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AIHA Pittsburgh Science Fair Winners 2014

Submitted by Joni Ferrara, Pgh. AIHA Member Judge

The 75th Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF) was held on Friday, March 28. More than 1,000 students in grades 6-12 competed for over \$1M in cash and scholarships. Pittsburgh AIHA representatives Joni Ferrara, Brittany Jones, and Michael Slinkard had the task of presenting an award to Intermediate and Senior Division projects. It was a busy day with many student projects to see running back and forth across Heinz Field, but we managed to narrow it down to two award winners.



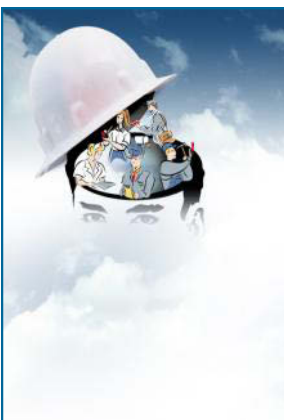
Our first winner in the Senior Division was **Julie Cepec, a freshman from Freeport High School**. Julie's presentation was titled, *"Which Type of Metal Working Fluid Best Inhibits Bacterial Proliferation?"*. Julie chose this topic because of concern of employee exposure to toxic chemicals used in some metal working fluids to control bacterial growth. Julie tested synthetic, semi-synthetic, petroleum-based, bio-based metal working fluids and saline solution (control) to determine which fluid

inhibited bacterial proliferation the best. Her study included preparing sterile solutions of each fluid, inoculating each with E. coli and determining the bacteria concentration at various time intervals. Her results supported her hypothesis that the fully synthetic metal working fluid would be best at inhibiting bacterial proliferation. Julie also researched various toxic chemicals used in the fluids and discussed the potential hazards to employees from exposure in the workplace.

We chose our second winner in the Intermediate Division, **Chelsea Carver, an 8th Grade student from Shadyside Academy Middle School**. Chelsea's project was titled, *"Effects on Indoor Radon"* and evaluated the effect of basement conditions on radon levels in residential homes. Chelsea provided radon detection kits to 8 teachers and asked them to place the samples in the basement of their home. She also asked them to self-assess the condition of their basement such as cracks in foundation. Chelsea found that it was not so much the condition of the basement that effected the radon levels, but the age of the home. Newer homes had higher radon levels than older homes. She concluded this was because the newer homes are more air-tight than older homes and do not allow the radon levels to dissipate. As an additional benefit to her study, Chelsea's project identified one teacher's home that had elevated radon levels (37 pCi/L) and the teacher installed a radon mitigation system.



It was a rewarding opportunity to represent AIHA-Pittsburgh Local Section and select the winners among so many outstanding projects.

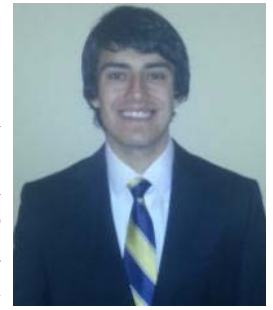




AIHA Pittsburgh Local Section Scholarship Winner

(AIHA Press Release)

The Pittsburgh AIHA is pleased to announce the AIHF Pittsburgh Local Section Scholarship recipient! Please join us in congratulating Arthur Thurdekoos who is a West Virginia University student in the Industrial Hygiene Masters Program. Arthur is expected to graduate in May 2015. Upon completion of the program, Arthur plans to apply his knowledge gained to mitigate the impact an industrial society can have on the environment. Additionally, he is excited at the opportunity to use his imagination and creativity, coupled with the expertise gained through education, to guide corporations into sustainable, ecologically-friendly, OSHA-compliant and, most importantly, safe and responsible behaviors. Putting his education to work, Arthur plans to focus on improving the health and welfare of those living in industrialized areas.



Arthur's goals include pursuing a doctorate degree in industrial hygiene and to continuously seek to better himself in the health and safety field outside the classroom. His efforts have rewarded him with a graduate assistantship for West Virginia University's Environmental Health and Safety office and an upcoming internship at the Boeing Company's Health and Safety office in Auburn, Washington. Through his position at West Virginia University, he has been able to attend supplementary trainings and short courses. Arthur intends to continue to broaden his understanding of the field through such courses during his career as an Industrial Hygienist.



West Virginia University AIHA Student Section Update

Submitted by Lindsey Coffield, WVU Student Chapter AIHA

Students from the Master of Science program for Industrial Hygiene at West Virginia University graduated on May 10th. This is a two-year master's program, where students learn industrial hygiene techniques, combined with safety management, environmental, and occupational health skills. The following lists the graduating students with the title of their problem report or thesis.

- **Kailynn Cerny** - Chemical Analysis of an Automotive Plant-Assembly Department
- **Lindsey Coffield** - A Lockout/Tagout Hazard Analysis for the Construction Industry
- **Mike Lesko** - Evaluating Lab Hood Face Velocity Using a Sonic Anemometer
- **Anand Ranpara** - Instrument Comparisons for Aerosolized Titanium Dioxide

Any Pittsburgh AIHA members who may be searching for students for internships, or entry level people to fill an IH or safety related positions are asked to contact Lindsey M. Coffield, Industrial Hygiene GRA, West Virginia University Extension Service, Safety and Health Extension OSHA Region III Education Center in Morgantown at lcoffiel@mix.wvu.edu.

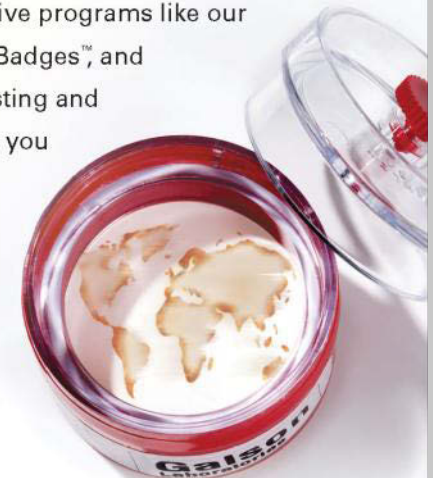
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AIHA Celebrates 75 Years on the Journey to a Safer Tomorrow Pittsburgh Members at AIHce 2014

AIHce2014
+ STEWARDSHIP

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) will celebrate 75 years of protecting worker health and serving the industrial hygiene community at AIHce 2014 (+ Stewardship) "Evolution & Journey to a Safer Tomorrow," May 31 – June 5 in San Antonio, TX. The conference will host 135 technical sessions on the latest technologies and presentations relevant to those looking for solutions to workplace challenges. This is also an opportunity to get advice from prominent product stewardship professionals on current issues using case studies and other practical experiences.

The Pittsburgh AIHA will be well represented at this year's conference with the following members who are participating in a variety of presentations. Please look for them later this month!

Keith Rickabaugh, Technical Director, Materials and Analytical Services, at RJ Lee Group is on the agenda to deliver a presentation "*Evaluation of Airborne Particle Releases from Cutting Gypsum Drywall Using Various Cutting Methods in a Controlled Environment*" that is based on the results of a simulation study in which he participated. The study examined airborne dust emissions resulting from wallboard cutting activities. Study results will provide another step forward in helping develop policies and practices for a safe work environment and to help mitigate the risk for potential exposures to airborne particulates and respirable crystalline silica. This podium session is scheduled on Tuesday, June 3, 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM at Convention Center 006 C-D.

Keith will also be participating in a Roundtable discussion on "*New Sampling and Analytical Techniques for Nano-Sized Particles*," on Wednesday, June 4, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM, Convention Center 008. He will be discussing the thermophoretic sampler (TPS), a portable and easy-to-use personal sampler that is specifically designed for engineered nanoparticles (ENPs) and provides a means for direct analysis of particles including evaluation of particle size and agglomeration state without sample preparation and with minimal "interferences." For a demonstration of the TPS and how easily it can work in a variety of situations, visit RJ Lee's Booth #2056.

Cindy Kuhlman, Research Chemist/Safety Officer noted that SKC, Inc. will be presenting the following posters:

Validation of a Diffusive Sampler for Monitoring Nitrogen Dioxide in Workplace, Indoor, and Ambient Air, presented by **Nicole Zovack** on Tuesday June 3, 10 AM to noon, in session PS403.

Validation of a Diffusive Sampler for Monitoring Ammonia in Workplace Air, presented by **Cindy Kuhlman**, 1 to 3 PM, Tuesday June 3, in session PS404.

Jennifer Silk will be speaking on *Hazcom 2012 Update: Challenges in Implementation* during RT 227 GHS – The New Hazard Communication for North America: Where are we now?; Wednesday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. See more at: <http://aihce2014.org/course/ghs-the-new-hazard-communication-for-north-america-where-are-we-now/#sthash.mXzVmScm.dpuf>

(Continued on page 4)

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Bill Lindsley of CDC/NIOSH will present *"How Well Can Face Shields Protect Healthcare Workers from Cough Aerosol Droplets?"* during the PO 127: *Healthcare Industries III: Waste Anesthetic Gas Exposures, PPE Issues, Occupational Injuries, and Biological Monitoring*; Wednesday, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM, Convention Center 206. See more at: <http://aihce2014.org/course/healthcare-industries-iii-waste-anesthetic-gas-exposures-ppe-issues-occupational-injuries-and-biological-monitoring/#sthash.q4Ydiq6Y.dpuf>

Tom Blank will be presenting *Hiring Process and Interviewing from the Employer's Perspective* - during RT 225: *The Real World: Industrial Hygiene*; Tuesday, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM - See more at: <http://aihce2014.org/course/the-real-world-industrial-hygiene/#sthash.zMhX1G18.dpuf>

Loren Anderson of Golder Associates is presenting the paper *Implementation of a Personal Protective Equipment Program in the Asia Pacific Region* during RT 210: *Applications (and Misapplications) of Personal Protective Equipment in Non-US Facilities*; Monday, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM— See more at: <http://aihce2014.org/course/applications-and-misapplications-of-personal-protective-equipment-in-non-us-facilities/#sthash.Xrg2mpPo.dpuf>

As part of the 75th anniversary celebration, AIHA rolled out the Thought Leaders process, during which Loren was chosen to offer input as one of those leaders. Information can be found at: <https://www.aiha.org/about-aiha/Pages/Thought-Leaders-Project.aspx>. You can also watch Loren's discussion at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcnpo328p80&list=UUzBHyp2oZBB139mqDcPCirw>

Matt Zock of FedEx arranged RT 239 --*Protecting Workers from Hazardous Drug Exposures in Healthcare – Current Practices, Knowledge Gaps, and Regulations* Thursday, 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM—See more at: <http://aihce2014.org/course/protecting-workers-from-hazardous-drug-exposures-in-healthcare-current-practices-knowledge-gaps-and-regulations/#sthash.iiMfaiW8.dpuf>

Julie Panko, Melissa Tosiano, Marisa Kreider, of Cardno ChemRisk will present *Method Development for Nanomaterials Exposure Assessment in Mixed Dust Environments* during PO 102: *Nanotechnology: Assessment & Control*, Monday, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM— See more at: <http://aihce2014.org/course/nanotechnology-assessment-control/#sthash.n4nFS9ne.dpuf>

Julie Panko is also an instructor during PT7: *Emerging Product Stewardship Issues* with a presentation *Green Chemistry: A Critical Element of Sustainable Development and Product Stewardship*. Tuesday, 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM - See more at: <http://aihce2014.org/course/emerging-product-stewardship-issues/#sthash.OqWNR13H.dpuf>

These are just a few of the Pittsburgh AIHA members who are participating at AIHce. You can visit <http://aihce2014.org/education/program-by-topic/> — type Pittsburgh in the search box. This search should bring up most sessions associated with a Pittsburgh person/presenter/author.

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Pittsburgh AIHA Members Named Fellows



Congratulations to the following 4 Pittsburgh AIHA Members who are among the 43 new distinguished National AIHA Fellows, recognized for their significant contributions to the field of industrial hygiene, to its list.

- **Charles F. Brehm, CIH** - General Manager, Health and Safety, Horsehead Corporation; nominated by the Construction Committee
- **Carl W. Heinlein, ARM, CPEA, CRIS, CSHM, CSP, OHST, STS** - Senior Safety Consultant, American Contractors Insurance Group; nominated by the Construction Committee
- **Raffie C. Sessa, CIH** - President & CEO, RCS Health & Safety Consulting, LLC; nominated by the Pittsburgh Local Section

- **Steven D. Stockton, MS, CIH** nominated by the Pittsburgh Local Section

The Fellow classification is limited to no more than five percent of the AIHA membership. “The Fellow designation has become a mark of excellence and achievement for AIHA members,” said AIHA President Barbara J. Dawson, CIH, CSP. “Members chosen to be Fellows have been nominated by colleagues in the profession because they represent extraordinary accomplishments and contributions to the profession and to AIHA. It is both a privilege and pleasure to congratulate this year’s Fellows on behalf of Awards Committee.”

New AIHA Fellows will be recognized at the AIHce during the General Session and at the Fellows Special Interest Group meeting on Wednesday, June 4.

See the press release at: <https://www.aiha.org/about-aiha/Press/2014PressRelease/Pages/AIHA-Recognizes-43-New-OEHS-Professionals-as-Distinguished-Fellows.aspx>



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New Video Highlights AIHA's Students and Early Career Professionals Committee

(AIHA Press Release—Posted May 8, 2014)

In the latest video in the AIHA® Thought Leaders series, Carter Ficklen III, CIH, CSP, discusses the numerous benefits of participating in AIHA’s Students and Early Career Professionals (SECP) Committee. Ficklen, who previously chaired the SECP Committee, explains its importance for students and young professionals pursuing careers in industrial hygiene and occupational health and safety.

“Being on the Students and Early Career Professionals Committee is a leadership opportunity where you're able to see how AIHA Volunteer Groups work, have interactions with the AIHA Board, and meet a lot of other early career professionals and students who are just entering the profession,” he says.

Watch the video on AIHA.org at <https://www.aiha.org/about-aiha/Pages/Thought-Leaders-Project.aspx>

Ficklen has served as president of the AIHA Tidewater Local Section and the American Industrial Hygiene Foundation. In 2009, he was the recipient of AIHA’s Kusnetz Award, which recognizes an industrial hygienist under 40 who shows promise of leadership in the IH profession.



The [Thought Leaders project](#) is a series of videos that capture the stories of several influential AIHA members. These videos offer multiple perspectives on the evolution of industrial hygiene and the efforts of industry leaders to adjust to new challenges, new occupational hazards, and new technologies for protecting workers.

The Thought Leaders series is set to run through the end of 2014, AIHA’s 75th anniversary year.

"Friends of NIOSH" Support Stable Funding for ERCs, AFF Program

(AIHA Press Release—Posted May 7, 2014)



In a recent letter, more than 150 organizations comprising the “Friends of NIOSH” urged congressional leaders to maintain funding for NIOSH in fiscal year (FY) 2015 and expressed continued support for the agency’s [Education and Research Centers](#) (ERCs) and [Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Program](#). President Obama has proposed an FY 2015 budget that would eliminate these programs.

“The elimination of these NIOSH-supported programs, as proposed in the president’s fiscal 2015 budget, would limit the ability of workers to avoid exposures that can result in injury or illnesses, push back improved working conditions, eliminate occupational safety and health educational services to over 10,000 U.S. businesses, and ultimately raise healthcare costs,” the letter states.

AIHA, AIHA local sections, and other organizations in the industrial hygiene profession made up more than 30 signatures accompanying the letter. Read the full letter at <https://www.aiha.org/government-affairs/FederalActivity/FY15%20FONIOSH%20sign%20on%20letter%20Senate.pdf>.

The Friends of NIOSH is a coalition of industry, labor, professional, educational, and scientific organizations that are dedicated to research and prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses, and committed to the training of occupational health and safety professionals.

New “We Can Do This” video explains the value of Injury and Illness Prevention Programs



“*We Can Do This!*” is a new seven-minute video developed by OSHA that explains how injury and illness prevention programs enhance workplace safety and health. An injury and illness prevention program is a systematic process that employers can use to find and fix workplace hazards before workers get hurt. Instituting these programs helps transform workplace culture and can lead to higher productivity, reduced turnover, reduced costs and greater worker satisfaction. To learn about the basic elements of these programs and how they have been implemented by many employers with dramatic results, visit OSHA’s [Injury and Illness Prevention Program topics page](#) (<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/safetyhealth/index.html>) and watch the [video](#).





In case you missed it, the Pittsburgh AIHA has a new, updated website! It was time for a change! This user-friendly site is set up to be compatible with today's technology and mobile devices!

Note that the new website address is: www.pittsburghaiha.org. Navigation on this site is slightly different, so please take a few minutes to look around and get familiar with the site.

Please feel free to contact Christy at kirsch211@comcast.net with any comments, or items to post.



Mark your calendar to celebrate AIHA and AIHce's 75th Anniversary!

The American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition (AIHce)

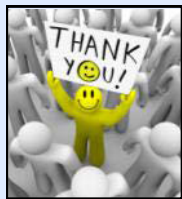
is considered the most important event of the year among occupational and environmental health and safety professionals. Thousands will convene in San Antonio, Texas, for six days of world-class education and networking opportunities.

The AIHce education program provides a wealth of knowledge and expertise through a wide variety of quality, peer-reviewed presentations. A diverse menu of formats, including general sessions, lectures, lunch discussions, roundtables, and podium and poster sessions, provides multiple ways to learn. With more than 35 content-rich tracks, Technical Sessions offer lively dialogue centered around timely case studies, controversial issues, and exciting new research—information to fit every OEHS niche. AIHce also has pre-conference courses, including professional development courses (PDCs), symposia, and various special and exam courses.

When: May 31-June 5, 2014

Where: Henry B. Gonzalez Conv. Center
San Antonio, TX

See more at: <http://aihce2014.org/general-information/#sthash.f5NvmPqo.dpuf>



The following organizations have supported the Pittsburgh AIHA as sponsors and/or advertisers 2014

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- ◆ U.S. Micro-Solutions, Inc.



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Indiana University of PA and Slippery Rock University ASSE Student Sections, in conjunction with the Western PA ASSE Chapter are hosting a joint Professional Development Conference at Indiana University of Pennsylvania to provide an opportunity for students and professionals to learn, network and interact. *CEU's can be earned!*

A schedule has not yet been developed, but there will be both a Professional and Student track, though participants will be able to attend sessions in either track. We expect a wide-array of topics to be discussed ranging from the oil and gas industry to major updates with OSHA.

Come join us for a chance to network, learn and earn your continuing education credits!

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Consider being a sponsor for the continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, transportation, etc. All proceeds will be used to help defray the cost of the event and to establish an endowed scholarship through the ASSE Foundation for the benefit of both IUP and SRU students. Your name/company will be recognized for their sponsorship. Contact Pam or Tracey for more information.

For more information:

Pam Walaski
412.414.4769
pwalaski@complianceplace.com

Tracey Cekada
724.357.3272
cekadat@iup.edu