



Graduates

We would like to congratulate Mike Nilsen, Myriam Trepanier, and John Hollingsworth on finishing their Master of Environmental Health and Safety degrees this past December!

Good luck on your future endeavors!

Don't be strangers!



Community Day Fundraiser

The UMD ASSE Student Section participated in Younkers Community Day fundraiser for Fall 2010. Community Day is an event where groups can sell coupon books with numerous savings including a \$10 off coupon good for the one day sale at Younkers. The Younkers fundraiser allows groups to keep 100% of the proceeds. Beginning in September students sold the coupon booklets for \$5 each. In total we raised \$245 to be put towards paying for conferences and certifications.

We are going to be selling Community Day booklets for the Spring 2011 fundraiser. If you missed out on the first fundraiser or wish to participate again, please contact the MEHS program! The UMD ASSE Student Section would like to give special thanks to Younkers and everybody who made a donation to our group. Thank you for your support!

Marti Kiesling – kiesl014@d.umn.edu



Upcoming Events

January 14th & 15th
CPR/First Aid Instructor Training –
St. Lukes

February 3rd
ASSE Northwest Chapter Professional
Development Conference – UM - St. Paul
Campus

148th Fighter Wing

On November 19, 2010 five members of the Environmental Health and Safety class toured the 148th Fighter Wing of Minnesota Air National Guard. After learning a brief history of the 148th, the class met with members of the facility who demonstrated some current uses and ways of controlling exposure on the air base. We were given the opportunity to use radiation detection equipment and sample for any radiation exposure leaks around the area. Our tour was also extended into other buildings around the base and students were shown some of the safety measures they are in the process of being implemented to ensure the safety of military members while performing different tasks. It was a great learning experience and we would like to thank the 148th Air Base for their time and expertise!



Kevin Sundet - sund0250@d.umn.edu

Cirrus

This past semester the MEHS System Safety class got the chance to tour the Cirrus facility in Hermantown.



Cirrus is a corporation that is a recognized leader in general aviation. They build all-composite personal aircrafts and they incorporate innovative and advanced performance and safety technologies. One of the unique parts about Cirrus is the unique Cirrus Airframe Parachute System (CAPS). Before getting a tour of the facility, we got a quick background of the operation and corporation. We then received an indepth tour of every aspect of the process and how everything works. At the end of our tour, we were able to ask questions, which helped all of the students to better grasp what actually happens at Cirrus and to better understand their approach to safety. Cirrus builds their safety mission around behavior-based safety which created an interesting discussion! All in all, it was a very interesting tour that gave the students a good idea of safety in the area of building aircrafts. Thank you for a great tour!

Alanna Schwanke – schwa759@d.umn.edu

New Page

On November 9th the MEHS students were given a great opportunity to tour the New Page Duluth Mill. The students had the chance to observe different areas within the plant and learn about the processes used to produce their final product.

During the tour, we had the opportunity to learn about their behavior-based safety program they have implemented and the changes that have occurred within their organization. It was a valuable learning experience for all the students and gave us an understanding of safety related issues within the paper manufacturing industry.

On behalf of the MEHS students, we would like to thank New Page for taking the time and providing us with the tour and knowledge we have gained through this experience.

Kevin Sundet – sund0250@d.umn.edu



ASSE Future Safety Leaders Conference

The UMD ASSE student section had the opportunity to send seven students to the ASSE Future Safety Leaders Conference this past semester. The conference was held in Schaumburg, Illinois and was a great chance for students to meet others in the safety field. We were able to attend different sessions speaking one-on-one with professionals on how to improve our resumes, provide excellent interviews, and more! There were many notable speakers, including the president of ASSE, Darryl Hill. The students also had many opportunities for networking with others in the safety field. It was a great opportunity for all the UMD ASSE students members that attended and provided us with new contacts and new knowledge of the safety field. A big “thank you” goes out to ASSE and everyone involved with putting the conference together! We would also like to thank the Northwest Chapter of ASSE for providing funding which was put towards travel and conference expenses.

Seth Sayles – sayle022@d.umn.edu



Conference Attendees Include (L to R): Myriam Trepanier, Seth Sayles, Marti Kiesling, John Hollingsworth, Kevin Sundet, Mike Nilsen, and Alanna Schwanke

Alumni Spotlight

Name: Benjamin Sand, ASP
 Date of Graduation: 2006
 Employer: North Dakota Workforce Safety and Insurance (NDWSI)
 Job Title: Loss Control Safety Consultant
 Industry: Workers' Compensation Insurance



1. Where is most of your time spent on a typical day of work?

- Providing safety consultation services to the customers of NDWSI
- Conducting accident investigations on fatal and/or catastrophic claims for third party subrogation situations.
- Conducting hazard inspections for customers, helping to reveal hazards and educate management and employees.
- Setting up and coordinating occupational safety training sessions.
- Evaluating safety and health programs of NDWSI customers against premium incentive program guidelines
- Providing basic industrial hygiene services such as CO monitoring and noise sampling.

2. What was the hardest transition you had to make from the classroom to the industry?

In the academic setting, occupational safety makes perfect sense. It takes the shape of a single dimensional object. The objective for the student is to learn how to theoretically keep employees free of injury and occupational illness and theoretically contain all costs associated with occupational injuries and illness.

When I reached industry, I was rudely awakened when I first started to apply the single dimension of occupational safety to a fast paced multidimensional business environment. Business owners were and are currently trying to manage production, quality, customer service, an ageing workforce, marketing, employee health care insurance, the increase in government control within their industry, a workforce being greatly effected by obesity and more importantly personal choices in the non-occupational setting (drug and alcohol abuse and smoking), a weakened national economy, a low local unemployment rate, fluctuating material prices, global economic shifts, fluctuating energy prices, increased absenteeism and tardiness, and Occupational Safety. By the way, I learned Occupational Safety is not single dimensional. I propose that it is two dimensional. The two dimensions include regulatory compliance and injury reduction/prevention; both are capable of causing unacceptable monetary losses to a company and both make sense.

I compare the items listed above to separate foods one might find on the table at Thanksgiving Dinner; regardless of how well rounded one's palate is, there is no possible way to effectively enjoy each food item. Choices need to be made and items need to be selected and/or passed on to other Thanksgiving patrons who are gathered. Business owners never forget to eat the turkey (production), but often times need to be highly influenced to eat the cranberries (occupational safety)....and eat all of them on their plate (effective safety and health management)....and enjoy them to the fullest (a sustained safety management system with zero injuries)! I am familiar with many people who love to eat cranberries at Thanksgiving dinner; I also know people like myself who have passed the cranberries for 20 some consecutive years! Perhaps no one has sold me on the benefits of eating cranberries yet!

3. What do you enjoy most about your job?

Occupational safety, and more specifically, safety consultation provides me with no single day the same, endless challenges to master people skills, endless opportunity for technical learning, an equitable income, reasonable working conditions, flexible working schedules, unlimited opportunity to travel, opportunity to meet new people from a different background everyday, and it provides me with the reward of knowing that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure (however my paycheck does not reflect the same ratio when compared to that of a physician's paycheck!)

4. What are the challenges you face daily?

Convincing incompetent and stubborn employers to eat the cranberries and like them...please see the explanation in #2 above for clarification.

Also the politics of safety can be unmatched at times; I am not fond of this observation.

5. Where do you see 'safety' headed five years from now?

There is no question that the culture of our country and world continue to progress towards placing a higher value on humanity. Safety and health continue to grow with the increased emphasis on a better life for all including safe and healthy work environments for all.

6. What advice do you have for future safety professionals? (Our first day on the job)

Find a mentor who is focused on the objective. Learn what motivates them and let it motivate you. Stay focused on your objective and not on politics. Your mentor likely will not be working for the same employer that you do. Do not become distracted by the excuses people will offer for non-safety; they will only lead you to defeat. Also learn to channel negative emotions away from your business dealings. Business is not personal.



Third Issue Coming Soon!

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