking the lead on developing bioinformatic approaches to model the interactions between the chemical and infectious agents being investigated in the Fogarty project in Senegal.

Welcoming New Faculty: Justin Remais

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Photo Credits: Karen Uhle
Preparing for an Aging Workforce

By 2020, over 25 percent of the U.S. workforce will be over the age of 55, a national phenomenon with rippling effects. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects an annual growth rate of 4 percent among those 55 and older — four times the rate of the overall labor force. The paradigms are shifting as well. Whether for financial reasons or a desire to remain engaged, the president of the Academy on Aging notes they will retire after the traditional age of 65.

Recognizing the importance of aging in the framework of worker safety, NIOSH recently established the National Center for Productive Aging & Work (NCPAW). Hosted by the Office of Total Worker Health, the Center “advances lifelong well-being for workers of all ages,” offering the latest research and information to prepare for an aging workforce.

Funded by NIOSH, the Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP) launched a new project focused on the health and safety needs of older workers. In November 2015, LOHP invited stakeholders from unions, community-based organizations, and employer associations to share their experiences at a Roundtable. Participants focused on promising strategies, best practices, and potential interventions related to policy, regulation, enforcement, and outreach and education.

They noted that older workers tend to experience fewer work injuries than younger workers, but although rates are lower, the injuries they experience tend to be more severe. Older women had the lower rates of injury than older men. The Roundtable supported the move toward age-friendly workplaces that promote worker health and safety through a “universal design” approach, emphasizing safe and reasonable workloads and work-life balance.

In October 2015, COEH’s Continuing Education Program hosted an industrial hygiene forum focused on ambient particulate matter (PM) air pollution is a leading cause of illness and mortality in the United States. And while PM is a richly complex category of air pollution, almost all we know about its health effects reflects the consequences of indoor exposures to ambient PM, said COEH affiliate William Nazaroff in his opening address as chair of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s workshop on the health risks of indoor exposure to PM.

We spend 90 percent of our time indoors, and although the indoor environment protects us from particles of outdoor air pollution to varying degrees, that protection is incomplete and variable. The average estimated infiltration rate of outdoor PM to the indoor environment is about 50 percent. Nazaroff reported in his address. Consequently, three-quarters of the health effects that result from outdoor pollution, the majority — roughly 80 percent — occurs indoors. These conditions present a wealth of opportunities to intervene in a major health threat by reducing indoor particle levels.

Our environment protects us when it is important to us to be healthy. We are able to control the level of indoor particles, Nazaroff concluded as he kicked-off the 1.5 day workshop.

Spotlight on STEER

Can Inmate-Workers Take Actions That Promote Workplace Health and Safety?

Written by Robin Dewey, MPH

LOHP’s Coordinator of Public Programs

Since its inception in 2004, the state-wide Worker Occupational Safety and Health Training and Education Program (WOSHTEP) has served roughly 14,000 workers and 1,600 employers through its many programs designed to reduce work-related injuries and illnesses.

WOSHTEP is funded by the state’s Commission on Health and Safety and Workers’ Compensation. Nazaroff mentioned that the class, conducted using participatory training methods, would be an integral part of creating a safer workplace.

Indoor Air

COEH faculty affiliate Sadie Costello is the new director of the STEER program, which is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. “Every year I am impressed with the intelligence and enthusiasm of our students. Many of them continue to be accepted into MPH programs with a focus in Environmental Health sciences,” Costello said.

To view workshop videos and presentations, visit: http://tinyurl.com/hmtn67.
Probing the Safety of Synthetic Fields of Green

For athletes who play on synthetic turf, it is a post-game ritual to empty cleats of the black rubber pellets that accumulate during play. Otherwise, parents cry foul when players inevitably track indoors. Now, California health officials are evaluating whether crumb rubber and synthetic turf poses a safety hazard to players and their fans. COEH Director John Balmar is chair of a scientific panel tasked with advising members of the new synthetic turf study launched by the California Office of Environmental Health Assessment (OEHHA) and UCLA Los Angeles Occupational and Environmental Health (LOHP) and UCLA Los Angeles Occupational Safety and Health (LOS). The project will include hazard identification, exposure scenario development, and the development of a biomonitoring study protocol. Based on their findings from the three-year study, which is planned to conclude in late 2018, OEHHA will gather comments on a draft of their findings through a series of public workshops.

The 3 year, 2.8 million dollar study is funded by CalRecycle, the regulatory agency that provides grants to encourage the re-use of recycled tires to reduce landfill stockpiles. Stakeholder consultation began in the fall of 2015 with public meetings in Berkeley, San Diego, and Los Angeles. The project will include hazard identification, exposure scenario development, sampling and analysis of new and in-field synthetic turf and the development of a biomonitoring study protocol. Prior to completing the study in 2018, OEHHA will gather comments on a draft of their findings through a series of public workshops.

AWARDS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Phelps Receives Excellence Award

Stephanie Phelps, a PhD candidate in the UC School of Public Health Occupational Health Nursing (OEHN) program, received the 2015 Moore Medical Excellence Award from the UC California State Association of Occupational Health Nurses. The award, established in 1998, evidences Moore Medical’s commitment to occupational health excellence. Phelps won the award for her exemplary performance and pursuit of educational goals in occupational health.

Strozier’s OSHA Nursing Internship Opportunity

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) honored Marley Zalay, a PhD candidate in the UC Berkeley Industrial Hygiene program, with the Charles H. Powell Award. The new award “commemorates Dr. Charles H. Powell, a decades-long contributor to safety, industrial hygiene, and toxicology fields in private industry, NIOSH, and private consulting.” Kathie Crosser Navarro was recognized for her dissertation work assessing wild-land firefighters’ exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which she also summarized at the AIHA-NCS Student and Professional Conference in Washington, D.C. The goal of the eight-week program is to “develop a cadre of occupational health nurses with experience in occupational health and safety policy and regulatory affairs at the national level.” The interns were chosen for their academic excellence, qualifications, and experience. This is a great honor for Stephanie and wonderful news for UCSC’s School of Nursing,” said OiSaeng Hong, director, Occupational and Environmental Health Nursing Program, UCSC.

Navarro Wins the Powell Award

Stephanie Strozier

Kathleen Navarro was recognized for her dissertation work assessing wild-land firefighters’ exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which she also summarized at the AIHA-NCS Student and Professional Conference in Washington, D.C. The goal of the eight-week program is to “develop a cadre of occupational health nurses with experience in occupational health and safety policy and regulatory affairs at the national level.” The interns were chosen for their academic excellence, qualifications, and experience. This is a great honor for Stephanie and wonderful news for UCSC’s School of Nursing,” said OiSaeng Hong, director, Occupational and Environmental Health Nursing Program, UCSC.

Young Worker Leadership Academy 2016

For more information visit: http://youngworkers.org/ywla.

This story originally appeared in the February 2016 LOHP Newsletter.

Young Worker Leadership Academy 2016

LOHP and UCLA LOSH kicked off the 16th Young Worker Leadership Academy (YWLA), a three day leadership training for teens on workplace safety, rights, and responsibilities held in January in Berkeley, California. Teams of teens came from all over California – Los Angeles, Patterson, Berkeley, Montebello, Santa Rosa, Reseda, and Clovis. These teens were armed with knowledge about their rights on the job, how to identify, problem-solve, and effectively address workplace health and safety hazards, as well as workplace violence prevention. These current and future young workers were also introduced to policy, education, and media strategies to help them create a better workplace and implement service learning projects that promote positive, safe employment for youth.

Zalay received the award due to her outstanding academic record and her project examining silica exposure in a ceramics workshop, which she summarized at the AIHA-NCS Student and Vendor Night on March 15, 2016.

Solomon’s Dual Recognition

Gina Solomon

The AIHA-NCS honored Kathleen Navarro, a PhD Candidate in Berkeley Industrial Hygiene program, with the Charles H. Powell Award. The new award “commemorates Dr. Charles H. Powell, a decades-long contributor to safety, industrial hygiene, and toxicology fields in private industry, NIOSH, and private consulting.” Kathie Crosser Navarro was recognized for her dissertation work assessing wild-land firefighters’ exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which she also summarized at the AIHA-NCS Student and Professional Conference in Washington, D.C. The goal of the eight-week program is to “develop a cadre of occupational health nurses with experience in occupational health and safety policy and regulatory affairs at the national level.” The interns were chosen for their academic excellence, qualifications, and experience. This is a great honor for Stephanie and wonderful news for UCSC’s School of Nursing,” said OiSaeng Hong, director, Occupational and Environmental Health Nursing Program, UCSC.

Academic Achievement Helps Zalay Earn the Tebbens Award

Marley Zalay, a second year MPH student in the UC Berkeley Industrial Hygiene Program, received the Bernard D. Tebbens Memorial Award from the American Industrial Hygiene Association’s Oregon Section. This award pays tribute to Dr. Tebbens, a former professor of industrial hygiene at the UC Berkeley SPH.

Based solely on student nominations, the award made available to first and second year medical students the opportunity to recognize outstanding instructors who have made a difference in their medical education. Solomon, who helped teach the Environmental Health and Social Justice elective to medical, nursing, and pharmacy students, was selected from a total of 115 faculty nominated for the 2014/2015 academic year.

Solomon also received the 2015 Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching. This year’s award recognizes teachers who have made a significant impact on their students’ learning and their development as practitioners and leaders, and this year’s recipients are Doug Hecht, Brian Gubitosa, and David Palmer. The award is given to teachers who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, have made a significant impact on their students, and who have been nominated by their peers and students.

For more information visit: https://www.bcentral.org.

The story originally appeared in the February 2016 LOHP Newsletter.

AWARDS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Phelps Receives Excellence Award

Stephanie Phelps, a PhD candidate in the UC School of Public Health Occupational Health Nursing (OEHN) program, received the 2015 Moore Medical Excellence Award from the California State Association of Occupational Health Nurses. The award, established in 1998, evidences Moore Medical’s commitment to occupational health excellence. Phelps won the award for her exemplary performance and pursuit of educational goals in occupational health.

Strozier’s OSHA Nursing Internship Opportunity

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) honored Marley Zalay, a PhD candidate in the UC Berkeley Industrial Hygiene program, with the Charles H. Powell Award. The new award “commemorates Dr. Charles H. Powell, a decades-long contributor to safety, industrial hygiene, and toxicology fields in private industry, NIOSH, and private consulting.” Kathie Crosser Navarro was recognized for her dissertation work assessing wild-land firefighters’ exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which she also summarized at the AIHA-NCS Student and Professional Conference in Washington, D.C. The goal of the eight-week program is to “develop a cadre of occupational health nurses with experience in occupational health and safety policy and regulatory affairs at the national level.” The interns were chosen for their academic excellence, qualifications, and experience. This is a great honor for Stephanie and wonderful news for UCSC’s School of Nursing,” said OiSaeng Hong, director, Occupational and Environmental Health Nursing Program, UCSC.

Navarro Wins the Powell Award

Stephanie Strozier

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Young Worker Leadership Academy 2016

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Solomon’s Dual Recognition
AWARDS and ANNOUNCEMENTS continuing from page 11

Sustainability Award at the fifth annual ceremony hosted by the UCSF Advisory Committee on Sustainability. The committee recognized Solomon for her passion and dedication to education and research in environmental health, climate change, and policy, acknowledging, “She has gone above and beyond the duties of her position at UCSF to integrate environmental sustainability into existing campus programs.” According to the committee, her faculty sponsorship helped restart the environmental health elective course focused on social equity, environmental health, and greening healthcare.

Rempel Honored for His Achievements and Contributions

Emeritus Professor David Rempel with Dr. Mark Roberts, President of the American College of Occupational Medicine

A merican College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) President Mark Roberts honored David Rempel with the 2016 Health Achievement in Occupational Medicine Award, which “recognizes deserving individuals for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the College and the speciality of occupational and environmental medicine.” Rempel, former director of the University of California Ergonomics Program, is a professor emeritus of Medicine at UCSF and a professor in Bioengineering at UC Berkeley. Rempel received the award at the American Occupational Health Conference in Chicago, Illinois on April 12, 2016.

COEH Profile: New Faculty Justin Remais
continuing from page 7

“T i care a lot about student success,” says Remais, who mentored dozens of students in seven years at Emory, many of whom published peer-reviewed manuscripts in top journals. “My lab door is always open, and that means students can jump onto projects within my lab with considerable ease. I am excited to work with the exceptional diversity of students at Berkeley,” says Remais.

“I n fact, most exciting to me is when an undergraduate or graduate student in anthropology or physics or history can walk into my office, hear what we’re working on, and can see a potential future for themselves contributing to my group’s environmental problem solving. They might ultimately decide to move on to another opportunity or group, but without that chance to try their hand at working with us, without an opportunity to add their training and critical thinking to our work, they might be missing out on a formative research experience, and we’d be missing out on the unique perspective they’d bring to the rich, interdisciplinary area of science we work in.”