



ASSE Professional Development Conference

On February 4th, a group of 10 MEHS students attended the 2010 Professional Development Conference hosted by the American Society of Safety Engineers - Northwest chapter. This was a fun filled day of networking and informational sessions. We were welcomed to the conference by Scott Huberty (ASSE-Northwest Chapter President) and attended four different sessions.

These sessions included the following speakers: Eric Hayward (Independent Consultant), Don Groover (Behavior Science Technology, Inc), and Ryan Nosan (MnOSHA). Four students had volunteered to introduce session speakers for the afternoon breakout sessions. UMD's Dr. Todd Loushine was one of the presenter.

There were also 10+ vendors available for questions and product displays. Two UMD students walked away with great door prizes and donated safety manuals. It was another great learning opportunity for the students and a great way to get our faces out into the working world of safety.



Editors' corner

For many of us, the year is almost over which means we are about to begin the next phase; putting our education to use. This spring, nine MEHS students will be graduating and beginning careers in the Environmental Health and Safety field. These students are staying busy with upcoming schoolwork, meetings, and career searches. We are eager to see where everyone ends up and confident they will utilize all that they have learned to make positive impacts at their places of employment. Look to future newsletters for updates on the upcoming alumni.

Since the last newsletter, the MEHS class has attended the professional development conference in St. Paul, MN, traveled to Chicago, IL to attend the Construction Safety Conference, participated in the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota Conference, and performed hands-on IH testing at various facilities in the Duluth, MN area. As our academic year comes to a close, we will continue to be busy participating and supporting ASSE functions.

One project the class has put a lot of effort into the semester is applying for the Outstanding Student Section Award. By demonstrating how involved we are in the program and community, we hope to gain further support from ASSE to help fund future projects and training. While putting together the application, which ended up being over 30 pages, we realized just how far we have come since last September. Over 32 speakers volunteered their time this year to come to the University, or host visits from the students, that have helped further our education and gain valuable experience. A special thanks to Marti Kiesling for coordinating the application, and a very special thanks to those individuals who donated their time to write letters of recommendation for this application!

Additional information on the program and the current class is available on the MEHS website: <http://www.d.umn.edu/mehs>

Sincerely,

Myriam Trepanier – trep0024@d.umn.edu
Nick Vomastek – voma0007@d.umn.edu

OSHA 10-Hour Construction Training

On February 8th, the class took another trip to The Builders Group to receive OSHA 10-hour training. Topics covered included: trenching/excavation, scaffolding, electrical hazards, and fall protection. The training given by TBG team was very hands-on and covered all the relevant 29CFR1926 standards. We attended this training with individuals in the construction field, which allowed us to see how effective different forms of training are for a diverse group of individuals.



Above: Katie Schofield a loss control representative and alumni from UMD, demonstrating how to use harnesses at the OSHA 10-hour training.

Below: (from left to right) Tyler Neis, Bradlee Hickey, Colleen Pearson, and Paul McDonald eagerly learning .



Special Thanks

We would like to thank the individuals who took the time to show their support to the MEHS program by helping us apply for the ASSE NW Chapter Outstanding Student Section Award.

Thank You

Scholarship Award Recipients

NW Chapter ASSE 2010 Scholarship Award

Bradlee Hickey

Construction Safety Council Scholarship

Mike Nilsen Jr.



Congratulations!

Upcoming Events

April 26th to April 30th
SESHA Annual Symposium
Scottsdale, AZ

May 12th
Minnesota Safety Council Day
Minneapolis, MN

May 13th
Graduation and Commencement
Ceremony
Duluth, MN

Construction Safety Conference – Chicagoland

From February 15th through the 18th, the class attended the annual Construction Safety Conference in Rosemont, IL. Before the conference began, students picked out seminars to attend and volunteer at, which ranged from the use of explosives to infection control in hospital construction. While at the conference, the class was able to meet with different vendors and professionals working in the construction industry. A private dinner and cocktail hour hosted by the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council, Zurich and Liberty Mutual allowed us to have one-on-one discussions with these individuals. This year, organizers had the students break up into groups and research selected vendors on: products/services, marketing strategies, and company profiles. Each student presentation was evaluated by the conference organizers who determined the presentation of the highest quality. Max Motley and Colleen Pearson were part of this winning team and were presented an award on the last day of the conference in recognition of their excellent work. Mike Nilsen was also recognized for receiving the Construction Safety Council Scholarship. Thank you to all of the sponsors of the Chicagoland Construction Safety Conference.



Class members with Mr. Dan Murphy from Zurich Financial Services.



Hibbard Steam Plant Industrial Hygiene Testing

On February 10th, the MEHS class conducted industrial hygiene testing at the Hibbard Steam Station in Duluth, Minnesota. The testing was done as part of a project for the industrial hygiene course and was set up by our instructor, Wade Roseth. This opportunity gave the class a chance to use what was learned in the classroom and apply it directly in the field of industrial hygiene. The purpose of this project was to conduct air-monitoring to determine if potential health hazards were present in the plant. The class was split up into three different groups, each of which was testing for different substances (volatile organic compounds, pentachlorophenol, and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs). Upon reception of the lab results from the testing, each group put together a report.

Thanks for the excellent hands on opportunity Wade!

Community Day Fundraising Event

Our MEHS class participated in the Community Day Event 2010 fundraiser sponsored by Younkers. The event was held on Saturday, February 27th. A week before this event took place, we went out into the community and sold Younker coupon booklets. We met with all sorts of enthusiastic Younker customers. We sold 60 booklets, totaling \$300! The funds paid for new safety training material.

We are planning to participate in this fundraiser again next year. If you missed out on the savings don't hesitate to get in touch with us for next year's Community Day Event 2011! The MEHS program would like to give thanks to Younkers and all persons whom purchased a coupon booklet.

Thank you for your support!

AGC Conference at the DECC

On February 9, 2010, the current MEHS class attended an all day construction safety and leadership conference at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. The conference was organized by the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota. Attendees were able to choose from a variety of classes and speeches pertaining to construction safety and an OSHA 10-hour track was available. Some of the classes offered were:

- Introduction to OSHA/General Safety/Recordkeeping
- Confined Space
- Preparing for MN OSHA Inspections
- Fork Truck
- Trenching and Excavating
- Underground Utility Safety
- Arial Lift
- Health Hazards in Construction
- PPE and Lifesaving Equipment
- Scaffolding

During lunch, Dave and Steve Allison of Allison Associates gave a talk titled "Creating a Want To Safety Culture." The exhibitors and vendors included Gary Carlson Equipment, Safety Weight, Corporate Connection, TEAM, Truck Utilities, First Strike Safety Solutions, UMD, Minnesota LECET, Viking Industrial North, Minnesota OSHA, MPCA, and W.P. & R.S. Mars Company. The sponsors of the conference were AGC of Minnesota and Duluth Builders Exchange. This was a great opportunity for MEHS students to take a variety of classes and meet with vendors and exhibitors.



Alumni Spotlight

Name: Jesse Michaletz
Graduation Class: 2005
Employer: Mortenson Construction
Industry: Construction
Contact Info: jesse.michaletz@mortenson.com

Where are you currently working?

I am working with Mortenson Construction's Seattle Operating Group on the Providence Regional Medical Center – Everett hospital project. The project is approximately 14 acres with a 750,000 square foot hospital facility, a 40,000 square foot utility plant, and currently employs over 650 people.

What are your responsibilities at Mortenson?

Current top 2 areas of responsibility:

Facilitating project safety professional team to include defining specific roles and responsibilities, time management, coordination, formal training provided to safety professionals, authority, and so forth. My team is composed of 6 full time safety professionals and numerous part-time safety professionals depending on construction activity. Two members of the team are Mortenson employees who report directly to me. Non-Mortenson safety professionals are assigned to the project through contract with subcontractors. Safety professionals are accepted for position by my review.

Design and evaluate site specific safety plan for entire project including sections such as emergency response, disruption avoidance, training for craft and staff, auditing procedures, hot work procedures, disciplinary policies, safety meeting protocols, etc. Construction environments, type of work activities, and the work force are continually changing. Evaluating and redesigning programs and policies to be fluent with the project is vital to success.

What do you think one of your biggest challenges will be as you continue your career as a safety professional?

Learning to manage a team, planning (having foresight), time management, and developing effective communication skills.

Do you have any advice for this year's graduates?

It can be a challenging career, especially for young safety professionals. You will need to make many difficult decisions every day. Keep your head up and learn as much about your industry as possible. Do not take things personally and do not be afraid to exert influence on high performing co-workers.



Issue #4 coming soon!
Check out the current students resumes
online at
www.d.umn.edu/mehs