



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

American Society of Safety Professionals

East Carolina University Student Section

President's Message

Editor's Note:

**Congratulations to recent MSOS graduates and Kong Lee for receiving a scholarship.*

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Congratulations to MSOS class of 2019!!! We are excited to see and hear about changes and career advances you make in the future. ECU MSOS students are continuing to volunteer with The V Foundation for Cancer Research. Students have been working diligently with the V Foundation Human Resources Director and the Cary Police Department. Students presented their life safety plan to employees, resulting in the facility to adopt more safety plans. MSOS students also participated in the annual Pirate Alumni Race. Students are enjoying the service projects and giving back to the community. On April 11th guest speaker Dr. Gerry Ayers from Melbourne, Australia came to speak on Workers' Day Memorial. We would like to thank the ASSP parent chapter for attending. The turnout was amazing due to the support of the parent chapter and students from the College of Engineering and Technology. The ECU ASSP student section would also like to give a big thank you for sending two MSOS students to New Orleans for an upcoming conference. Have a great summer pirates, we'll see you in the fall!!!

Thanks,

Bahirah

International Worker's Memorial Day &

Guest Speaker Dr. Gerry Ayers



Dr. Gerry Ayers
OHS&E Manager at
CFMEU Vic Br
C&G Div.
Melbourne, Australia

Dr. Gerry Ayers from Melbourne, Australia gave an insightful lecture about International Workers' Memorial Day (IWMD), which is on April 28th. It's a day to remember workers that have lost their lives on the job and their families. An estimated 14 workers die every day while at work. Never getting a chance to say goodbye to their loved ones. Dr. Ayers has a PhD and Master's degree in Occupational Health & Safety. His background is in construction. He has been in the construction industry for twenty-five years. His job entails constant dispute on the value of a human life. MSOS students were thrilled to ask questions while he was on ECU campus. Some included, how Australia's safety regulations differ from OSHA. How manslaughter is viewed in Australia. Several alumni and past ECU ASSP presidents were in attendance. Many former students were engaged and asked questions. Others that attended were undergraduate students in the College of Engineering & Technology. ECU ASSP student chapter was honored to host a NC ASSP parent chapter meeting at the university. The student chapter would like to thank the parent chapter for coming out and supporting this event. A dinner was held in the west side of campus. During the dinner, Dr. Ayers answered any last-minute questions. He went on to discuss what IWMD means for families that have lost a loved one. Hearing his experiences as a safety professional was a wonderful opportunity.

-Bahirah

2019 North Carolina Safety Conference Scholarship



Kong Lee
Graduate Student

Earlier in May, I was the recipient of the 2019 North Carolina Safety Conference's \$1,500 annual scholarship. I am deeply honored and humbled to have received this scholarship. This scholarship enables me to focus on my thesis research for the summer without having to worry about my financial needs. Thanks again to Charles "Buster" Dawson, the North Carolina Safety Conference, College of Technology Systems, and those that assisted with the application process. I look forward to more opportunities like this scholarship in the future.

Sincerely,
Kong

ASSP Research Poster Session Program at the Safety 2019 Professional Development Conference



At the end of January 2019, Floyd received an email from American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) telling him about an ASSP Research Poster Session Program that was being held in New Orleans for the Safety 2019 Professional Development Conference and Exposition (PDC). To enter the poster session a person should have a poster that has a topic that raises the level of awareness in safety, health, or environmental research, best practices in safety related-field, new program initiatives in safety related-field, key issues in Occupational Safety and Health, expand the body of knowledge in a safety-related field, or identify emerging issues in safety-related field were some of the ideas that were suggested. Floyd forwarded the email to his classmates asking them if anyone was interested in going. After receiving a positive reaction from his classmates, Floyd sent another email to Dr. Behm asking him if there were enough funds in the student account to attend the event. Dr. Behm explained how the ASSP ECU Student Chapter did not have enough funds to send us to the event because we did not typically attend this event. After brainstorming with the other students, we decided to ask our parent chapter the ASSP North Carolina (NC) Chapter if they would sponsor our section into going to the event. The chapter was more than happy to sponsor our ASSP ECU student section for the event. Dr. Behm suggested that students could only go to New Orleans after they received confirmation that their poster had been accepted, and the ASSP NC Chapter agreed. Only two students decided to go after the requirements were set forth, which were Floyd and Kong. The students were excited that the ASSP NC Chapter had decided to fund the ASSP Research Poster Session Program in New Orleans. The students are very proud that they were selected by ASSP to go to the event and even prouder to represent East Carolina University and ASSP NC Chapter. The students that are attending the event plan on telling about their adventures in the next newsletter. We would like to say thanks again to ASSP NC Chapter for supporting us in New Orleans.

-Floyd

Congratulations to our Recent Graduates from the Master of Science in Occupational Safety!



(Left: Donnie Smith, Caitlin Payne, Moien Kiani, Zachary Beachem, Abdulaziz AlFadhli)



Donnie Smith
Powerline Technician
Training Supervisor/
Instructor at Coastal
Carolina Community
College

I have worked in the electric utility industry for over 18 years performing various jobs ranging from crew leader to safety manager. I currently teach an Electrical Lineworker course and several OSHA classes at Coastal Carolina Community College. The MSOS Program at ECU has given me the knowledge and resources to be a better-rounded safety professional. The program helped me identify my weaknesses while exposing me to a wide range of information that safety encompasses. The professors were very knowledgeable and passionate about their work. It changed my attitude and set the tone of how we conduct ourselves ethically while serving those around us.

I met a lot of great people while attending ECU. Its building these types of relationships that have helped me take my career to the next level. Overall, I recommend this program to anyone who wants to enter the field of safety or for those who want to continue to grow in their career as a safety professional. This program will challenge you no matter what level of experience you have. It's well worth the investment!

-Donnie Smith

ECU Alumni Association – Pirate Alumni Road Race & Fun Run on April 13, 2019

On Saturday, April 13, 2019 I had the privilege to participate in the 12th Annual East Carolina University Alumni Association 5K race and 1-mile Fun Run. Despite the inclement weather the race continued. I had the pleasure of running this race with my professor Dr. Mike Behm and his two sons, our guess keynote speaker Dr. Gerry Ayers, and fellow classmate Kong Lee. I consider myself as a person who is in decent physical shape and was under the impression that I would be able to beat my professor and our guess in this race, but little did I know these guys flat out beat both Kong and me.

For the past 12 years this ECU Alumni Association and other sponsors have put together this race as a family friendly and charitable event for everyone. You do not have to be a serious runner or athlete to participate in the race, there are race options available to suit everyone. Family of all ages are welcome to participate, choose between a 5k or a 1-mile fun run. Participants get an official race bib, electronic timing chip, and get to enjoy post-race snacks and refreshments. The top three finishing competitors in each age group both male and female were given medals for their achievement.

The Alumni Association scholarship fund receives the contributions from the Alumni Road Race and the Fun Run, to date the Alumni Association fund has awarded 297 scholarships to qualified undergraduates totaling almost \$432,000.

I really enjoyed being a part of this Pirate Road Race and look forward to participating in it again next year, I am committed to beating the time I recorded this year. Hopefully participation will continue to increase, and the proceeds continue to benefit the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund and help ECU students achieve success in every endeavor they pursue.

-Neil

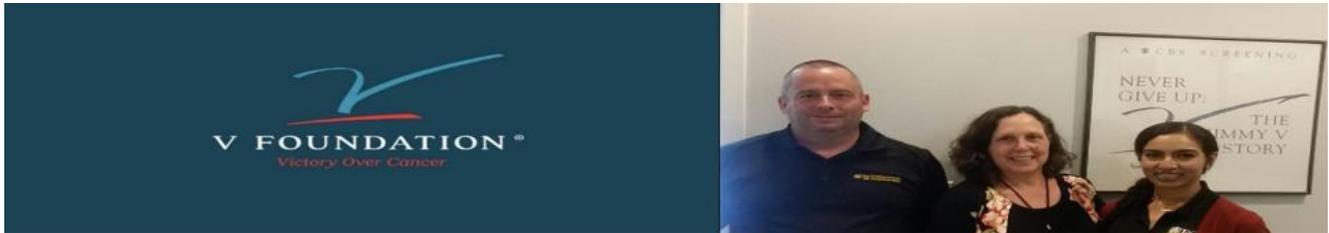
ECU MSOS Alumni Spotlight



Jennifer Banks
Risk Manager
Beaufort County
North Carolina

Jennifer Banks is an alumna from the Master of Science in Occupational Safety program from East Carolina University. Jennifer has been in the safety field for 10 years. Jennifer desired as career in the safety field because it is multifaceted and she gets to keep workers safe at the workplace by professionally educating, communicating, and advocating safety. Currently, she is a Risk Manager for Beaufort County with the responsibilities of analyzing work environments and work procedures, inspecting workplaces for adherence to regulations on safety, health, and the environment, and designing and implementing programs to prevent disease or injury to workers and damage to the environment. Jennifer mentioned that a typical workday can be unpredictable at times because of the many claims she receives such as; workers' compensation, auto/liability, tort, and property. Nonetheless, the predictable part of work that she is most passionate about is getting the chance to proactively prevent workplace injuries by ensuring workers are working safely on job sites, maintain and utilizing heavy equipment in accordance to manufacture guidelines, and regulatory compliance guidelines. Jennifer says that this is all achieved by conducting daily job observations, updating safety programs as needed based on the variance in the job task, conducting OSHA regulatory training, promoting a healthy safety culture by getting employees to see that safety goes beyond regulatory compliance. Some of the challenges she faces is getting employees to see the individual benefit of safety and help them understand that safety goes beyond regulatory compliance. "Coaching and disciplining employees who have no respect for their safety or that of their safety or that of their coworkers" is another challenge that faces on her job. What Jennifer enjoys most about her job is that they can build rapport and gain trust from employees and learning from the employees because of the wealth of knowledge she can gain from them. Lastly, her advice for someone pursuing or wants to pursue a career in safety is, "Avoid complacency by focusing on one industry of safety. While in college try to do at least 2 internships in different industries. Network with safety and risk professionals in all industries and shadow safety professionals in different industries at least for 3-5 days to see how broad and expansive the field of safety is. You will never be boxed in the field of safety; the possibilities are limitless".

V Foundation



It has been a great experience working with the V Foundation over the last two years. Bahirah and I have learned a great deal about creating a safety program for a small business. I feel this has allowed me to apply the knowledge that I have learned in the MSOS program at ECU. However, as it comes closer to my graduation date, I will need to pass the reins to the next graduate student. Kong Lee will be taking the lead role with the V Foundation in the coming months. Kong and I will be working with the V Foundation to design them a PowerPoint that we can deliver to their employees so that understand about fire safety and how they should react if something happens to them at home or work. I think speaking in front of 35 people or more will help Kong and I develop new skills. The first time I spoke to the crowd of 35 people I had to project my voice further because they were seated in a large room. This allowed me to gain experience when talking in a large room. I think Kong will be pleasantly surprised on how much he will learn from working with the V Foundation.

-Floyd

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