April 16, 2012

Dear Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness students,

I hope that you find yourself in a good position as the spring 2012 term begins to wind down. I encourage you to stay on top of your classes, and to reach out to your instructors for encouragement and support as your needs dictate. The end of the term can be a stressful time, but all of us at the Institute are committed to helping you succeed in the classroom and beyond.

It’s time for registration for the upcoming terms. The summer and fall 2012 semester registration window has been open since the beginning of the month. You may register for either the summer or the fall term (or both). Please also note that the university’s continuous enrollment policy does NOT extend to the summer term, so that there is no obligation on your part to enroll for classes in the summer. However, the following courses are available for the summer semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>CRN</th>
<th>Prereqs</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSDP 566-01</td>
<td>4709</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fundamentals of Disaster Planning</td>
<td>Carrico</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSDP 574-01</td>
<td>2795</td>
<td></td>
<td>Epidemics and Other Disasters</td>
<td>Stanhope</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSDP 578-01</td>
<td>2992</td>
<td></td>
<td>Behavioral &amp; Cultural Implications of Disasters</td>
<td>Gill</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSDP 582-01</td>
<td>2796</td>
<td></td>
<td>Disaster Management &amp; Risk Analysis</td>
<td>Kennedy</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSDP 583-01</td>
<td>2797</td>
<td></td>
<td>Legal &amp; Ethical Implications of Disasters</td>
<td>Bommarito</td>
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<td>BSDP 587-01</td>
<td>2799</td>
<td></td>
<td>Facing the Challenges of International Bioterrorism</td>
<td>Zelicoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSDP 625-01</td>
<td>2818</td>
<td>Approval of advisor—s/b taken in last pgm semester</td>
<td>Capstone: Biosecurity and Disaster Preparedness</td>
<td>Zink</td>
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</table>

Note that you will see a new name on the instructor list for the summer class offerings. The BSDP578, Behavioral and Cultural Implications of Disasters, will be taught by Kimberly Gill. Ms. Gill a PhD candidate at the University of Delaware and is working in the well-known Disaster Research Center there. She has a BA in Psychology and an MA in Applied Psychology from Columbia University. Perhaps of equal note, she has already taught a course entitled "Social Science Aspects of Disasters" at University of Delaware and another entitled "Individual and Collective Responses to Disaster" at Metropolitan College of New York. We enthusiastically welcome Ms. Gill to the Institute for Biosecurity faculty team.

The CRN is probably the most important code in the table above in order to access and register your courses. Information has previously been sent to you with instructions for accessing Banner SelfServe and registering. If you need additional help to complete registration, don’t hesitate to contact Program Manager Larry Bommarito at bommarlg@slu.edu. Also, to repeat what we mentioned last month, please remember that we’re going to automatically enroll all students in the program into a specially developed Reference and Orientation course, which you will be in throughout your time with us in the BSDP program. You will permanently see the “BSDP Reference and Orientation Class” in your list of Blackboard classes when you log into the system.
As we have reported to you earlier, the MS program will get a makeover this year with the addition of two new tracks within the MS program in Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness:

- Infection Control, and
- Medical and Public Health Intelligence
- (the program currently in place will be referred to hereafter as the General track)

The Infection Control track will focus on the preparation for and response to infectious disease outbreaks in populations. This track will be of particular interest to those wishing to pursue careers as disaster planners, bioterrorism epidemiologists, infectious disease epidemiologists, or in other fields of communicable disease control. This track would also benefit hospital or industry professionals who could work as infection preventionists, outbreak specialists, or assisting epidemiologists.

The Medical and Public Health Intelligence track will train students in all-source intelligence gathering and analysis, and the dissemination of actionable information in both government and business settings. Focusing on early detection of emerging physical threats and novel/emerging infectious diseases, it will give students the requisite knowledge and skills to provide the homeland security and business communities with threat indications and warnings. Students will develop and recommend rational and viable courses of action to those threats.

Both of the new tracks will require one additional course to complete, so that the General track will continue to require 42 credit hours, and the Infection Control and Medical Intelligence tracks will require 45 credit hours for successful completion. While current MS students may continue the program with no changes to their existing curriculum plan, those who are interested in making a switch to either one of the new tracks beginning in Summer 2012 semester are welcome to investigate this option with their advisor.

In this email, we are attaching the curriculum plans for all three tracks that will be offered beginning with the Fall 2012 term. Please take some time to review these plans—we will be happy to field your questions regarding these tracks and their possible fit for your professional goals.

An administrative request: if you find that your status in the program must change (a need to take a leave of absence, for example, or other circumstances which would cause you to drop from the program entirely), I’d ask that you send us an email to that effect (bommarlg@slu.edu). This will greatly help us keep track of our growing student population.

**Items of Interest:**
**IAEM Scholarship program underway—deadline is May 15, 2012**

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Scholarship Program benefits students pursuing studies in emergency management, homeland security, disaster management, and related fields.

IAEM’s Scholarship Program is available to students pursuing degrees in emergency management, disaster management or related programs. Information, including the application, is available at [www.iaem.com/scholarships](http://www.iaem.com/scholarships). The **deadline** for application is **May 15, 2012**.
Additionally, students may find membership in the organization useful. (Please note that the scholarship is available to all students, regardless of their membership status.) While a regular membership is $170 for U.S. members, students join for the same benefits for only $30.

Every year some of the association’s student members attend the Annual Conference through a stipend from IAEM to help advance their learning. Students are encouraged to consider students membership. It is a great way to meet potential future employers. Information about membership is located at www.iaem.com/about/membership/intro.htm.

Institute for Biosecurity and St. Louis County Health Department win pertussis education grant

Teaming with the Saint Louis County Health Department (SLCHD) Professors Terri Rebman and Alan Zelicoff of the Institute for Biosecurity and Prof. Sarah Patrick of the Department of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health have been awarded a $20,000 grant from vaccine manufacturer Sanofi-Pasteur to develop continuing medical education (CME) modules to inform healthcare providers in the area about the increasing prevalence of pertussis, a respiratory infection that can cause fatalities in infants and prolonged illness in adults. SLCHD Epidemiologist Eleanor Peters has tracked the rise of pertussis cases over the past few years, which can be traced in part to the high carriage rate of the causal bacteria in adults, the primary reservoir of disease. Yet, research has shown that many physicians caring for adults are unaware that adults harbor the bacteria and also do not follow CDC recommendation for booster vaccination against pertussis in young adults.

This project is a unique partnership among public health practitioners, researchers and a corporation to address vaccine preventable illness. MPH students Waqas Humayon (BSDP) and Eric Klick (Epidemiology) will develop the CME modules which will then be made available online and free of charge to local area physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Outcome measures will include vaccine uptake in the population and incidence of new cases of pertussis, especially in children.

Have a productive end of spring semester, and stay tuned to the Institute website (www.bioterrorism.slu) for a revamped look and up-to-date information on the changes to the Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness programs here at the Institute for Biosecurity.

All the best to you this spring,

Al

Professor Alan Zelicoff Director
Institute for Biosecurity
Saint Louis University School of Public Health

Larry

Larry Bommarito, Program Manager
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Saint Louis University School of Public Health