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# •CULTIVATION•

*The Newsletter for The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education*

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## *From the Director...*

### **Responding to Emerging Issues**

In a fast paced world with advanced technology at our fingertips (literally), messages are exchanged constantly. However, it is still challenging to identify and respond promptly to emerging issues in agricultural, forestry and fishing (AFF) occupational safety and health. Like they say, "it is all in who you know". Connecting with partners in each of the industry sectors is imperative to staying current in a dynamic environment and responding rapidly to identified needs. Professional and social networks comprise the communication channels by which we receive and deliver messages, including safety and health research and recommendations. In order to be responsive to stakeholders (producers, extension, trade associations, academia, allied industries, and policy makers), organizations must develop an efficient system not only to send messages and deliver interventions, but also to collect information and data. Consider your own dissemination strategies. Do you use a contact database or a listserv to send information out to a group of people? Do you engage association members at a conference or training event? Those are examples of partner networks. You may also subscribe or join strategic networks in order to learn about emerging industry issues.

However, being aware of the issues is only half the battle. The second, equally important piece, is the response. Resources and contacts must be in place and ready to activate when emerging issues materialize. Budgeting funds into a pilot and feasibility study program is one way to "plan" for the unanticipated. Providing resources or training to impacted populations is another strategy for response. Befriending multiple media sources is yet another way to recognize and provide information related to emerging issues. At their foundation, each of these strategies is tied to networks and action. You have to know the right people and take initiative to successfully respond to emerging issues.



## *Meet the Advisory Board*

### **Featured Member: Mark Shirley, M.S.**

Mark is a Marine Agent in the Vermillion Parish Extension Service Office in Abbeville, Louisiana. He conducts educational programs dealing with crawfish production, alligator farming, fish pond management, and other aquaculture topics in southwest Louisiana. He also works with fishermen and landowners on coastal issues. Mr. Shirley is a respected member of his community and an invaluable member of the SW Ag Center

External Advisory Committee. Mr. Shirley has been instrumental in participant recruitment for the project, Innovative Approaches to Worker Health Protection Among Shrimp Fishermen of the Gulf Coast, led by Dr. Jeffrey Levin. He also helped make local connections for a feasibility project that assessed ergonomic considerations for crawfish farmers. Recently, Mr. Shirley was honored with the Extension Excellence Award for his dedication to helping people in southwest Louisiana protect and earn a living off the marshes and waterways in his community.

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*Spring 2012*

## SW Center Annual Board Meeting-New Cycle, New Ideas

The External and Internal Advisory Committees, Principal Investigators and staff for the SW Ag Center convened their 2012 Advisory Board Meeting in Ardmore, OK at the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation. Surrounded by a serene Oklahoma landscape, the group discussed new horizons and strategies for the next funding cycle. The mission of the SW Ag Center is to improve the safety and health of agricultural, forestry and fishing (AFF) workers through research, intervention and education projects that build and leverage a network of strategic partners who represent the diversity of the workforce and range of agricultural production in the region.

In order to broaden and strengthen the critical partner network, current and future Center-based activities will focus on providing timely and practical information not only to the research and academic communities, but also to the workers in the AFF industry. This will be accomplished in part by translating scientific publications into trade journal articles and fact sheets. Stronger relationships with producer groups will also allow the Center to be more aware of and responsive to emerging issues which will feed priorities for the pilot and feasibility study program. A significant portion of the evaluation program will stem from an analysis of the



Back row: Steve Shelton, Mark Shirley, Karen Gilmore, Tim Struttmann, Bob Williams, Niels de Hoop, Matt Nonnenmann, Billy Cook, Robert Hagevoort, Chris Bradshaw, Ann Carruth Vijay Boggaram; Front row: Deborah Helitzer, Eva Shipp, Jennifer Victory, Jeff Levin, Sharon Cooper, Amanda Wickman NOT PICTURED: Francisco Cerda, Christine Navarre, Francisco Soto Mas

social network that exchanges occupational safety and health information. Through this strategy, the Center can facilitate the translation of important data (r2p) gathered through research into messages that are responsive to the workers' needs.



## Introducing the 2012 Agricultural Safety Intern- Ashton Williams

The SW Ag Center partnered with the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation to offer a new Agricultural Safety Internship for the summer of 2012. The intern will spend half of the summer in Tyler, Texas and half in Ardmore, Oklahoma getting hands-on experience in agricultural

safety outreach, education and consultation. Interns will learn how to develop, produce and promote safety and health resources at the SW Ag Center. While at the Noble Foundation, interns will work with Consultants to perform safety audits and develop consultation plans for cooperators. Interns will also participate in a personalized project and a group project at the Noble Foundation. Project results will be presented at the conclusion of the summer. The main goal of the internship is to build the capacity of future agricultural professionals and expose them to a variety of careers within the industry. The partnering organizations plan to offer the safety-focused internship every summer.

The intern selected for 2012 is Ashton Williams. She is an animal science major with an agriculture business minor at the University of Arkansas. Her passion for agricultural production began by helping out on her extended family's broiler and cattle farm. Ashton has pursued several opportunities to build her agricultural skill set including summer work as a wrangler for Camp War Eagle and volunteer service with Salem Springs Stables. She also works as a research assistant on a project that measures calf stress during castration. Ashton served as the Reporter for the Block and Bridle Club last year and currently serves as their Vice President where she practices her leadership and communication skills.

Ashton plans to complete her undergraduate degree in May 2013 and continue her education with a focus on agricultural economics. She is particularly interested in animal production and the meat industry. Through this internship experience, she will be able to see how the safety and health of the producer is inherently connected to the value and quality of the product.

## Calendar

### April 2-5, 2012

*COHN and COHN-S/Safety Management Certification Review Course*  
Chapel Hill, NC  
[https://osherc.sph.unc.edu/forms/cohn\\_sfty\\_mgmt\\_reg.htm](https://osherc.sph.unc.edu/forms/cohn_sfty_mgmt_reg.htm)

### April 17

Rural Medical Educators Conference  
Denver, CO  
[www.ruralhealthweb.org](http://www.ruralhealthweb.org)

### April 22-25, 2012

*MAFO-2012 National Farmworker Conference*  
San Antonio, TX  
<http://www.mafofarmworker.com>

### April 23-26, 2012

*Safety in Design and Construction: A Lifecycle Approach*  
Boston, MA  
<https://ccpe.sph.harvard.edu/Design-for-Safety>

### May 14-16, 2012

*Effective Risk Communication: Theory, Tools, and Practical Skills for Communicating about Risk*  
Boston, MA  
<https://ccpe.sph.harvard.edu/Risk-Communication>

### May 30-June 1, 2012

*The Contribution of Epigenetics in Pediatric Environmental Health*  
San Francisco, CA  
[http://www.cehn.org/files/Conference\\_2012.pdf](http://www.cehn.org/files/Conference_2012.pdf)

### June 22, 2012

*2012 Occupational and Environmental Health Conference*  
Tyler, TX  
[Michelle.harris@uthct.edu](mailto:Michelle.harris@uthct.edu) or  
[stephanie.fenter@uthct.edu](mailto:stephanie.fenter@uthct.edu)

### July 9-20, 2012

*Occupational Health Crossing Borders*  
Munich, Germany  
<http://cih.instruct.eu/moodle/>

### July 18-20

Rural Quality and Clinical Conference  
Seattle, WA  
[www.ruralhealthweb.org](http://www.ruralhealthweb.org)

### August 1-2, 2012

*Biosafety for Safety and Health Professionals*  
Norfolk, VA  
<https://osherc.sph.unc.edu/forms/winter12reg.htm>

### August 1-3, 2012

*26th Annual Occupational Health Nursing Certification (COHN and COHN-S) Review*  
Norfolk, VA  
[https://osherc.sph.unc.edu/forms/ohn\\_cert\\_rev\\_reg.htm](https://osherc.sph.unc.edu/forms/ohn_cert_rev_reg.htm)

### September 25-26

*Rural Health Clinic Conference*  
Kansas City, MO  
[www.ruralhealthweb.org](http://www.ruralhealthweb.org)

### October 28-November 1, 2012

*Lessons Learned: Contributions of Exposure Science to Environmental and Occupational Health*  
Seattle, WA  
<http://ises2012.org/index.html>

### October 29-November 2, 2012

*Certified Safety Professional (CSP) Review Course*  
Chapel Hill, NC  
[https://osherc.sph.unc.edu/forms/csp\\_rev\\_reg.htm](https://osherc.sph.unc.edu/forms/csp_rev_reg.htm)

### December 5-7

Rural Multiracial and Multicultural Health Conference  
Asheville, NC  
[www.ruralhealthweb.org](http://www.ruralhealthweb.org)