September 2015

Dear Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness students,

A new academic year here at Saint Louis University is underway! Classes for the fall 2015 semester began a week ago last Monday, and the new academic year also brings with it our first of the new year’s Student Notes from the Institute for Biosecurity (to be published September 2015 through May 2016), and our “hello” to new and returning students to our program in Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness. To our new cohort of BSDP students beginning the program with this semester, we extend an especially warm welcome—we’re glad that you’re on board with the MS or MPH or the Certificate program in Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness. You’ve embarked on what is sure to be a fruitful and challenging course of study.

Please take a few moments each month to read through this monthly email. We’ll make sure that they contain significant news and updates that can be only be found here--feel free to contact our program manager, Larry Bommarito, with any follow up questions you may have. Also, remember that all of us here at the Institute are committed to helping you succeed in your chosen program. Toward that end, we invite you to contact any member of the Institute with any issues related to your specific Biosecurity program.

1. 2015 Updated CPHSJ Student Handbook

Earlier this summer, we sent you the CPHSJ Student Handbook for your use, but instead of sending you the July 1, 2015 version, we inadvertently instead sent the inaugural CPHSJ 2013 handbook. The new version of this handbook (revised August 2015) is included in this newsletter, and it is also available online at this link. We apologize for sending an out-of-date handbook.

2. Fall 2015 Graduates—Important dates to keep in mind

Students who plan to graduate at the end of this Fall term (December 2015) should be aware that the student-initiated Application for Degree needs to be completed and submitted by September 11, 2015.

The Application for Degree is now ONLINE through Banner Self-Service. The instructions to complete the Application for Degree through Banner SelfServe can be found at this link on our website: http://slu.edu/Documents/graduate/graduate_education/ONLINE%20GRADUATION%20APPLICATION.pdf.
Here is the [calendar of deadlines](http://slu.edu/x52519.xml) that may be useful to help keep you on track. During the fall semester, the deadlines are extremely important, and a student's failure to submit the appropriate paperwork can result in their degree conferral delay to the Spring semester.

Be aware that it is [very important to submit the application for degree in a timely manner](http://slu.edu/x52519.xml), so that we can work with the Registrar’s office, and ensure every student is on the list and in the commencement booklet.

### 3. Dr. Baskin’s Published Opinion Piece, and LinkedIn Biosecurity group

Dr. Carole Baskin DVM, MSc, CPIA, one of the full-time Institute for Biosecurity faculty members, recently had an opinion piece published in The Conversation regarding dangerous pathogens. A link to the article is [here](http://slu.edu/x52519.xml), and it is also on the newly established LinkedIn SLU Institute for Biosecurity group.

We have recently established a LinkedIn interest group that is available to all students in the Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness programs at Saint Louis University. According to the group profile, this group allows current and former students, faculty and staff of the Institute for Biosecurity at Saint Louis University to share professional interests, career opportunities, research findings, and current bioterror threats & responses with others in this discipline.

The group is called [SLU Institute for Biosecurity](http://slu.edu/x52519.xml), and it is available at this link: [https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=8287390&trk=anet_ug_hm](https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=8287390&trk=anet_ug_hm). It is a private group, so in order to request membership, click the Join button, and we will confirm your membership right away, usually within a day. We currently have more than thirty members, and the group will grow and thrive if you join and submit comments and articles and items of professional interest on a regular basis. Join today and get in on the ongoing conversations!

### 4. Public Health Conference Call for Posters

We recently received a Call for Posters for the Institute for Public Health’s eighth annual conference, coming up on November 19, 2015. (You can find the agenda, registration, and other event details [here](http://slu.edu/x52519.xml).) The conference “Prepared for Peril: Readiness and Recovery for Public Health Threats” will be held on the medical campus of Washington University in St. Louis.

This year’s conference will focus on public health threats of all kinds, from climate change and infectious disease outbreaks to natural disasters and civil unrest. The conference will look at preparing for threats, learning from past threats, protecting vulnerable populations from threats, and more.

You and your colleagues are invited to submit poster abstracts that relate to this year’s theme, “Prepared for Peril: Readiness and Recovery for Public Health Threats.” We are also accepting abstracts on general public health topics.

Space is limited. The abstract submission deadline is [September 18, 2015](http://slu.edu/x52519.xml). [Abstract submission form](http://slu.edu/x52519.xml) >>
4. Advising—annual review

A policy revision at the university level was implemented during the previous academic year which stipulates that all graduate students and their advisors should be communicating at a minimum once during the academic year. We would like to encourage you to be in touch with your advisor on whatever basis best serves your academic and career needs, even for those of you who are not physically located here in the St. Louis metro area.

5. Career Opportunities for our newest graduates

In an effort to continue the Institute’s goal of helping Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness graduates secure jobs in their chosen field, we are communicating with our graduates on a regular basis with job opportunities when we are apprised of them. Just this week, we shared with our graduates word of two job openings in the national office of NACCHO, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (naccho.org) in Washington. Word of these job opportunities was facilitated by the good work of one of our recent MPH-BSDP graduates who completed her internship with NACCHO. Further, another one of our MPH grads has already been hired into a full-time position with NACCHO. We want to be your partner in assisting you in any way we can during and after the job search upon your graduation from the BSDP program.

6. Course Renumbering for all Institute for Biosecurity classes, beginning Fall 2015

Students who have been in our program for a year or more have probably already noticed that course numbers for Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness courses have changed to a four-digit model. This is occurring as a result of the University requiring that all graduate courses be renumbered to be 4-digits long to accommodate the growing number of graduate courses being offered in schools and colleges university-wide. To be clear, here are some additional points regarding the renumbering:

- The courses themselves (content, requirements, curriculum plan location) will NOT change
- Registration for Fall 2015 and going forward will include the new course numbers
- No other administrative changes to registration will occur due to the course number changes
- Your final transcript from the university following degree conferral will show the original three-digit course numbers through Summer 2015, and the new four-digit course numbers thereafter

7. Short, FREE online course on Ebola offered by London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

We were recently notified about a short, three-week online course offered by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, one of the foremost schools of tropical medicine in the world. The online course is free, and its title is Ebola in Context: Understanding Transmission, Response and Control. The
course is designed to look at the science behind the Ebola outbreak in an effort to understand why it has occurred on this scale, and how it can be controlled. The course overview is here:  
http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/freeonlinecourses/ebola/index.html

The course is three weeks in length, and it requires about 4 hours of study per week. Although the course officially began on August 31, the website is still accepting registrations. For those with a particular interest in this disease (Infection Prevention concentrators, take note), this course may serve as an enrichment to your current course load. All are invited to participate.

8. Send us the names of strong potential Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness students!

We want to enlist your help with spreading the word about our advanced degree programs in Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness here at Saint Louis University Institute for Biosecurity. Feel free to send us the names of work colleagues, professional associates, or public service or military contacts who you feel would be good candidates for our graduate degree or certificate programs. In return, we’ll reach out to them to share some information about the good work (teaching, research, and service) that is going on here at the Institute for Biosecurity. We promise not to “hard sell” those you send our way—we are more interested in cultivating awareness of the programs here, and generating enthusiasm for this emerging discipline. Thank you for being a part of our marketing “team”!

We hope that this fall 2015 semester is one that keeps you challenged, encouraged, enlivened, and perhaps even inspired. All of us here at the Institute, faculty, staff, and technical support, are at the ready to assist you with any program-related issues that may arise. Be sure to reach out to any of us if we can be of help.

Have a great fall semester,
Warm regards,

Terri

Terri Rebmann, PhD, RN, CIC
Director, Institute for Biosecurity
Saint Louis University College for Public Health & Social Justice

Larry

Larry Bommarito, MS, Program Manager
Institute for Biosecurity
Saint Louis University College for Public Health & Social Justice