We are happy to announce that the GRADUATE SOCIETY OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS (GSEB) has been officially registered as a Graduate Student Organization (GSO) by the UMass Graduate Student Senate! This means our organization is now eligible for GSO grants to execute a number of activities, from fun social events to academic ones, including functions featuring guest speakers of our choice from the US and abroad. We will be hosting our FIRST MEETING on October 16th at 12:15pm (4th floor conference room). We will be discussing future events, including our FIRST ANNUAL BIKE RIDE FOR BREAST CANCER (October 25th, details TBA), and assembling our newsletter, social, and academic committees. We look forward to seeing you there! ♦ DR. ELIZABETH BERTONE-JOHNSON is attending the 14th Vitamin D Workshop meeting in Bruges, Belgium (Oct. 4-8) and presenting the following: Bertone-Johnson ER, Chocano-Bedoya PO, Zagarins SE, Micka AE, Ronnenberg AG. Dietary vitamin D intake, 25-hydroxyvitamin D3 levels, and premenstrual syndrome in a college-aged population. Many of our students have been involved with this study as either researchers or participants, so it is great to have some interesting results to share! ♦ CONGRATULATIONS to DR. LISA CHASAN-TABER, who recently received almost $100,000 in funding as a supplement to her NIH-funded cohort study, Proyecto Buena Salud. The supplement is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or Stimulus Plan, and will allow the studies to increase staffing to assist with recruitment and follow-up, and also expand to a new site. Proyecto Buena Salud is a prospective cohort study evaluating the association between stress and physical activity and diabetes during pregnancy in Latina women. ♦ Over the past weeks, the BIO/EPI Seminar series has successfully seminars by Dr. Nandita Mitra (UPenn) and Dr. Peter Kraft (Harvard). Students are encouraged to attend future seminars. Dates may be found under “Upcoming Events” and on the newsletter’s website. If you have missed a seminar, a DVD of the lecture may be borrowed from the Division Office. (In photo: Dr. Peter Kraft; Photo courtesy of Kana Yamagiwa).
Biostatistics Announcements

Contributed by Kelly Strait

Biostatistics Brown Bag Lunches

The Biostatistics department has started having monthly brown bag lunches. These lunches are a time for the students and the faculty to get together and talk about the program and to get to know one another. The next lunch will be Wednesday, October 28 from 11-12. The final lunch of the semester will be Wednesday, November 25th.

SAS Tip

Contributed by Patricia Chocano

SAS Tip #1: Easy Way to Create a 'Clear Log Clear Output' Shortcut

1. On your keyboard press F9
2. A new window "KEYS <DM KEYS>" appears
3. In the new window, at the level of F12 write: clear log; clear output;
4. Close the window and now you can press F12 every time you want to clear your log and output.

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Larissa Huber, Epi MS '01

Following her graduation from UMass, Dr. Huber moved to Atlanta, GA where she completed a PhD in Reproductive Epidemiology at Emory University. In 2005, she accepted a faculty position at UNC Charlotte where she is currently an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Public Health Sciences. She teaches epidemiology courses to graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in the Master of Science in Public Health, Master of Health Administration, Bachelor of Science in Public Health, and PhD in Health Services Research programs. She is also the principal investigator of the Fertility and Oral Contraceptive Use Study (FOCUS), a 2-year feasibility study funded by NIH to investigate methodological issues related to conducting a large-scale study to investigate the potential association between obesity and oral contraceptive failure. Her husband (also a UMass alum, MS in Epi '02) and she stay busy with their 3 dogs, 2 cats, and their newest addition--their 6 week old son, Nicky.

Five questions we asked Dr. Huber:

If you could meet anyone (dead or alive), who would it be and why?
I'd love to give you a really professional answer like John Snow, but that wouldn't be true. Probably Hillary Clinton. I really respect her and all she has accomplished.

What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?
My undergraduate degree is in Anthropology, so I'd go with being an archaeologist. I did some digs as an undergraduate in New York and Florida, but I'd love to do a dig on a Mayan site.

What is the last book you read?
A book of nursery rhymes to my son.

If someone wrote a biography about you, what would the title be?
From "Romper Room" to College Classroom

What is your best memory of UMass?
Meeting my now husband!

If you could turn back the clock, what is something you wish you had known during your years as a student?
That reading a bunch of thesis projects takes even longer than writing one.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/16, 12:15pm: Graduate Society of Epidemiology & Biostatistics' (GSEB) First Meeting! @ 4th floor conference room

10/19, 11:10am: Bio/Epi Seminar Series welcomes Dr. Lisa Bodnar Assistant Professor of Epidemiology University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health Title: “Got Misclassification? Application of a probabilistic bias analysis to address misclassification in a study of perinatal epidemiology” Campus Center, Room 603 +Photos of previous events available on our website; seminar DVD can be checked out from Division Office

10/25, 11am: Bike Ride for Breast Cancer Join our 1st Annual GSEB Bike Ride! Goal: raising funds for a Breast Cancer charity of our choice (TBA) Plan: Take bike path from UMass to Northampton (Norwottuck Trail) Suggested Donation: $5-10 per participant

10/28, 11am: Biostatistics Brown Bag Lunch Location: TBA

We encourage your attendance at all the above events!

NOTE: For more information, please visit the Epi Bio Portal website! http://people.umass.edu/beportal

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