

News and Notes from the ASSE East Carolina University Student Section



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## *American Society of Safety Engineers*

*East Carolina University Student Section*

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### *Message*

Hello!

In my previous address, I informed you about things that were to come for the student section within the coming months. Six of our members were able to attend the ASSE Region VI PDC, connecting with professionals and competing in the graduate research competition. Recently, a few of our members volunteered at a local fish farm to help them find ways to work safer. The members harvested prawns, as well as discussed ways to improve the safety and ergonomics of the harvesting process. We will do our best to keep you updated as events related are planned. As always, we are thankful for your support in helping us along our paths to becoming safety professionals.

Kevin Johnson

ECU ASSE Student Section President

## ECU Students Succeed in ASSE PDC Competition



From September 21-23, six ECU ASSE Student Section members were fortunate to participate in the 2016 ASSE Region VI Professional Development Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. All six students also competed in the graduate level research competition. Students set up their posters in the exhibit halls for everyone to see, while also competing in a presentation portion as well. We are extremely excited to say that our Student Section won 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Kevin Johnson won 1<sup>st</sup> with his presentation on slip meters, Jack Ward 2<sup>nd</sup> with his on lean manufacturing, and Moien Kiani 3<sup>rd</sup> with a presentation on radiation from cell phones. Students were able to sit in and hear from speakers on a wide variety of safety topics such as risk assessment, leadership, safety culture, certifications, electrical safety, communication, and many more throughout the conference. Students were also treated to a dinner cruise with undergraduate students and professionals from the conference in a laid back networking session. We can't thank all those in our ASSE parent chapter in Raleigh, NC for allowing us to participate and enjoy such a great conference every year and we hope to continue to participate for years to come.

Kevin Johnson

## ASSE Members Learn About Fish Farming



In September, ECU ASSE Student Section members Kevin Johnson, Jack Ward, Hamidreza Shaki, and Section Advisor Mike Behm volunteered at a local prawn fish farm. Carolina's Best Freshwater Prawn Farm in Vanceboro, NC is owned and operated by a third generation family which has owned the farm since 1918. Since the tobacco buyouts, they came up with a fairly new product to North Carolina; raising prawns, Malaysian Freshwater Prawns to be exact. They are a tropical species and therefore can only be raised in the warm months with one harvest in the fall.

The farm has a unique way of harvesting, which they claim guarantees a "better quality meat." First, the pond is drained into a harvest basin. All leftover prawns in the pond are hand plucked into buckets to join the ones in the catch basin. The

prawns are dipped out and put into oxygenated tanks. There they purge their bodies of any impurities. This makes a cleaner meat with no grit. After this process, the prawns are placed into an icy slur, quickly killing them and dropping their body temps. They are then packaged and shipped to distributors who send them to fish markets and restaurants all over the world.

Students were able to work in all areas of the farm to get the full experience of what goes into the entire harvesting process. Using our experiences and knowledge in workplace safety, we plan on finding ways to perform tasks throughout the harvesting process to improve safety and mitigate as many hazards as possible for all involved. We hope to gain a strong relationship with the farmers and possibly continue to volunteer our services annually as we both educate each other in our respected fields.



Kevin Johnson

## The Benefits and Step to Obtaining GSP

East Carolina University's Masters of Science in Occupational Safety program has recently been included as a Graduate Safety Practitioner (GSP) Qualified Academic Program (QAP) by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP). The GSP program is an alternate path to the Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and eliminates the requirement to sit for the Associate Safety Professional (ASP) exam.

There are numerous benefits for obtaining the GSP designation, including:

- Recognition for being in a path toward the CSP certification.
- Recognition for the level of preparation for professional safety practice.
- No application fee.
- A waiver of the ASP examination requirement for CSP eligibility.
- A certificate awarding the GSP designation.

ECU MSOS graduates can apply for the GSP designation by:

1. Create an account on the BCSP website. Go to [www.bccsp.org](http://www.bccsp.org) and click on "My Profile" on the top right of the page. On the BCSP My Profile page, click "New Customer? Click here."
2. Once you have created an account, log in. On the main menu, click "Apply for Certification."
3. Click on "Apply for GSP Certification."
4. Complete the application and submit.
5. To check on the status of your application, or if you start but do not complete/submit the application, in the My Profile main menu options click "My Applications."
6. Request your university send BCSP an official transcript. It will take approximately a month for your school to enter your degree into the registrar, so wait a little bit after graduation to ensure your transcript shows degree earned and date conferred.
7. Once your GSP application is submitted and your official transcript is received, your GSP designation will be awarded. You will receive an email confirmation as well as a mailed packet with a congratulations letter, wall certificate, and instructions to go into your account and pay your pro-rated Annual Renewal Fee.
8. Once you have four years of professional level safety experience you can submit your CSP application.

### Contact Us!

Phone: (252) 328-9653

E-mail: [mstechsystems@ecu.edu](mailto:mstechsystems@ecu.edu)

Web: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-tecs/techsystems/msos.cfm>