

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY ASSP STUDENT SECTION

*October 2019
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President's Message



Christopher Lott

Greeting's I'm Christopher Lott, your newly elected student section president for the East Carolina University ASSP chapter for the 2019-2020 academic year. Last year, I was a newly admitted student and ASSP member taking distance education courses in the Occupational Safety program. This fall 2019 semester, I have decided to transition to become a full-time on-campus student at East Carolina University. Our fall semester has started off efficiently with our student section taking five ASSP members to the ASSP region VI Annual 33rd Professional Development conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. At the conference, three of our student members won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the graduate poster presentation and oral presentation sessions. Our next event will be the ASSP Future Safety Leaders Conference that will take place between November 6th- 8th, 2019 in Chicago. This 2-day conference will bring opportunities for students to network with skilled professionals along with other students from universities around the nation. I look forward to working along with the ASSP student section board and the members throughout the year, and I want to thank everyone for electing me as your president. This year, I will strive to do my very best at leading by example just as many of our previous presidents. I will continue to ensure that our student section is taking advantage of local opportunities in our community to promote safety and health while upholding support from our local ASSP chapter. Thanks again to all the advisors, the ASSP board, and the conference mentors that worked to make this year's region VI conference a success for our student chapter. GO Pirates!

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS



President - Christopher Lott



Vice President - Neil Henry



Secretary - Ashley Heien



Treasurer - Bahirah Siddiqi



Editor in Chief - Kong Lee

MSOS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Mike Luffman

Mike Luffman obtained his Associate's degree in Machinist Technology from Surry Community College in Dobson, NC. Several years later, Luffman acquired his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from High Point University. As he began to be more entrenched in his career as a safety professional, Luffman decided it was time to expand his knowledge in this field by obtaining his Master of Science in Occupational Safety in 2000. Afterward receiving his Master's degree, Luffman immediately began the process to obtain his ASP and finally earning his CSP in 2012.

What is your current job title, and what are your job responsibilities?

Luffman: Corporate EHS Manager for Cadence Petroleum in Asheboro, North Carolina, I have responsibilities for the development and implementation of Corporate EHS Programs. These programs include safety programs such as confined space, forklift safety and hot work to environmental programs such as SPCC and stormwater management. My role also demands that I evaluate job tasks and implement change to improve employee safety and health. I also spend time in our facilities conducting audits and training as well as getting to know the employees and their day to day challenges.

How many years have you been in safety?

Luffman: 26

What is your typical workday like in safety?

Luffman: A typical day consists of answering emails and building a strategy for continuous improvement. My company is a rapidly growing company that has a relatively new EHS program that I am developing. Some of these tasks include making decisions on how to best achieve and maintain compliance, whether it be through development and training of inside resources or by use of consultants.

What made you desire a job in safety?

Luffman: Safety chose me. I was working as a maintenance mechanic in a manufacturing environment when I was asked to take on an EHS role. As I grew in the role, I made the decision to pursue EHS as a career. I must say that it has been personally very rewarding.

What is the best part of your job?

Luffman: Being able to influence the work environment in order to create a safer opportunity for the workers in my company. I also enjoy the ability to learn as well as share knowledge with others.



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Safety chose me...I must say that it has been, personally, very rewarding...

MSOS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Mike Luffman

What part of your job do you find the most challenging?

Luffman: I deal with locations in 12 states, and I find it challenging to distinguish the variation in regulations from state to state. So, what works in one state may not work in another.

Do you feel that you have made a positive impact on safety?

Luffman: I do. In addition to my job where I develop safety programs to improve the safety of workers, I am an active member of the ASSP. I am currently serving as the ASSP Region VI ARVP for Professional Development as well as the President of the Triad Chapter of the ASSP. As the Region VI ARVP for Professional Development, I have the pleasure of leading a group of volunteers to provide a learning opportunity for other safety professionals at the ASSP Region VI Professional Development Conference at Myrtle Beach each September.

What advice would you give to someone that was interested in safety?

Luffman: Be patient and learn from others. Often times we want to implement change to improve the work environment without fully understanding the complexities of that environment. Learn from others what the challenges are and work with those around you to develop what is best for all. Most importantly, never stop learning and never believe that you know more than you really do. You will always have the opportunity to grow and learn from others.



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New MSOS Student Introduction



Ashley Heien

My name is Ashley Heien and I am a first-year graduate student in the MSOS program at ECU. I obtained a Bachelor of Psychology degree from Appalachian State University with a concentration in Human Services. I appreciate the opportunity to work toward a rewarding career as a safety professional. My life's journey has led me in different directions, where I recently realized my passion and potential in the safety field. My career goal is to truly make a difference in peoples' lives and go home each day knowing the work that I do is for good.

I am a mother of three sweet boys and the wife of a first-rate Marine. They are the reason I continue to push forward each day to pursue my dreams.



Julia Sheff

I am Julia Sheff, a first semester graduate student of East Carolina University in the MSOS program. I recently obtained my bachelor's degree in Environmental Health from East Carolina University. I worked in the safety field as an intern for a local manufacturing company. My passion for safety has grown stronger and I am dedicated to making a career in safety beginning with obtaining my degree in Occupational Safety. I am a member of the American Society of Safety Engineers student chapter at ECU and look forward to a future in the safety field.

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My career goal is to truly make a difference in peoples' lives and go home each day knowing the work that I do is for good

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My passion for safety has grown stronger and I am dedicated to making a career in safety beginning with obtaining my degree in Occupational Safety



2019 ASSP REGION VI PDC

Christopher Lott

During September 15th-17th, 2019, 5 students from the East Carolina University ASSP student section members attended the “ASSP Region VI Annual 33rd Professional Development conference” in Myrtle Beach, North Carolina. This conference was held at the beautiful Kingston plantation resort. Student members were accompanied by faculty advisor Dr. Michael Behm and Ogaga Tebehaevu, the Assistant Regional Vice President of Student Affairs. A special congratulations goes out to our student winners Floyd O’Connell, Bahirah Siddiqi, and Ashley Heien for placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the graduate student oral presentation and poster presentation competition. Another, special thanks to the ASSP members and judges at the conference that provided sound advice for obtaining employment after graduation.



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A special congratulations goes out to our student winners Floyd O’Connell, Bahirah Siddiqi, and Ashley Heien for placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the graduate student oral presentation and poster presentation competition...



SUPPORTING THE TROOPS

Floyd O'Connell

On September 11, 2019, students and veterans from East Carolina University got together to pack care packages for veterans at NCPACKS4PATRIOTS in Ayden, North Carolina. NCPACKS4PATRIOTS is a nonprofit organization that has made its mission to support troops and their family members by providing care and comfort items to military service members. The students and veterans packaged snack packs for over two hours. The first step was that each person had to write ten jokes on small pieces of paper that would be later placed into each care package. The jokes are designed to lift the spirits of troops as they are enjoying their snack packs. Many times, in the military, soldiers are far from home, and little support can go a long way. I found the experience rewarding because it was the first time I got to work with my fellow veterans and students supporting soldiers who are away from home. If anyone would like to make a donation or volunteer some of their time, NCPACKS4PATRIOTS can be reached at ncp4p@yahoo.com.

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