President’s Message

Hi Everyone! I’m Bahirah Siddiqi, and I am honored to be this year’s president of the East Carolina University ASSP Student Section of 2018-2019. I am an East Carolina University alumnus with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering Technology. I am currently a graduate assistant for the Department of Student Involvement and Leadership. This year we have been partnering up with the V Foundation in Raleigh, NC. Students are assisting this nonprofit organization by providing various safety concepts and training. In addition, we are sending four of our members in September to compete in the 32nd Annual ASSP Region VI Professional Development Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. We also plan to volunteer alongside the V foundation during their significant events. Service is a staple for East Carolina University. It is our goal to promote this throughout the country. As President of this ASSP Student Section, I hope to see this chapter grow and see students develop into future safety professionals. I want to give a big thank you to the local ASSP Chapter for supporting us while we continue our journey through this program. The ASSP Chapter affords us the opportunity to network and learn from current safety professionals. Once again thank you all for this opportunity! Let’s go Pirates!!!
Welcome To Our New Students!

Neal Henry (on-Campus)

My name is Neil Henry. I just started the Master of Science in Occupational Safety program at East Carolina University this fall. I have a B.S. in Environmental Health from Western Carolina University and have 7 years of safety experience in both construction and general industry. I am excited to continue to further my education and apply all my knowledge to the field of occupational safety.

Kong Meng Lee (on-Campus)

My name is Kong Meng Lee and I am a first-year graduate student at East Carolina University. I recently graduated with my B.S. in Environmental Health from East Carolina University and have decided to return to this campus for my master’s because of ECU’s diverse culture and wonderful professors. My earliest exposure to the safety field was during my undergraduate year when I took an Industrial Hygiene course. That eventually led me to join the AIHA chapter at ECU and continued to cultivate my interests for the occupational safety program. I believe this Master of Science degree will allow me to become an efficient and ethical leader in the safety profession.

Current ECU ASSP Student Section (on-campus)

Zachary Beachem (on-campus)

My name is Zachary J. Beachem, a second-year student in the Master of Science in Occupational Safety program from Goldsboro, North Carolina. After acquiring my Bachelor of Science degree from Barton College in Wilson, NC, while also playing baseball and being a devoted member to the Athletic Training program, my interest and eventual dedication to safety in the workplace was ignited. Following a brief stint at a state-of-the-art occupational rehabilitation center, I decided to focus my career on the prevention of occupational injuries, rather than the treatment. I am a member of the American Society of Safety Professionals Student Section at ECU and serve as Secretary. Also, as a two-year Graduate/Research Assistant, I have contributed to many local and international research papers encompassing occupational health and safety.
Floyd O’Connell (on-campus)

I graduated from East Carolina University (ECU) in 2017, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology with a concentration in Industrial Distribution and Logistics (Magna Cum Laude). ECU also awarded me with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology Fall 2017 Outstanding Senior. I also hold an Associate of Applied Science degree in Electronics Engineering Technology. I am now pursuing a Master of Science degree in Occupational Safety at East Carolina University. I proudly served in the United States Marine Corps where I learned how to be a leader and how to work with others. I want to use the material that I am currently learning in the MSOS program to help bridge the gap between Work-As-Imagine and Work-As-Done. Work-As-Imagine is how the manager, engineer, supervisor sees their project being completed and Work-As-Done is how the worker overcomes barriers to get the job done. By narrowing the gap between the two, I think it will help to reduce the risk that people face in the workforce.

Bahirah Siddiqi (on-campus)

Bahirah Siddiqi is currently a student pursuing a master’s in occupational safety and health. She is an East Carolina University alumnus and received her undergrad in Industrial Engineering. Siddiqi is a graduate assistant for the Department of Student Involvement & Leadership, where she works as a marketing assistant. Throughout undergrad, Siddiqi was honored with several awards such as the Alma Award, Science & Technology Award, and SME Coastal Plains Chapter 302 Scholarship. Siddiqi is proud to be an Elite Pirate and a member of Epsilon Pi Tau at East Carolina University. In addition, she has previously served as vice president of ATMAE and president of Epsilon Pi Tau. She has also been on Dean’s List every semester since attending East Carolina University. Siddiqi has previously interned with ASMO GNC Warranty department by writing technical reports, testing car parts, create shipping labels, and moving tester cars. She has also been an executive team lead at Target for their logistics department. Siddiqi fell into safety after speaking with Dr. Behm and several on-campus students. She hopes to combine her engineering background with safety and aspires to become an industrial hygienist for a healthcare company.
New ECU ASSE Student Section Officers

President – Bahirah Siddiqi

Vice President – Kong Meng Lee

Secretary – Zachary Beachem

Treasurer – Neal Henry

Editor in Chief – Floyd O’Connell
As every student in the Master of Science program in Occupational Safety sets out to embark on an internship or job, they question where they will end up after graduation. What jobs are available with this program? How can I grow within this field? The possibilities and questions are endless. However, we can gain knowledge from former East Carolina University alumni working in the industry. For our initial 2018-19 newsletter, alumni Steven T. Guillory, Jr. has been kind enough to share his day in the life as a safety professional and manager.

Mr. Guillory received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. However, his safety journey started about twelve years ago when he graduated from East Carolina University with a Master of Science in Occupational Safety. Guillory’s interest in safety sparked after speaking with his uncle, who was a manager at UPS. He described the importance and growth of safety in his industry. It was not until his mother’s passing that Guillory felt a genuine passion and advocacy for safety. His mother was diagnosed with lung cancer when she was only 47. Being a non-smoker, Guillory suspects a combination of air pollution, second-hand smoke, and cancer-causing carcinogens at work as the cause of her disease. Guillory says this has given him a different outlook on how safety impacts the quality of life for individuals and its effect on families.

Guillory currently works as a Division Manager for the City of Houston, where he oversees the safety and drug testing programs for over 22,000 employees. His day can include anything from meetings, consultations, and discussions with employees, third-party administrators, and citizens, in addressing risk management concerns, reviewing budgets, and evaluating contracts. According to Guillory, each day entails a different task, project, or expectation. This variety is one of his favorite attributes of working in safety. Other aspects he enjoys are working with a diverse group of people, networking with various departments, and receiving both recognition and respect from employees and management alike.

Ultimately, Guillory’s focus is to make workplace safety the priority for everyone. He provided future safety professionals this advice – take the CSP as soon as possible. The CSP can open doors to opportunities in the safety profession which would be otherwise difficult or impossible to access. It also shows that you’re determined, disciplined, and qualified to be a safety professional. He also advised students to find their niche. Whether pursuing a safety career in environmental health, industrial hygiene, or even insurance and risk management, find what interests you, start researching, and become prepared.
On June 21, 2018, the North Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals (NCASSP) held their annual Year End Celebration and Officer Installation dinner. The dinner was the first annual because the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) had recently changed the name to ASSP. The East Carolina University (ECU) ASSP Student Section was offered an invitation to join in the celebration, which was provided free of charge. Two students from the ECU ASSP Student Section attended the event who were President-elect Bahirah Sidiqi and Floyd O’Connell. The first hour of the event consisted of official ASSP business and the second hour was a meet and greet, which allowed everyone at the event to mingle and meet new people. The event showed the ECU ASSP Student Section students how important safety was to everyone in attendance. The NCASSP Chapter is made up of professionals who give up their spare time to ensure that the safety profession continues to grow and gain strength. After the delicious dinner, the officers were sworn in, and the meeting was adjourned. In the spirit of giving back, the ECU ASSP Student Section has been working with the V Foundation to help them design a new safety plan.

The mission of the V Foundation is to find a cure for cancer, which will help save many lives. They accomplish this by making Americans aware of the importance of cancer and the research that is needed. However, in their pursuit of cancer, their workplace safety plan was put on the back burner. After talking with the V Foundation, a determination was made that they could use an updated safety plan and checklist. The ECU ASSP Student Section offered to help them design a safety plan and checklist that could be used to help them improve workplace safety. The students have worked with the V Foundation safety committee to help them understand safety regulations and train their employers. Training will be done for each section of the checklist, which will take some time to implement. Our goal is to implement the safety regulations
slowly so that they do not become too overwhelmed with the entire process. We plan to continue to work with them even after they have a safety plan and checklist are complete to make sure that they have the support that is needed. The goal of ECU MSOS program is to have every student in the program work with a company to help them design or modify a safety plan and checklist, which will help the student become familiar with safety plans and checklists.

Contact Us!

Phone: (252) 328-9653

E-mail: mstechsystems@ecu.edu