Floor Marshal Award

By: Paula Sweitzer

Each year EHS honors a Floor Marshal that has gone above and beyond his/her normal volunteer duties. EHS received nominations from fellow Floor Marshals, who felt had done a great job.

We had four great nominations. Congratulations to all of them!

- Denise Butler, Bayer
- Mike Cecil, Union – Floor Marshal of the Year Awardee
- Ed Bayer, Mellon Hall
- Jane Cubbison, Music School

Mike Cecil was nominated by Cheryl Knoch. Mike is an exemplary Floor Marshal in the Center for Student Involvement within the Union. The Union is one of our busiest buildings on campus and floor marshals play a vital role in keeping our students, staff and visitors safe. Mike has been working in the Union for many, many years and he has extensive knowledge of the building layout and occupants. He is the first one in action during any event (scheduled or not scheduled) and we cannot thank him enough for his dedication.

Mike was recognized during the Labor/Management Safety Committee Meeting on April 25, 2018. Thank you Mike for your leadership and commitment to safety!!!

Also, a big Thank You to all floor marshals for your time and dedication!

All of our Floor Marshals are volunteers that wish to take-on a leadership role. If you are interested, please contact Paula Sweitzer (sweitzerp@duq.edu or x4763).
**Tick Alert**

*By: Robert Haushalter*

Over the last several weeks, the news has been alerting the public concerning possible tick infestations this summer. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is also warning of a serious surge in ticks and the illnesses that follow.

*What are ticks?*

Ticks are parasitic arthropods that are closely related to mites. There are over 500 species worldwide and most feed on the blood of warm-blooded mammals.

*Why the concern?*

Many species of ticks can transmit diseases from an infected host. The most common illness in Pennsylvania caused by ticks is Lyme disease.

*Lyme Disease* – caused by a bacteria called a spirochete (pronounced spy-ro-eet) that is carried by blacklegged (deer) ticks.

**Symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue and skin rash**

*Nowhere is Lyme disease more common than Pennsylvania (per Centers for Disease Control). There were 8,988 confirmed cases of Lyme disease in Pennsylvania in 2016.*

*When is tick season?*

The deer tick is active at temperatures above 32 degrees. Once temperatures drop below 32 degrees, the deer tick hides in piles of leaves and other debris and goes dormant to wait out the winter. Because tick activity depends on the temperature, there is no set month that signals the start of tick season.

Use an EPA registered insect repellent; wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants; treat items, such as boots, pants, socks and tents with permethrin or use permethrin-treated clothing and gear; take steps to control ticks and fleas on pets; find and remove ticks daily from family members and pets; and take steps to control mosquitoes, ticks and fleas inside your home.

*And don’t forget that our dogs and cats need protection too!*

Reference: Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
**Evacuation Drills**

*By: Ryan Reilly*

The spring evacuation drills kicked off on Monday, April 2, 2018. The weather was less than accommodating this spring with cold temperatures (32°F - 44°F) and unfavorable rain and snow mixtures. Despite the cold conditions occupants were expedient in departing from their buildings and egressing to the appropriate gathering points. The Floor Marshals’ are much deserving of this credit. There are 148 Floor Marshals in 33 buildings that help with occupant egress, safety, and communication with departments and emergency responders. A thanks to the Facilities Maintenance staff that helped initiate the alarm panel operations and communicate any faults within the systems. Please see the Emergency Management section “Emergency Evacuation Guidelines” on our website at [www.duq.edu/ehs](http://www.duq.edu/ehs) for more information or contact one of the EHS staff if you have any questions about building evacuations.

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**Portable Fire Extinguishers**

*By: Ryan Reilly*

Portable fire extinguishers have been available since the early 1800’s. The initial version of a 3-gallon copper vessel filled with potassium carbonate and pressurized by air is credited to Captain George William Mandy. The components and chemical fill materials adapted overtime but the principle of a cylinder with contents under pressure is the same. The fill materials range from potassium and sodium bicarbonate to CO₂, and water mist to halotron. The contents are specific to the class of fire and work by eliminating fuel, oxygen, or heat.

Fire extinguishers must be mounted in a conspicuous location, inspected and tagged, and re-filled and recharged periodically. During a fire, panic and confusion can be as dangerous as heat and smoke, therefore employees should pull the nearest alarm, alert fellow workers, and have knowledge of the common P-A-S-S (pull the pin, aim at the base of the fire, squeeze the lever, sweep from side to side) technique when using an extinguisher. If you are not familiar with how to use an extinguisher then please join us at our annual training in late September.

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**Department Updates**

*By: Paula Sweitzer*

This summer we are thankful to have our two student aides working with us. They will have varying hours throughout the summer, but they will be busy. You may see them inspecting various pieces of safety equipment, like fire extinguishers, AED units and plumbed eyewashes. They will also be inspecting the fume hoods and labs with us. An extra set of eyes is always helpful.
Des Place Perfect Inspection

By: Ryan Reilly

A Wednesday, March 13, 2018 inspection revealed no hazards at Des Place. Congratulations to the maintenance and building services personnel at Des Place Living Learning Center. This is the second time the personnel have received an award for stellar upkeep of the living and working conditions at Des Place. A special thanks to the following supervisors, maintenance, and building services employees: Mark Mazza; Suzanne Sinclair; Adam Ripley; Alan Nagy; Donald Underwood; James Cerda; Jeffrey George; John McBride; John Shaheen; John Wasick; Joseph Cerminara; Kenneth Konopka; Michael Boden; Michael Neumeyer; Randy Onder; Robert Sehn; Ronald Dewey; Ruth Kiesel; Sherry Korbe; Thomas Folino; and William Smith. All employees received a certificate and were invited to a breakfast at the Labor Management Safety Committee for this achievement.

Annual Lab Safety Meeting

By: Paula Sweitzer

On May 9, 2018, EHS held our 18th Annual Lab Safety Meeting and we had a large number in attendance (179). Our discussions included the weekly lab inspections and safety reminders. We also had a guest speaker this year – Veolia Environmental, our hazardous waste disposal company. Seth Leach is our Regional Manager. Seth gave a great presentation about where our waste goes once it leaves campus and all of the proper disposal avenues.

This year we gave out four safety awards at the end of our meeting. This is our third year of awards. In previous years, we only included the labs within the departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Pharmacy. This year, we wanted to add a category for the other important labs on campus – Biomedical Engineering, Physical Therapy, Physics, Animal Care, etc.

Congratulations to the following recipients. Thank you for your dedication to safety in the lab!

- Pharmacy – Shikhar Mohan
- Chemistry – Nithya Vaidyanathan
- Biology – Tetiana Cantley
- Other Campus Labs – Ben Goldschmidt, BME

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Reminder

By: Paula Sweitzer

With the warmer weather upon us, it is important to remember the proper PPE to be used in labs. Additionally, anybody working a lab must wear closed-toed shoes – no sandals or flip-flops are permitted. Shorts/skirts above the knee are also not permitted to be worn in the lab.

It is important to remove your PPE before leaving a lab, especially before using the restroom or eating food. Remove your gloves before touching a door knob or using the elevator because your gloves could be contaminated. Finally, always wash your hands!
Lab Program Review: Laboratory Cleanout Policy

By: Paula Sweitzer

The life of a lab is always changing with lab workers coming and going. When leaving a lab there are many things to think about like hazardous substances (chemical, biological, or radioactive), gas cylinders, glassware, shared spaces and equipment. What do you have and where? Are you disposing of these items or transferring responsibility to another individual. Is everything labeled? Some of these questions are hard to answer, especially if the individual has been conducting research for many years. The Lab Cleanout Policy will assist in safely removing all hazardous substances from the laboratory. The Policy can be found on our website: www.duq.edu/ehs, under the “Lab Safety” section. At the end of the Policy there is a checklist that can help guide the cleanout.

Campus Reminders

By: Paula Sweitzer

With construction season in full swing, please be aware of your surroundings at all times. There are numerous vehicles and equipment that are loading, unloading, and working to improve our campus buildings. Please be cautious, patient, and aware of any changes to your evacuation routes. In some situations, a stairwell or door may not be accessible. Please read all emails you receive from Facilities Management.

With a large amount of pedestrian traffic, driving safely on campus is always a concern. When you are driving on our campus roads, please slow down; our campus speed limit is 15 mph. Abide by all rules of roads, including stop signs. Most stop signs on campus are there for our pedestrians. Stop at the stop sign and look both ways before accelerating through the intersection/area.
OSHA—NIOSH Heat Safety Tool App

This is a useful phone application that has specific heat indexes based on your location with first aid and safety recommendations. This is based on the wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) and determines the recommended exposure levels for non-acclimated persons in a hot environment. The WBGT is derived from dry air temperature, radiant energy, humidity, and is a calculated value of thermal stress on an employee.

Do you have a Campus Safety Suggestion???

Go to www.duq.edu/ehs and click the upper right hand box to submit a suggestion.

Suggestions are voted on a quarterly basis at the Labor Management Safety Committee and the top 3 winners receive Giant Eagle gift cards for $100.00, $75.00, and $50.00.