President’s Message

Hello!

- Time seems to have flown by as we approach the end of the school year. For some like myself, this is the end of the program. For others, an opportunity to continue the success of this Student Section. Recently we have had one officer attend the recent Parent Chapter meeting at Campbell University, had students volunteer at the local Science Olympiad- a math and science competition for local middle and high school students, as well as two officers participate in the NC AIHA conference in Charlotte. We thank you for the support this school year and hope to continue to strengthen both our ECU Student Section and our relationship with you the ASSE- Raleigh, NC Parent Chapter. I can’t thank you all enough for all the wonderful experiences and am honored to have served as our Student Section President.

-Kevin Johnson
Three ASSE Student Section members had the privilege of joining members of the newly formed ECU AIHA Student Section in presenting research posters and attending the spring 2017 NC AIHA Professional Development Conference on March 9-10 in Charlotte, NC. This was the third consecutive year we have had students from our Student Section attend. Students who participated in the poster presentation section were generously awarded $250 each by the local AIHA-Carolina chapter. We were also able to take in a variety of professional presentations by speakers from all over the East coast in topics such as: the respirable silica standard, arc flash, hydrocarbon exposures in oil and gas, and other industrial hygiene issues safety professionals deal with in today’s workplace. We hope this collaboration between the ECU ASSE Student Section and the ECU AIHA Student Section will be the beginning of a new bond between our groups as we all pursue our education in the safety and environmental science professions.

- Kevin Johnson
At the end of February four of our ASSE student chapter members participated in the North Carolina Science Olympiad Regional Tournament. This event is held every year on the East Carolina University campus and allows middle and high school kids to compete in different science events. As an ASSE student chapter we feel it is important to help with different events in the community. Each of the ASSE members helped to judge and set up different events that were scattered throughout the campus. The events included astronomy, anatomy and physiology, bottle rockets, duct tape challenge, disease detectives, material science, helicopters, wind power, forensics, towers, and hovercrafts, along with a few others not mentioned. Francis Bly our Vice-president got to participate in one of the larger events which was Hovercrafts. The event consisted of over a dozen teams of two who had to build hovercrafts powered by only batteries. The hovercrafts were made of various items including Styrofoam, Popsicle sticks, and good ole’ Duct Tape. There were strict guidelines and the hovercraft had to travel over ten feet on a long wooden platform. Each team then tried to get the shortest time without breaking their creations. Kevin Johnson our student section president had the opportunity to proctor a Disease Detective exam which focused on some aspects of epidemiology. Overall this was a great experience for our student chapter members and allowed for us to give back to the community.

- Francis Bly
It was my pleasure to attend the March 9th North Carolina ASSE parent chapter meeting held at Campbell University’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The topic for this month’s technical meeting was on ANSI / PMMI B155.1 - Safety Requirements for Packaging and Processing Machinery. More specifically the topic focused on how this ANSI standard impacts the component and equipment vendor as well as the equipment owner. The presentation was conducted by Carla Silver, who is a safety and industrial hygiene specialist for Merck and helped to create this standard. During the meeting I was treated to a delicious pasta lunch, which I am very grateful was covered at no cost to me thanks to the generosity of the parent chapter and its members. I would also like to give a special thanks to Campbell University for hosting and to Chris Hinson for conducting this highly informative meeting.

- Jack Ward