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Northwest Chapter

UMD Student Section



MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

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Spring 2006



UMD Wins ASSE National Outstanding Student Section!



Aubrey Gold and Lindsey Hanson

Once again, the Class of 2006 is making history! After classmates swept the national SESHA Research Scholarship top three awards in Santa Clara just last month, we are thrilled to announce our first place finish for the national ASSE Outstanding Student Section Award! This is the first ever win for UMD. The ASSE Academic Committee revised award rules last year after Murray State won two years in a row to allow unregulated consecutive wins by the same section.

Last year's class paved the way by submitting the first application and received an impressive third place. Their application provided an outstanding format and standard for our officers to build on.

The criteria for the application included professional development, research, community enhancement, recognition, participation, endorsements and support documentation. Several members of the section stepped up with various research projects and community enhancement events that contributed to a strongly supported application. Endorsements came from several past MEHS graduates and two other safety professionals.

This award brings the MEHS program \$5,000 of scholarship, research and travel assistance to the ASSE Conference in Seattle, WA. Several students will travel to the West Coast to accept the honor mid-June.

Editor's Corner

Lindsey M. Hanson, Chief Editor

Hans2525@d.umn.edu

Fresh from break, we've hit the ground running in the MEHS program. Many of our classmates were able to escape chilly Duluth and were lucky enough to head to warmer climates! Our classmates' travels took them to Las Vegas, Nevada, Honolulu, Hawaii, Portland, Oregon and I was able to head back to Biloxi, Mississippi.

This spring, we've really been able to see what former graduates have been telling us all along: "Time management is the key to getting through this program!" With only a couple weeks left, we find ourselves looking at our academic planners trying to stay on top of our schedules. It indeed will be an exciting time as we look forward to entering the workforce, following in the footsteps of past MEHS students.

In this issue, you will meet our second Featured Speaker of the year, Mark Boben, of ConnocoPhillips. Also, you'll find articles highlighting the bright future of EHS professionals and learn about our travels to DeKalb and Chicago.

A special "thanks ya'll" goes out to the co-editors who assisted in producing the newsletters this year!

Congratulations Class of 2006, we're almost there!

Attention Alumni!

Please let us know if you or a MIS/MEHS graduate, or someone you know that should be receiving a newsletter copy has moved and is not getting their copy. Send the address change to:

UMD ASSE Student Section
University of Minnesota Duluth
1305 Ordean Ct.
Duluth, MN 55812-2496

Or E-Mail mehs@d.umn.edu

Also view our updated MEHS program website at <http://mehs.d.umn.edu> where you can learn more about the program, current students, alumni, and much more!

For additional copies of this newsletter,
See the MEHS website or
call (218) 726-8117

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Class of 2006 ASSE Officers



ASSE Elected Officers 2005 - 2006 (from left to right): President Aubrey Gold, Chief Editor Lindsey Hanson, Treasurer Jerry Ulleberg, Secretary Jill Ellestad, and Vice President Matt VanWatermolen.

Upcoming Events

ASSE National Conference and Exhibits Seattle, WA June 10 th - 15 th	MEHS Class of 2006 Commencement May 11, 2006
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UMD Students Sweep SESA!

Scholarship Awards went to the following UMD MEHS Students

1. Matt VanWatermolen, "A Risk Assessment of Bulk Versus Small Chemical Quantity Transfer During the Manufacture of Semiconductors: A Review Article of Silane Delivery"
2. Paul Beck, "Nanotechnology; Can We Get As Safe As We Are Small?"
3. Aubrey Gold, "Emergency Preparedness: Best Practices"

Congratulations!

Thank You Visitors!

As always, a huge thank you goes out to all those who dedicated their time to the Class of 2006 this spring!

Glen VanHeel & Staff at M. A. Mortenson Company
 Mark Boben, ConocoPhillips
 Jesse Michaletz, M. A. Mortenson Company
 Dan Murphy, Zurich
 Mami Hogan, Seagate Technology
 Chuck Bailey, Bailey and Associated
 Andrea Hayden, Hibbing Taconite Company
 Andrea Penrizo, Hibbing Taconite Company
 Jeff Johnson, Hibbing Taconite Company
 Steve Rogers, Hibbing Taconite Company
 Mike Smart, Sappi Paper Mill
 Doug Swenson, AGC of Minnesota

Another Successful and Fun Chicago Pilgrimage for the MEHS in 2006

Lindsey Hanson

When you hear of Chicago, what instantly comes to your mind? It's the food, art and jazz, right? Well, the MEHS Class of '06 had all that and more when we attended the 16th Annual Construction Safety Conference and Exposition on April 4-6, 2006.

Each year, UMD students travel to Chicago to assist in running the conference. In addition to helping, students were able to attend sessions including: Pentagon Construction - Post 9/11, Effective Safety Strategies for Multi-Story Construction, Could this Day Get Any Worse?, Construction Boot Camp, Response to Construction Emergencies other interesting and stimulating seminars.

The night before the conference started, after a long day of setting up exhibits and other logistics for the conference, students were ready for a nice break. Zurich Insurance, Bovis Lend Lease and Construction Safety Council sponsored a "Student Appreciation Party" to network with construction industry insiders and enjoy great food and tasty beverages. Students interested in pursuing the construction safety field, found it incredibly useful to speak with people who have been active in construction. Even students who have already taken a position with other industries or those students not interested in construction had a great opportunity to work with EHS professionals.

In addition to attending and working at the conference, students were given a day to explore the city. Some chose to shop on Michigan Avenue, visit Navy Pier on Lake Michigan and see the Museum of Science and Industry. The last night of our Chicago trip, MEHS Program Director Hamid Forooni took the class to Kingston Mines Blues Club where students were treated to authentic Chicago Blues nightlife.

Overall, students found the Chicago trip a great way to wrap up the year. Many gained new friends within the industry. Many thanks to Mr. Tom Broderick and his staff at the Construction Safety Council and Chicagoland Construction for sponsoring the students' spacious accommodations. Also, special thanks to Gayla Bookrath, Gray Coleran and Beverly Jerrick for their nonstop hard work to make things run smoothly. In addition, Zurich Insurance hospitality and Dan Murphy's assistance and support of students was much appreciated.

Campus Driver Safety Study



Diane Currelli, Alissa Johnson and Jill Ellestad discuss ICE to a passing student.

Diane Currelli & Alissa Johnson

The University of Minnesota Duluth Campus Safety Health & Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (CSHEPAC) has received some reports and complaints regarding potential public safety issues surrounding unsafe driving on campus.

The CSHEPAC contacted the ASSE Student Section to ask for some assistance developing a study to identify and assess the potential risks. Diane Currelli and Alissa Johnson, UMD ASSE student members, developed a comprehensive driver safety study during the spring semester to help the CSHEPAC in their efforts. As part of this study they put together a short "Driver Habit Survey" to be distributed among the students across the UMD campus. The survey content covered a variety of topics such as cell phone, seatbelt usage and speeding on campus. In conjunction with this survey Ben Sand led a group effort to observe behavior of drivers while pedestrians are in the crosswalks on the UMD campus. Final analysis reports includes the data collected from both the drivers survey and the crosswalk study. The reports were submitted to the UMD Campus Safety Health & Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee for further action in mid-April.

The ASSE Student Section also had an informational booth about the In Case of Emergency (ICE) program. ICE is a program developed for assisting emergency workers in alerting a contact in case of an emergency situation when the victim can not communicate who should be notified. More information on ICE is available at www.asse.org

"We hope to use these programs to help raise safety awareness among the students, faculty, and staff on UMD campus", said Johnson.

Mark Boben: Safety Professional in Action

Alissa Johnson

M. E. (Mark) Boben is Manager, Upstream HSE and Emergency Response, for ConocoPhillips. Boben assumed his current position in January 2005 and is responsible for supporting health, safety, environment, (HSE) and emergency response for ConocoPhillips global operations.

Boben was born in Duluth, Minnesota. He earned a bachelor's degree in social sciences from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota and a Master's Degree in Industrial Safety from the University of Minnesota in Duluth in 1977 and 1978 respectively.

He joined Phillips Petroleum Company in 1978. While in Stavanger, Norway, from 1980 to 1986, he worked in Ekofisk operations in a variety of safety positions both on and off shore. In Casper, Wyoming, and Oklahoma City he served the North America exploration and production group in safety and equipment inspection positions before moving to Bartlesville, Okla., in 1990 to become a member of the research and development safety and health group. In 1991, he provided HSE support to international ethanol and petroleum (E&P), and in early 1992 was named HSE director of international E&P. Later that year he transferred to Shekou, China, to serve as HSE manager of E&P Eurasia. He served as Reviews and Assessments Coordinator at Bartlesville beginning in 1998. He was named Vice President, Loss Prevention, China, in 2000 where he was responsible for health, safety, environment, HSE, permitting, Q&QC and training located in Beijing.

1. What did you find most challenging professionally when you first left UMD?

"Upon graduation from Gustavus Adolphus College, I went directly into the Masters of Industrial Safety program. My work experience consisted of working construction and manufacturing during the summers and part time during school. Upon entering the safety profession, I quickly found out that I had a lot to learn; theory and reality don't necessarily go hand in hand. My focus was to learn as much as I could about the company and the operations being performed"

2. What advice would you give the current class as they go through the MEHS program?

"Learn as much as you can, develop relationships with your classmates and have some fun. Your working life is going to be exciting and challenging. It will also consume most of your life. You will have a short time in the program, enjoy it."

3. What advice would you give the current class once we start looking for jobs?

"Do your research on the industry or company you want to work with. If you can go into an interview with a basic understanding of the company and the challenges being faced you will be better prepared for the interview process. First impressions make a difference, make yours count."

4. What did you find most helpful when you left the program?

"I worked hard to develop relationships throughout my career with people from top to bottom of the organization. Additionally, I have been active in seeking out mentors throughout my career to provide guidance on how to improve myself and increase my value to the company."

5. What is the best part of your job with ConocoPhillips?

"I joined the oil industry to have the opportunity to work internationally. The company has provided me with the opportunity to spend more than 15 years abroad working on multi-billion dollar projects around the world. This not only provided the opportunity for challenging and exciting professional growth but also personal growth for myself and my family living in developing a more open view of the world. I've had a great career!"

A Report of Christmas Break Activities



W. G. Yates and Sons Construction Company's Main office in Biloxi, Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina hit. The entire first floor was completely destroyed. Regardless, they were among the first business in the area to reopen.

Diane Curelli

Over winter break, many students in the program took the opportunity to job shadow at various companies throughout the country.

Lindsey Hanson returned to W. G. Yates and Sons Construction, in Biloxi, Mississippi, for an up close look at the damage from Hurricane Katrina. She learned about proper demolition and recycling of debris, how the community of Biloxi is recovering and how a company can assist employees in getting back on their feet after suffering such a devastating tragedy. The highlight of her trip was getting to see the process of demolishing a casino barge. She stated that she was very impressed with how Yates aided their employees in the weeks following the storm.

Mitch Sharpe worked with Ryan Vieau (2005) of APi Group, Inc. in the Twin Cities over break. He was able to perform a couple safety audits at different facilities around the area.

Aubrey Gold spent her time in Hillsboro, Oregon touring Intel's Ronler Acres campus and Sun Microsystems. Her main contact was Andy Karsnia with E O R M, who set up the tours and gave her an opportunity to speak with some of their consultants. Aubrey felt that it was not only a great opportunity, but that it also helped to give her a better idea of what she may pursue post graduation.

Alissa Johnson stayed in Duluth and job shadowed with local Lloyd Vieneau who is a safety consultant for businesses around the area. She had the opportunity to do safety audits, attend safety meetings and to tour some of the companies Lloyd works for. Alissa will be working with Lloyd when she has time over the rest of the semester.

Kristy Smith also stayed in the area, job shadowing at Hibbing Taconite up on the Iron Range.

Finally, Jill Ellestad met with Jim Leste and Kristi Adams-Haglund at Children's Hospitals and Clinics in Minneapolis. She was able to tour the hospital and gained insight about how different a hospital setting is from other industries.

All of the students felt that these opportunities were worth while and that they gained a lot of hands on knowledge by getting out into the field. A special thank you goes out to all those who allowed current students to job shadow.

MEHS Graduates Return, Wearing Different Hats



Chris Tschida, Class of 1999



Nancy Tarrio, Class of 2003

Paul Beck

It's second semester and two former MEHS graduates have found themselves back in school. Only this time they are not taking classes, they're teaching them. MEHS Graduates Chris Tschida ('99) and Nancy Tarrio ('03) have joined the faculty as adjunct professors for this year's spring semester classes.

Chris, who is presently a Safety Director at M. A. Mortenson Company is teaching Construction Safety Management, while Nancy is teaching Leadership, Teamwork and Behavior in EHS. Nancy works for Louisiana Pacific and is a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt (Project Manager). Both Chris and Nancy are excited to be back and look forward to passing their real world knowledge down to students, especially since they remember being in that position not too long ago.

Both graduates bring unique and effective teaching styles to the program and incorporate experiences and exercises that complement the class materials and topics. For the MEHS program to continue to flourish it is important not only to learn the bread and butter of safety, but to also be able to tie that information in with what is presently experienced in the profession. By having Nancy and Chris back to contribute their working knowledge of safety and integrating that into a classroom setting, it helps to ensure another strong and well rounded group of students enter the job market fully prepared.

SESHA Research Scholarship Awards Swept by UMD!



Matt VanWaternulen, Aubrey Gold and Paul Beck

Aubrey Gold

Four members of the Class of 2006 presented their research papers this April at the SESH High-Tech Safety Conference in Santa Clara, California. And the top three papers...a first ever sweep by UMD! Matt VanWaternulen placed first followed by Paul Beck and Aubrey Gold. All three papers will be published in SESH's online journal. Jerry Ullberg also presented his paper along with five other students from Cal Poly, Murray State and UW Stout. Four other classmates attended the conference to participate in networking events, semiconductor industry safety sessions and enjoy all that the beautiful Bay Area had to offer.

Northern Illinois University-ASSE Student Safety Conference



MEHS Class of 2006 with fellow students from NIU's ASSE Student Section Chapter

Lindsey Hanson

The MEHS Class of 2006 attended the NIU-ASSE Student Safety Conference in DeKalb, IL on March 31-April 1, 2006. After an eight hour drive from Duluth, they attended a student presentation session. Students from Iowa State University presented two topics: Nanotechnology in Safety and EH&S Tower Demolition. Paul Beck, UMD-MEHS student also presented his nanotechnology research presentation "Nanotechnology: Can we Get as Safe as We Are Small?"

Once the student presentations were completed, a dinner and social hour was held at O'Leary's Restaurant. Students were able to socialize with other students, their instructors, local ASSE members and alumni.

The conference on Saturday was opened with a warm greeting from the NIU Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. The day was filled with topics that included; Disaster / Crisis Management, Surviving 9/11: What I Learned, Developing Your Safety Career and Risk Management in the Health Care Industry. Speakers were from distinguished companies such as 3M, NIU, Hilb Rogal & Hobbs, OSF Health Care and Daimler Chrysler.

NIU has been hosting the Region V Student Safety Conference over the past six years. UMD Students found the conference to be highly informative and rewarding. Many thanks go to the NIU-ASSE Student Chapter for their organized and educational conference. Also, thanks to Dr. Earl Hansen and Dr. Cassarotti for their demonstrated leadership and passion for student learning opportunities.

Bright Future for Health and Safety Professionals

Aaron Schifsky

The question for incoming Environmental Health and Safety students is: "What is the job market like today?" The response is "the EHS career field is rising fast." According to an article in Professional Safety (February 2006) "there are opportunities in the field that have not been seen since OSHA was created in the 1970's This article also pointed out that there are three factors that contribute to this climate which include:

1. A large number of employees have retired or are about to.
2. The layoffs and downsizing within companies is being reversed.
3. SHE professionals, in their first 3-5 years, have a broad skill base which can be used across many industries.

Since these factors are converging, with the right moves, professionals who have recently entered the workplace can advance up the ranks very quickly.

For new professionals in the field, there seems to be a set of "key skills" that should be groomed to achieve a long-term career. The following list of "key skills" is from the "Professional Safety" magazine: technical knowledge, business savvy, communication skills, get along & work well with others, build visibility, time management, be a follower as well as being able to lead and know when to move on. This is reassuring news for past MEHS and the Class of 2006 Graduates!