



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

American Society of Safety Professionals

East Carolina University Student Section

President's Message

Editor's Note:

Hello, and welcome to all the new distance education students. It is my pleasure to release our second issue of the ECU ASSP Student Section newsletter.

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Hello ASSP members and friends! We are officially halfway through the semester. I want to welcome the new distance education students in the MSOS program Erin Harrington, Adam Knox, Christopher Lott, Kevin Marks, Monica McCaskill, Angela Shelton, Melinda Smith. This semester the ASSP student section is partnering up with the AIHA student section. Several students are continuing to assist the V Foundation with their safety programs. This month, the V Foundation will focus on fire safety. In addition, five students will be attending the ASSP's Annual Future Safety Leaders Conference in Oak Brook, Illinois. Students have prepared resumes and are excited to network with future employers and companies. We would like to give a huge thanks to the ASSP North Carolina parent chapter for giving us the opportunity to attend meetings and conferences. Lastly, congratulations to Mike Behm for presenting at the Carolina Star Conference in Greensboro, NC. Let's finish this semester strong Pirates!

Thanks,
Bahirah

Welcome to Our New Distance Education Students!



Adam Knox (distance education)

Hello! My name is Adam Knox, and I am a distance education student enrolled in ECU's Master of Science in Occupational Safety program. I live and work in Asheville, NC as a storage facility manager. I was inspired to pursue safety as a career while taking some construction classes at the local community college in Asheville. My professor had worked in industry as a safety professional at nuclear power plants in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions, and shared some incredible stories of how his training and expertise had saved real lives and averted crises that could have been catastrophic. I hope to mimic his same level of passion, practical knowledge, and commitment to the well-being of others as I pursue safety roles and continue down the path of becoming an Occupational Safety professional. Go Pirates!

-Adam



Christopher Lott (distance education)

My name is Christopher Lott and I am a first-year graduate student at East Carolina University in the Master of Science in Occupational Safety program. I graduated with my BS in Biological Sciences with minor in Chemistry from Winston Salem State University in 2012 and have decided to earn my master's at ECU because it has a diverse culture and wonderful professors. My earliest exposure to the safety field started with my uncle planting the seed for safety by working as a safety coordinator for a graphic paper printing company. Once I graduated college, I began my professional career in food safety as a health inspector (environmental health specialist) with Guilford County Department of Health and Human Services. Five years later after being accepted in the master's program at ECU, I'm truly excited to start furthering my knowledge by being a distance education program student. I choose ECU because I believe this Master of Science degree will prepare me to become a well-rounded applicant for ABET accredited Ph.D. programs in Industrial Hygiene along with proven quality training in occupational safety management.

-Christopher



Melinda Smith (distance education)

My name is Melinda Smith and I am in the first year of the MS in Occupational Safety Program. I graduated from Methodist University in 2011 with a BS in Occupational Environmental Management with a concentration in Regulatory Compliance and a minor in Legal Studies. I took my first job in the field right out of college as an EHS Tech for an Aerospace Company. Since then I have worked in Food Manufacturing, Boiler Assembly, Battery Manufacturing, and currently serve as the EHS Manager and PSM Coordinator for a Chemical Company right outside of Wilmington, NC. Even in my undergraduate years, I had the desire to attend ECU for my Master's. With work, and life I couldn't go back to school, until this fall. I am very excited, that I'm at a point in my life where I'm able to pursue my Masters. I am excited to sharpen my knowledge and learn more about the science and methods behind occupational health and safety. Eventually, I would like to be an Industrial Hygienist in a Regional Position, or potentially as a consultant. I enjoy learning from the instructors, as well as learning from the experiences of others. I have two children ages 4 and 7, so distance education allows me the opportunity to work in the field, be a mother, and continue my education all at the same time. I'm able to listen to classes on my phone, while preparing gourmet meals of mac and cheese at the same time ☺. I am glad to be a Pirate especially an MSOS Pirate.

-Melinda

Giving Back to Those in Need



A way that I like to give back to the community is by doing volunteer work for a variety of non-profit organizations. In North Carolina, Hurricane Florence's path of destruction was life-threatening due to its size and slow speeds (causing major floods in Eastern NC); which caused 20,000 to seek (NC) shelter. My most recent volunteer event was with Temple Church in New Bern (Southern Baptist Disaster Relief) to aid those in dire need in. We helped by moving furniture/personal belongings to prevent mold damage and clearing/cleaning heavy debris out of their yard. My assigned group was able to help four homeowners, two with moving furniture and the other two with clearing debris. This volunteer experience was indeed strenuous and tiring because of the continuous heavy lifting, heat, and humidity. What made the experience worth it all were the joy-filled conversations and the individuals' thankful tears afterwards. Through these community services, I have been able to continuously improve my leadership skills, teamwork skills, and ultimately my ethical values, which are all necessary skills to develop when it comes to the safety profession. Community service has always been something I've loved to do in my free time, and I think a lot of it has to do with the sense of gratitude and impact I am able to make in someone's life.

-Kong

ECU MSOS Alumni Spotlight/ New Professor



Dr. Dylan Hardison

Dr. Dylan Hardison is an assistant professor in the Master of Science in Occupational Safety program at East Carolina University. He holds a PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder and has 12 years of industry experience in occupational safety and health. Dr. Hardison decided to follow a safety and health career after witnessing a workplace accident of a fellow employee. Dr. Hardison enjoys the Eastern North Carolina area and its abundant research opportunity. This is part of the reason we are lucky to have him as an assistant professor in the MSOS program here at ECU. In addition to his daily responsibilities, Dr. Hardison still finds time to teach and give back to the community through research, training, and education. After being asked what advice he would give to someone interested in a career in safety, Dr. Dylan Hardison said, “Find an industry that you are passionate about and learn how the work is done. This will help you better understand how to protect its workers as the more you know about a process, the safer you can make it.”

ASSP Student Section and AIHA Student Section Partnership



(Left to right: AIHA Student Section President Anna Squire, Vice President Julia Sheff, ASSP Student Section President Bahirah Siddiqi, Vice President Kong Meng Lee)

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) student chapter was created Fall 2016. Their goal is to inform and educate students about industrial hygiene. Dr. Jo Anne Balanay, certified industrial hygienist is the AIHA student section faculty advisor. Their student chapter is sponsored by the AIHA Carolinas ECU Student Section. Their officers are President Anna Squire, Vice president Julia Sheff, Secretary Brooke Alston, and Treasurer Laura Allen. All their officers are seniors at ECU. Last semester, students in ECU ASSP Student Section presented their toxicology poster at the AIHA conference in Raleigh, NC. The ECU ASSP Student Section and AIHA Student Chapter had their first meeting September 24th. The meeting allowed students to discuss what goals and expectations they had for this academic school year. Officers of both sections discussed plant tours, conferences, guest speakers, recruitment within programs and volunteering events. ASSP members were given the opportunity to share their experiences and insight about the ASSP and the Master of Science in Occupational Safety program that they are in. Overall, both sections look forward to working with each other this school year.

-Bahirah

The Carolina Star Safety Conference



On October 23, 2018, Dr. Behm was the opening day speaker at the Carolina Star Conference, which was held in Greensboro, NC. Dr. Behm was given permission to bring two of his MSOS students along, which were Bahirah and Floyd. I was very excited to see one of my professors speak to a crowd of over 300 people. Most of the time in college you do not get to see how your professor would do away from the college setting. Dr. Behm did not let us down nor the crowd that he spoke to that day. It was pleasant to see him interact with the crowd while teaching them about safety topics. Dr. Behm received a five-hundred-dollar donation to the ECU ASSP Student Chapter for speaking at the event. It was nice to see an individual that cares about safety and wants to see the next generation of safety professionals succeed.

-Floyd

V Foundation



This month the V Foundation has designated the month to be Fire Safety. Floyd has designed fire evacuation plans for the V Foundation three story building. They are in the process of getting approved by the board. Once the plans are excepted, we will be conducting fire training and drills. Hopefully, we will be able to roll out a new safety topic each month for twelve months. Next month we will be focusing on inclement weather. This partnership has allowed me to learn how to design a safety plans for a company. I really like the hands-on approach because it allows me to learn at a faster pace. Next year if all goes as plan, we find a second company to work with and help them to design a safety plan.

-Floyd

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