

Editor's Corner

The Fall Semester of 2014/2015 academic year has been a wonderful and an exciting experience. The medley of events that characterized the semester were phenomenal; the presentations by past students, the safety day con-

ference at Spirit Mountain, the Safety Workshop at Blackwoods-Proctor, the MIS/MEHS get-together at Grandma's Sports Garden, the Northwest Chapter meetings, and ASSE Future Safety Leaders Conference among others. They were all fantastic!

The Spring semester of 2014/2015 academic year promises to be an eventful one. With the coterie of friends that we have made going through the program, we look forward to a more engaging academic and social life while we welcome other new students into our fold, and wish well other continuing students.

Our website, with its periodic update, still remains a relevant and authoritative source of information about the program. We encourage you to visit it and bring yourself up to speed with the MEHS program: <http://www.d.umn.edu/mehs/>

Sincerely,

David Amponsah
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ASSE-UMD Student Section Officers

Stephanie Hagen—President
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**The MEHS Program is almost 40 years old;
Hurraayyyy!!!**



Rolled out in 1975, the MEHS program celebrates its 40th anniversary next fall. With its

long held objective of preparing students for a safety career in industries throughout the Arrowhead and Upper Midwest regions, United States and beyond, the MEHS program (which hitherto was known as Master of Industrial Safety) has gone through various degree of changes to arrive at its current state. Its pool of academicians and intellectuals can now be found across the nooks and crannies of the country, and in all facets of working life in our society — manufacturing, construction, mining, oil and gas industries, you name them.

The Program has proven to be a citadel of knowledge in the safety world, and an authoritative and formidable voice that continues to help shape the safety profession in the country and beyond. The current and past students are most grateful to all and sundry who played very pivotal roles that held the program firm and kept it moving from its incipient stages up to this time. To the known and unsung heroes and heroines that shaped and continue to shape this program for the better, we say “good job, well done”.

However, as we celebrate this milestone, we call on all past and present students to continue to ponder over how we can make the Program better for future students, and generations yet unborn. Let us gladly join forces as we continue to write the history of the MEHS Program. This is a clarion call worth heeding.



Future Safety Leaders Conference



November 6th – 7th, 2014 marked another eventful moment in the life of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), its sponsors, affiliates and subsidiaries. These days ushered young and promising safety students and professionals into a two-day Future Safety Leaders Conference (FSLC) in Schaumburg, Illinois.

The 10th annual FSLC brought together young intellectuals from safety related academic programs in various universities across the country to the Hyatt Hotel in Schaumburg. And ASSE student members of University of Minnesota—Duluth were there to represent their student wing! The current MEHS class was represented by Stephanie Hagen (President), Kale Fisher (Vice President), David Amponsah (PRO) and Maria Morrisseau (Member).

The two-day event started with the registration of participants amidst breakfast. This followed by series of events that characterized the occasion in a more productive outlook. Mock Face-to-Face interviews, Resume Critiques, Training and Public Speaking for Safety Professionals, Involvement with ASSE are few of the many training that were sectioned to prepare the young and dynamic safety students for the real world experience.

Mike Belcher, Dr. Daniel J. Moran, Brad Giles, Jayme Hobson, Dr. Darryl Hill, Todd Hohn, Dr. Nicole Gravina, and Rick Pollock are few of the many renowned speakers who mounted the podium with thought-provoking presentations which were crowned by standing ovation from participants.

The other phenomenal part of this conference is the platform that it offered for students to connect among

themselves and other professionals in the safety world. It was indeed a cherished experience.

Attendants from ASSE-UMD wrapped-up their trip to the Constitutional State with a visit to Downtown Chicago, its fanciful restaurants, and other places of attraction. We encourage students in the program to be part of this great experience in subsequent years. It is worth attending!

Words from ASSE-UMD President



With 2014 to a close, UMD's ASSE student section is looking forward to 2015. We have some informational sessions planned to help guide us into our future careers and a tour of the U.S. Steel Keetac

Mine in Northern Minnesota scheduled for February 20th. Navigating the first semester of graduate school for most of us has been a task in itself, but by coming together in the ASSE student section, our class has been able to provide a unique support system enabling us to exchange ideas and goals with each other to fuel learning about our field.

Having the largest class in MEHS for quite a few years, we will be getting six more students this semester. We have had the pleasure of diversity through different educational backgrounds as well as our high percentage of international students. We have one student from India and four students from Africa: Ghana, Kenya, Liberia and Nigeria.

We are pleased with the opportunities afforded through ASSE, including the Student Conference in Schaumburg, Illinois, which four of us attended. We look forward to this semester with our growing class and the experiences we will have to better serve our future careers.

Stephanie Hagen

President, ASSE—UMD Student Section

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Northern Area Safety Day at Spirit Mountain



Some of the finest brains in the safety profession were brought together at Spirit Mountain in Duluth to talk about safety. This event, which has become a tradition for students of the MEHS Program saw students participate enthusiastically.

Held on September 30th, 2014, and on the theme “2014, Continuing Education”, the Northern Area Safety and Health Network Safety Day witnessed knowledge-packed presentations by some of safety’s intellectual powerhouses. This left MEHS students and other attendees yearning for more.

Jeff Isakson, Bill Schreiner, Jay Tapper, James Howe, Bob Edwards and a Minnesota DNR Representative are those who shed light and provoked further thinking on contemporary safety issues.

Being the first event attended, MEHS students left Spirit Mountain with a new worldview of Safety; and an enthusiastic one for that matter! The conference ended with positive remarks from participants; an indication of the success of the program.

After the safety day conference at Spirit Mountain, ASSE - UMD students proceeded to a “networking social hour” organized by the Northwest Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers. This gathering which was initiated to serve the platform for unbridled interaction between individuals in the safety profession saw students utilizing the opportunity to make contacts with alumni of the MEHS program and other professionals who are already in the real world of safety. It was very fun.

The date, September 30th, 2014 went into the annals of the current students as one of the eventful days the class has witnessed. It was a blast!

MEHS Class Tours The NewPage Paper Mill

Safety is a realistic endeavor. It is practical and engaging. It is in the spirit of these basic rudiments of safety that its education is usually taken out of the classroom onto the field for students to have a real hands-on experience. And it is on the back of this convention that the “Regulatory Standard and Hazard Control” class under the able tutelage of Harvey Burski went to the NewPage Paper Mill to gain a feel for the processes through which quality papers are produced and vis-à-vis the environmental health and safety regulations and standards that



guide such processes.

After a heart-warming welcome, students were led by the company’s safety officers to witness various stages of production of the paper; from the debarking of woods through to the packaging of the bundled papers. It was an informing exercise and experience, especially to most of us who use different types of papers every day without the slightest idea of how it is made.

A question-and-answer session was served by the safety officers which gave the students the platform to ask follow-up questions that had cropped-up after the tour of the facility.

In a nutshell, the tour of the paper mill facility was very insightful and helpful, and the “Regulatory Standard and Hazard Control” class led by its instructor, Harvey, remain grateful to the NewPage Company for the rare opportunity given us.

Alumni Spotlight



Name: Lee Anderson

Graduation Class: 1981

Job Title: Staff Industrial Hygienist

Employer: Lockheed Martin Corporation

Industry: Defense Contractor

Contact Info: 607-751-

6019

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

Pretty much split between office and manufacturing. I'm sampling or inspecting in most of the time, and that time is spent in manufacturing areas.

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

I would say applying what I learned in the classroom, there's a lot of new things to learn about, e.g. company culture, interacting with different personalities in people, learning the history of the site and programs, etc.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I feel like what I do makes a difference in the lives of our employees. What I like most about my job is the flexibility to go just about everywhere on site. I get to travel to other Lockheed Martin locations (both in the US and internationally), interact with other EHS professionals around the company, and work many different types of safety and health programs, while getting out on the floor to talk with employees and managers.

What are the challenges you face daily?

I'm the group leader for safety and health for our department so I would say, keeping up with day to day activities, (e.g. compliance oversight, e-mail, training, compliance related activities and inspections, written procedures, meetings, contractor safety, reviewing new chemicals, IH related programs, risk assessments, etc.)

Where do you see 'safety profession/work' in the next five years?

I would say pretty much everything and everywhere, from traditional type industries (automobile, defense, mining, government agencies, insurance, construction, medical, chemicals, refinery's, etc.) to some of the newer type industries like pharmaceuticals, nanomaterial's, energy (gas, wind, biomass, waste to energy and solar), aerospace, biomedical, etc. I think there will also be big demand for EHS professionals in consulting works in other countries (a lot of companies are becoming more global so learning country specific environmental, safety and health laws and standards is a plus).

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

For the first job, remember that you are part of a team (beyond compliance what is your value added), get to know the company and its history, the processes, learn what type of incidents/exposures they've had, most importantly get to know the employees and managers, ask plenty of questions if you don't know (don't assume or jump to conclusions without learning the facts), network and consult with other EHS professionals. When faced with a problem do adequate research, and take time to further your learning. Work towards getting your CSP and/or CIH certifications.

What is your fondest memories during your days in the MEHS class?

The instructors and classmates were great. The field trips to other industries in the Duluth (Diamond Forging, EPA water testing lab) and Twin Cities (American Hoist and Derrick, Honeywell, 3M). I feel the classes we took back then prepared us very well for our careers, all of the Dan Petersen safety management courses. I can still remember our OSHA compliance course where on the first day Harvey had us color code and index the entire 29 CFR 1910 General Industry Standards and we had daily quizzes on finding different passages in the standards.

Thank you.

International Student Spotlight



Name: Jessy Mathews

Country: India

Previous Schools: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Anna University

Degree(s): Bachelors in Energy and Environmental Engineering, Masters in Environmental Management

Graduation Year: Dec 2015

What made you choose the University of Minnesota in the first place?

The University of Minnesota serves world class education, and icing on the cake as I can finish the program in less than 2 years made me to choose it.

What motivated you to enter into the MEHS Program?

During an internship, I saw the plight of the workers working in a hazardous area, and I was also aware that its impacts can be dangerous and can be carried for years. This motivated me to enter the MEHS program to help solve some of these problems.

How is 'Safety' like in your country?

The importance of Safety has picked up quite well these days. In industries, the management and administration are providing many educational awareness programs and trainings to the workers who have already started embracing it; knowing its value to their lives.

How do you intent to help shape 'Safety' in your country with the knowledge that you have started gathering from the program?

I would use the maximum knowledge that I started to gain and would incorporate in all possible means and would ensure that there is a possible change after that.

Thus far, what has been the challenges and inspiration in pursuit of the MEHS degree?

In the beginning I was really scared, but thanks to the Director, Professors and also my classmates who made me feel comfortable. This has helped me a lot.

Any message for prospective international students looking forward to enter the MEHS Program in UMD?

The Professors are very helpful and friendly. And the program has nice curriculum; it just depends on us to utilize it efficiently.

Thank you.



Look-out for the second Issue!

Visit the MEHS Program website at:

<http://www.d.umn.edu/mehs/>