



ASSE Professional Development Conference

On February 3rd 2011 the University of Minnesota Duluth MEHS students attended the annual ASSE Northwest Chapter 2011 Professional Development Conference at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Students were able to hear some excellent presentations, including a keynote address from the Director of NIOSH Dr. John Howard, explaining recent influenza research and the nanoparticle industry. Topics ranged from workers compensation, to risk management, to OSHA's New Crane Standard. It was a great opportunity for networking and a very valuable experience to build on for the student's future careers in Environmental Health and Safety. A special thanks to the ASSE Northwest chapter for waiving registration costs so we could attend such a wonderful event!

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Open House

The MEHS faculty and students put on an open house on April 11th, 2011 to get the word out about the program.

Many people showed up that were interested in more information, which was very exciting!

If you or anyone you know was unable to attend the open house, but is still interested in enrolling in the program please email mehs@d.umn.edu for more information!

Upcoming Events

May 11th 2011
Minnesota Safety Council Conference

May 12th 2011
MEHS Graduation!

ME Elecmetal – Industrial Hygiene Sampling

Over the course of the current semester students from the Principles of Industrial Hygiene class have been tasked with testing and quantifying employee exposures at ME Elecmetal in Duluth, MN. ME Elecmetal is a steel and iron foundry which specializes in producing castings specifically for ore crushing applications in the mining industry. The foundry casts over 120 tons of metal each day. Currently more than 150 employees work at the foundry. Students have toured the facility, becoming familiar with common types of foundry hazards and exposures to help them establish the necessary testing parameters to accomplish this task. Specifically students were testing in order to determine employee exposures to airborne metals and hexavalent chromium. Airborne metals include not only iron and its alloys but can include trace amounts of materials such as lead and arsenic if these materials are inadvertently received as part of the scrap to be melted. Chromium and in particular hexavalent chromium is also a known foundry hazard which the students are testing for. Chromium is a commonly used alloying element in steels and irons. ME Elecmetal can use up to 29% chromium by weight in some iron alloys. The melting, pouring, and subsequent process related grinding of chromium containing alloys has been known to produce hexavalent chromium as a byproduct. The students collected air samples in the melting and pouring operations of the foundry, as well as in the finishing area where final grinding and inspection occurs before shipment. The goal of this project is to verify that all airborne concentrations of metals are below acceptable exposure limits.

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Instructor Eligible First Aid/CPR/AED Certification

Four students attend a First Aid/CPR/AED Certification course during the weekend of January 15th, near the end of UMD's holiday break. The training was held at St. Luke's, and was taught by UMD MEHS adjunct professor Mike Marturano. It was clearly evident that the information we learned could be very valuable both within an occupational setting as well as outside of the workplace. The course taught the basics in applying the use of first aid, CPR, and AEDs, and the best way to teach these methods to others as a trainer. Students who completed the course are now train-the-trainer eligible. We all learned valuable skills and thank St. Luke's and Mike Marturano for this opportunity.

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New Students

The MEHS program welcomed three new students at the beginning of the Spring '11 semester. Lee Wistrom began the program with B.A.Sc. degree in Exercise Science - Health & Fitness Concentration. Russell Thyen's background includes a B.S. degree in Cell and Molecular Biology. Bengé Ortiz holds a B.D. degree in Industrial Engineering.

We hope they enjoy the program and wish them success as they continue towards the completion of their MEHS degrees in the future.

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Fourth Issue Coming Soon!

Visit the MEHS website at:
<http://www.d.umn.edu/mehs>