January 2016

Dear Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness students,

I hope everyone had a safe and restorative winter break, and you are all ready to return to classes refreshed and ready for a wonderful spring semester.

A reminder: the Spring 2016 semester registration window is still open, and will continue through the beginning of the Spring semester, Friday, January 22, 2016. Now is the time to register for your Spring 2016 coursework if you have not already done so. Here are some important dates that you’ll want to be aware of regarding registration:

- Friday, January 22 – Spring Online Registration Closes
- Friday, January 22 - Last Day to Drop with a 100% tuition refund
- Friday, January 22 - Last Day to Drop without a "W"
- Mon-Sat, March 7 – 12 – Spring Break

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 student population.

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<th>CRN</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>24389</td>
<td>BSDP-5100-01</td>
<td>Public Health and Disasters</td>
<td>Rodney S. Jones</td>
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<td>24390</td>
<td>BSDP-5103-01</td>
<td>Communicable Diseases and Infection Control</td>
<td>Jonathan Simmons</td>
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<td>24395</td>
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<td>Carole Baskin</td>
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<td>24393</td>
<td>BSDP-5106-01</td>
<td>Disaster Communications and Media Relations</td>
<td>Lance Peeples</td>
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<td>26221</td>
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<td>Writing for Intelligence</td>
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<td>24391</td>
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<td>Disaster Planning for Infectious Disease Disasters</td>
<td>Terri Rebmann</td>
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<td>Emerging Infections: Epidemiology and Public Health Importance</td>
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<td>24396</td>
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<td>Preparing for Disasters: Resiliency and Stress Inoculation</td>
<td>Kimberly Gill</td>
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2. Spring 2016 Graduates—Important information to complete the process—Applications due January 25, 2016

For those planning to receive their MS or MPH degree in Spring 2016, the Application for Degree needs to be completed and submitted by January 25, 2016. The Application for Degree is now ONLINE through Banner Self-Service. The instructions to complete the Application for Degree through BSS, can be found at this link on our website:
http://www.slu.edu/Documents/graduate/graduate_education/ONLINE%20GRADUATION%20APPLICATION%20STUDENT%20INSTRUCTIONS_GR.pdf

To Self Navigate to the link, please go to http://slu.edu/x52519.xml > Current Students>Masters Students> Application for Degree.

During the Spring 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 Summer semester. A copy of the Spring 2016 graduation deadlines is included as an attachment to this newsletter.

Note that for Master degree students, March 4 is the last day to return to the Candidacy Advisor the completed and signed DEGREE EVALUATION form if degree conferral is anticipated at May 2016 Commencement.

It is very important that you submit the application for degree in a timely manner to ensure every student is on the list and in the commencement booklet.

3. Fellowship Opportunity through the National Biosafety & Biocontainment Training Program (NBBTP)

The NBBTP is a partnership between the Division of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health. This is a rare opportunity for individuals seeking work in high containment facilities to receive professional training in biosafety and biocontainment at one of the foremost biomedical research centers in the world. Additional information regarding the Fellowships and NBBTP Professional Development courses is online at www.nbbtp.org; application packages are due July 5, 2016; fellowships begin January 10, 2017 at the NIH Bethesda campus. One of our recent Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness graduates was selected to participate in this program. You could be the next participant!

The NBBTP Fellowship is designed specifically for people interested in careers in high-containment. NBBTP Fellows must be U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, or U.S. Permanent Residents. This is an intensive two years, immersive experience where Fellows are introduced to all elements of biosafety.
The program includes traditional lectures, reading assignments, mentoring projects and travel to off-site conferences and training sessions.

Fellowships are open to bachelor, masters, PhDs, post-docs, and alumni that meet the eligibility requirements (see attached http://www.nbbtp.org/policies-and-guidlines.aspx#eligibility). Directions to apply are also in the attached document and online at http://www.nbbtp.org/how-to-apply.aspx.

Note that the CPHSJ website also contains a webpage with current fellowship, internship, and scholarship opportunities. It is available here: website: http://www.slu.edu/college-for-public-health-and-social-justice/careers/career-resources/fellowships.

4. Contest for submitting great disaster/emergency preparedness videos

Preparing for disasters and emergencies is hard work – and many students are up to the challenge. Many students have helped their communities prepare for disasters and emergencies by volunteering at health centers or with their local Medical Reserve Corps Unit, learning first aid and CPR, developing an emergency plan, preparing an emergency kit, and much more.

Now Health & Human Services wants to see what students in your own communities can do.

HHS is encouraging students to show how they help their family, friends, and community protect their health during disasters and every day. Program details are shown below.

How can I enter?
Submit a short video – up to 60 seconds long – telling us how you prepare your family, friends and community for a disaster. Entries are due on March 28, 2016 at 11 p.m. EST. Your video will be evaluated by a panel of expert judges and we’ll post the top entries online so that other people can vote on them. Check out the challenge website to learn all about the guidelines.

How can I make my video stand out?
Here’s what our judges are looking for:

- Does this video effectively communicate how you are helping your family, friends and community stay healthy during disasters and every day? Does it motivate other young people to be more prepared? (40% of total score)
- How creatively does the video answer the challenge question? (30% of total score)
- Does the video effectively use lighting, sound, and editing to tell the story? Is the dialogue clear and easy to understand? If you are using visual effects, do they contribute to the message or detract from it? (20% of total score)
- How did people vote on your video during online voting? (10% of total score)

What can I win?
Our grand prize winner will get a cash prize of $2,000. Our second place winner will receive $1,000 and our third place winner will get $500.

How does this help?
HHS has seen so many students doing amazing work to help their communities prepare for disasters –
and they want more of you to pitch in and help out. Your video could help inspire other students to help their communities prepare for disasters and emergencies.

**How do they get started?**
To check out all the rules and regulations, check out the My Preparedness Story website today!

**How can I spread the word?**
HHS is trying to get some great energy going and we hope that you will help. We have developed a digital engagement toolkit to make it easy. In this toolkit, you will find sample text for email or newsletter announcement and social media messages with graphics that you can use to help promote the challenge.

**Got questions?**
Contact Elizabeth Jarrett at Elizabeth.Jarrett@hhs.gov.

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**5. Book Club for Biosecurity Continues into 2016**

Join a discussion about the shadowy "Biopreparat" bioweapons program of the former Soviet Union detailed in the memoirs of a Russian scientist who worked at the nerve center there.

At its height it has been estimated the Soviet bioweapons program involved 25,000 to 60,000 employees and is believed to be capable of producing more than 9.9 million pounds of anthrax per year. The Soviet program weaponized plague and the virus that causes smallpox and incorporated hemorrhagic fevers such as ebola.

The Biosecurity Reading Club is reforming and will discuss Biowarrior: Inside the Soviet/Russian Biological War Machine. The book is written by Igor V. Domaradskij and Wendy Orent.

The group will meet at Noon on Wednesday, January 13, in a Salus meeting room yet to be announced. Additionally, those unable to attend in person can participate through FUZE.

Please contact Christopher Blank (blankc@slu.edu) or Emily Weber (eweber4@slu.edu) if you are interested in joining the discussion or have any questions.

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**6. HSDL Critical Releases in Homeland Security, January 2016**

Every two weeks, the Homeland Security Digital Library identifies a targeted collection of recently-released documents of particular interest or potential importance to our student population.


is available for viewing online in PDF format. This assessment can help identify what is known about homeland security risks generally-- the availability of data on homeland security risks and the uncertainty of the risks as they vary by hazard and attribute. Interesting reading.
May the upcoming year be one of continued academic challenges, professional growth and great personal fulfillment. Let us know how we can help you to achieve those goals.

Stay warm!

Terri

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

Larry

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