

60
years

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES

welcome to our 60th anniversary celebration

The founders of the UW's School of Medicine had the foresight to think about preventive medicine in addition to clinical specialties. In 1947, the new school started a small program to train undergraduate students in sanitary science.

In 1970, we became part of the new School of Public Health and Community Medicine. This photo of the 1980 faculty reminds me of how much we've grown. This was before our Toxicology program, before our PhD programs, and before desktop computers. And who would have guessed that the scruffy kid in the lower left-hand corner would still be around as a departmental old-timer nearly 30 years later?

I hope you enjoy your trip down memory lane as much as I've enjoyed mine.

Dave Kalman, Chair

Faculty, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, 1980

SPHCM Archives



then & now

60 years of changes



back: 1948 graduation, front: 2005 graduation

1947–1948

DEGREES

BS Sanitary Science

DEPARTMENT

Preventive Medicine
and Public Health,
School of Medicine

STUDENTS

4 undergraduates,
3 of them WWII vets

FACULTY

Part-time clinical faculty
from state agencies

CLASSROOMS

Thomson Hall,
Hall Health

2007–2008

BS Environmental Health (EH)
MS Toxicology, Exposure Sciences, EH
MPH Environmental and Occupational Health,
Occupational and Environmental Medicine
PhD Toxicology, Environmental and
Occupational Hygiene

Environmental and Occupational Health
Sciences, School of Public Health and
Community Medicine

56 undergraduate majors, more than 300
additional students take introductory EH
courses, 74 graduate students

37 regular, 70 auxiliary

Health Sciences Center and other buildings
across campus

1st graduates

Jack Hatlen, 1949



Courtesy of Jack Hatlen

**BS (Sanitary Science),
University of Washington**

**MS (Microbiology),
University of Washington**

Jack Hatlen graduated with the UW's first class of Sanitary Science majors in 1949, and joined his classmate, John Fish, at Seattle-King County Public Health. Other classmates were Dick Madson and William Dodge. In 1951, Jack was hired as the sole UW campus sanitarian and a part-time department lecturer. He earned his master's degree (while working full time) and was appointed undergraduate program coordinator in 1958. He led the program for nearly 40 years, teaching his last undergraduate class in 1997. Jack continues to work with the Department as an Associate Professor Emeritus.

"I've been happy as a clam with my career choice. I have had the chance to work with people in all walks of life and I've loved the teaching."

Vivid memories

- Finding my way around the utility tunnels that run under campus
- Catching the first student sleeping in my class, and making sure it didn't happen again
- Training Peace Corps volunteers and touring Peace Corps sites in Bolivia and Korea



Carol Martin

1st master's

Carl Osaki, 1973

Our department has awarded 610 master's degrees since Carl Osaki received the first one. Those early degrees were a Master's of Science in Public Health (MSPH). Today's students can choose from among three MS concentrations, two MPH degrees, and two concurrent degree programs with the Evans School of Public Affairs.

Why does Osaki's name sound familiar? He was chief of Environmental Health at Public Health–Seattle and King County and he still teaches an environmental health practice class in our department. He also served three terms on the Washington State Board of Health.

Last year, *The Journal of Environmental Health* named him as one of the top 15 leaders in the field.

Osaki says he became graduate No. 1 by finishing a quarter or two ahead of classmates David Bissonnette, Bryce Breitenstein, Stephen Cant, and Bruce Jackson.

**BS (Environmental Health)
University of Washington**

**MSPH (Public Health)
University of Washington**



1st doctorate

Kay Teschke, 1994



Courtesy of Kay Teschke

**BA (Economics)
Trent University**

**MPH (Industrial Hygiene)
University of California
at Berkeley**

**PhD (Environmental Health)
University of Washington**

Although doctoral students from other departments previously had worked with our faculty, Dr. Kay Teschke was the first to get a PhD in Environmental Health. We have since awarded 48 more. Dr. Teschke has been a professor in the Department of Health Care and Epidemiology and the School of Environmental Health at the University of British Columbia since her graduation.

Dr. Teschke's research focuses on exposure assessment and modeling on public health problems, ranging from Parkinson's disease, back injuries in heavy industry, water quality and gastrointestinal illnesses, to bicycling in cities.

She loves the opportunity to meet with new and old University of Washington colleagues at the annual UW/UBC Occupational and Environmental Health Conference at Semiahmoo.

George Astrakianakis, 38th PhD, 2005

Joel Levin



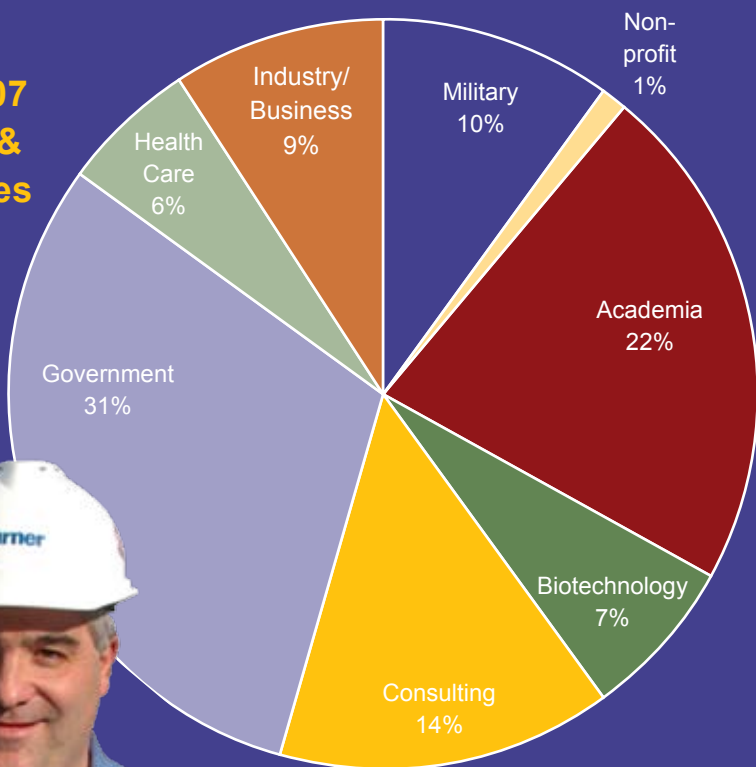
recent grads

and their employers

Our graduates can be found in a variety of fields at the local, national, and international levels. They work in consulting, policymaking, and regulation; or in biotechnology, academia, and medicine. Our undergraduate and graduate students receive a broad theoretical and practical framework. As they advance in their careers, this provides them the flexibility to move from researcher to manager to practitioner, or from the public to private to nonprofit sectors. Wherever their careers take them, they carry a passion for improving public health.

1997–2007 masters & doctorates

*This data
includes all
respondents
to our survey*



*Guy Silvey (BS 1992, MS 1994),
Director of Safety & Health,
Western US, Turner Construction*

Dan Morris



food safety

research-based practice

Restaurant inspections were among the first tasks of the graduates of our Sanitary Science program in the late 1940s. Today's students learn advanced genetic techniques for tracking outbreaks of foodborne illness. The goal is the same: protecting public health.

At the graduate level, we teach courses in risk assessment and communication, toxicology, and environmental health.

One of our graduates, Carl Osaki (MS 1973) applied risk communication principles to health crises in the 1990s. As chief of environmental health for Public Health—Seattle & King County, he was proactive in addressing outbreaks of *E. coli* 0157:H7 linked to hamburgers and fruit juice.

*above: E. coli 0157:H7
under the microscope*





child health

preventing illness

Another initial focus of the program was on the prevention of infectious diseases, which attack the vulnerabilities of the very young. In addition to sanitarians, our department trained public health nurses and, in 1947, established the University of Washington Child Health Center, which served more than 2,500 children in its first year of operation.

Our department's research now includes chronic diseases and disorders, and the intersection of genetic susceptibility and environmental exposures.

Our graduates continue to work in disease prevention and mitigation, including Jude Van Buren (BS 1984), who managed the Washington Department of Health's Office of Maternal and Child Health before being appointed assistant secretary.





air quality

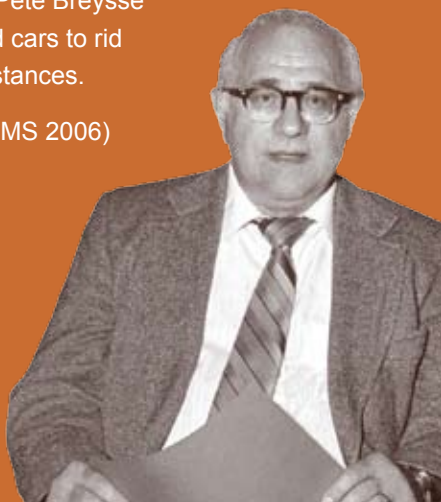
informing public policy

Our department's collaborations on air pollution policy date to 1951, when the Environmental Research Laboratory contracted with the City of Seattle to do smoke and dust particle analyses. Our lab work formed the basis for a comprehensive air pollution control program.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Associate Professor Pete Breysse led efforts to control the practice of burning old cars to rid them of rubber, oil, and other nonmetallic substances.

In 2006, graduate student Whitney Webber's (MS 2006) thesis research informed public policy as the Seattle school board developed a retrofit strategy for its bus fleet.

*Pete Breysse, Associate Professor Emeritus,
at a Distinguished Alumni Reception, 1983*





water quality

protecting a regional resource



In the 1950s, fecal coliforms in Lake Washington were of enough concern that King County voters established Metro as a regional wastewater treatment agency. Today, we can swim in Lake Washington (if it's warm enough), but elsewhere fecal contamination is still with us.

Today, Clarita Lefthand, a doctoral student, has been helping the Tulalip Tribes track the source of the fecal bacteria that have closed Tulalip Bay. She uses modern microbial source tracking techniques—bacteroides 16S ribosomal RNA gene and F+ RNA coliphage markers—to differentiate human and animal sources. Her mentor, Assistant Professor Scott Meschke, is studying shellfish-associated viral illness in other parts of Puget Sound.



worker safety and health

*above: Workers
building the first Lake
Washington floating
bridge, 1940*

*below: Hard hat
sticker, part of our
department's silica
awareness campaign*



Our department has provided industrial hygiene services to employers, workers, and governmental agencies in Washington state since the late 1940s.

Since 1963, funding from the state's Medical Aid and Accident Funds has supported our workplace health and safety activities. This funding helped launch our educational program in Industrial Hygiene and Safety (now called Exposure Sciences) and continues to support graduate education.

Our service programs—the Field Research and Consultation Group, the Environmental Health Laboratory, and the Harborview Occupational Medicine Clinic—receive support from the Medical Aid and Accident Funds. One of the Field Group's most recent health promotion efforts was a campaign to protect workers from silica exposures in the construction industry.

*above: The Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection,
Museum of History and Industry*



*Our department's first computer:
IBM 1130 computing system, 1967*

IBM Archives

technology

enhancing science

The department entered the computer age 40 years ago with an IBM 1130 system. Later, researchers hand-carried their data to the Locke Computer Center. We now have an Information Technology section that supports complex research projects, teaching, and outreach.

The information revolution has come at a human cost. Associate Professor Peter Johnson specializes in ergonomics and computer-related disorders. He has worked with Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, and Logitech on the design and evaluation of computer keyboards and mice.

He collaborated with Hugh McLoone (MS 1990) of Microsoft on the Natural Ergonomic Keyboard 4000, which won the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society's 2007 User-Centered Product Design Award.

*Hugh McLoone (left) and
Peter Johnson with the
Microsoft® Natural®
Ergonomic Keyboard 4000*



Courtesy of Hugh McLoone



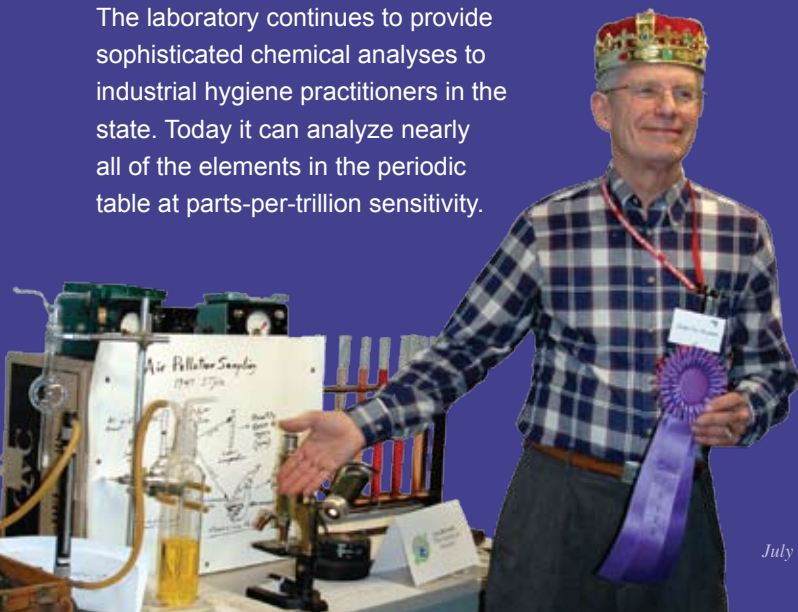
exposure

assessment & analysis

The Mount St. Helens eruption of 1980 scattered ash over much of Washington. Was it hazardous? The Environmental Research Laboratory had more sophisticated detection methods than other agencies and concluded that it was. “We found significant amounts of the three forms of silica that can cause health problems,” recalls Senior Lecturer Emeritus Lee Monteith. As a result, clean-up workers were advised of potential health hazards and given protective gear.

The laboratory continues to provide sophisticated chemical analyses to industrial hygiene practitioners in the state. Today it can analyze nearly all of the elements in the periodic table at parts-per-trillion sensitivity.

Lee Monteith won first prize at the holiday party science fair for his display of 1947-era sampling equipment.



*above: USGS, taken on July 22, 1980 by Mike Doukas
left: Karen Hanson*



toxicology

exploring new frontiers

above:
Edwin Boatman
(right) and a
colleague use the
RCA 3G
microscope

below:
Sheldon Murphy



Professor Dave Eaton started the Toxicology program in 1979, but the hiring of Professor Sheldon Murphy as chair of our department in 1983 really put it on the map. Also, in the early 1980s, professors Elaine Faustman, James Woods, and Lucio Costa joined the toxicology faculty. In ensuing years, both master's and doctoral degree programs were established.

Murphy, one of the pioneers of 20th century toxicology, died in 1990. An endowed chair, established in his memory, is currently held by Professor Evan Gallagher.

Today's toxicologists are exploring alternatives to animal testing with germ-line stem cells and other promising *in vitro* models, and are refining their study of gene-environment interactions.



community partnerships

Our department's faculty, staff, and students often work with communities to understand environmental hazards and help mitigate their sometimes unequal impact.

Professor Matt Keifer founded *El Proyecto Bienestar* (the Well Being Project), a community-based participatory research project in the Yakima valley. Community partners include the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, Radio KDNA, and Heritage University.

One of his recent graduate students, Joyce Tseng (MPH 2007) manages an environmental justice program in Seattle's International District. At the International District Housing Alliance, she helps give a voice to community members who face language, cultural, and economic barriers.

above: Town Hall meeting in the Yakima Valley

support

students in environmental health

*Jack Hatlen (right)
congratulates Chris
Diangco, the first
recipient of the Jack
Hatlen Scholarship*



Kathy Hall

In 2006, the department established a scholarship to honor Jack Hatlen (BS 1949), one of our first graduates and a longtime faculty member. The scholarship supports outstanding undergraduates in Environmental Health.

The first recipient, Christopher Diangco (BS Environmental Health, BS Biology 2008), has been praised for his community service, including the Minority Association for Pre-Health Students (MAPS) and volunteer work at the UW Burn Center at Harborview. He wants to continuing making a contribution to his community by going on to medical school.

The department is actively seeking support to build this fund so we can encourage more students to enter the field. For more information, please contact the Environmental Health Undergraduate Program at ehug@u.washington.edu.

stay connected

Our alumni and friends are important members of the departmental family. We want to stay connected and follow your triumphs and careers. We also want to help you keep up with the latest developments in science through our continuing education program.

Update your information in the “class notes” section of our alumni page, <http://depts.washington.edu/envhlth/alumni/>

Join the continuing education e-mail list at
<https://mailman.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/envhlthce>

Attend Grand Rounds monthly during the school year
<http://depts.washington.edu/ehce/NWcenter/courses/OMG07-08.html>

Find out more on our departmental website
<http://depts.washington.edu/envhlth/>

Support our department by giving
https://secure.gifts.washington.edu/sphcm/gift.asp?page=funds&source_typ=2&source=EGY

Contribute your photos and stories to the school's history project at
<http://sphcm.washington.edu/history/>

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