

# The SAFETY BEAKON



Volume 4, Issue 3

August 2007

Department of Occupational Health and Safety

## DOHS Announces M. Bernie Alexander Award

As a fitting tribute to the memory and commitment of Bernie Alexander, the Department of Occupational Health and Safety established the M. Bernie Alexander Memorial Fire Safety Award in 2007. As many of you know, Bernie served as the University Fire Marshal and Fire Protection Engineer from 1987-2006, and passed away this spring after a long battle with ALS.

The award was made possible by a generous donation from Bernie's parents, Maurice and Eleanor Alexander. It was announced at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Safety Recognition Luncheon held May 17, 2007, and will be presented each year to an individual or group that has demonstrated outstanding effort in promoting fire safety. Specifically, those recognized will strive to ensure all elements of



Kevin McSweeney and Jeff Work holding Fire Safety Award Plaque

their fire safety activities include, but are not limited to, fire drills, quarterly facility inspections, fire extinguisher familiarization, and innovations toward fire safety awareness.

The Theatre Department became the first recipient of the award this year. They were presented with the plaque and monetary award at the luncheon by DOHS and Bernie's family. A separate plaque was also unveiled, which

bears Bernie's picture and the recipients of the award.

Nominations can be made and submitted to the Department of Occupational Health and Safety each year by April 30, so that a selection can be made prior to the annual luncheon in May. All nominations are accepted and will be reviewed by the directors of Occupational Health and Safety and the Fire Protection staff.

Bernie is responsible for radically transforming the fire safety program at the University and this award honors those who carry on that legacy. Any questions regarding the award can be addressed to Kevin McSweeney. Please feel free to stop by our office and view the plaque commemorating Bernie at the front desk.

## Graduate Students Support OHS

OHS welcomes Zhicheng (Simon) Yan as a new Environmental Health and Safety Assistant. Simon is a Physics graduate student investigating the magnetic properties of nanoparticles.



Simon Yan

His responsibilities at OHS will be primarily to support the radiation and laser safety programs. His past research experience using lasers and

x-ray producing devices makes him well qualified to assist OHS in improving these program areas.

Simon worked as a lab manager and lab instructor for three years at the Institute of Metal Research at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shenyang, China prior to coming to UD in 1997 for his doctoral degree.

DOHS is also pleased to announce two students who have joined the team for the summer.

Genevieve Lodal and Khalil Shahyd are working together to complete the stormwater GPS mapping project.

Genevieve is a graduate student in Urban Affairs and Public Policy, while Khalil is working



Genevieve Lodal and Khalil Shahyd

towards a PhD through the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy.

Both have moved the stormwater mapping project in a very positive direction with hopes of total project completion prior to the start of the fall semester. If you see them around campus, please help us to welcome them all.

### REMINDERS

- ◆ Ensure all New Graduate Students complete New Graduate Student Orientation
- ◆ Remember Driver's License Audits will be conducted in September

### Inside this issue:

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## UD's Subsurface Stormwater Detention

Due to land/space constraints and an ever increasing amount of impervious surface UD has selected to explore new sustainable technologies in an effort to manage the stormwater runoff.

The University has recently embarked on an initiative to incorporate underground stormwater detention systems in an effort to proactively manage the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff. The existing systems are located at the Center for the Arts and the Laird campus and one more is slated to be in-

stalled at the new Admissions building. These underground detention chambers are categorized as a "green" technology due to the fundamental engineering of the systems. In short, the water enters the horseshoe shaped chambers through a series of catch basins and is held in the chambers by a flow limiting orifice.

This detention period has three main functions. First, it slows the flow of runoff, which helps eliminate the amount of ground level destruction possible during the height of each storm.



**StormTech System**

Second, it promotes the infiltration back into the ground, which is the ultimate goal of any stormwater management program. Lastly, it allows for much of the solids to settle out, which increases the quality of the stormwater that does

## Move Over for Safety By Murray

In January 2007 the Delaware legislature enacted the "Move Over" safety law to protect its police, fire and ambulance crews when working on the state's roadways. This legislation requires motorists to "Move Over" a full traffic lane when passing a stopped emergency vehicle with its emergency lights flashing, if possible.

In the event it's not possible to move due to traffic or roadway conditions

motorists are required to slow to a "safe speed" while passing.



*Lieutenant Edward*

In addition to providing an extra cush-

## Minors Involved in Laboratory Research

Numerous safety and liability issues exist when minors and children participate in activities involving hazardous materials or when they perform hazardous operations in a research or teaching laboratory.

The University Chemical Hygiene Committee developed a policy on minors involved in laboratory research and teaching activities to help protect their health and safety and the interests of the Uni-

versity.

This policy is located in [Chapter 10 of the Chemical Hygiene Plan](#) or at

***"If a minor meets specific criteria, they are permitted to work in a research or teaching laboratory provided certain stipulations are met."***

<http://www.udel.edu/OHS/>

[minorsresearchpolicy.pdf](#).

If a minor meets specific criteria, they are permitted to work in a research or teaching laboratory provided certain stipulations are met. The stipulations include discussions with the parents or guardian about the potential hazards and receiving their written permission. Minors are prohibited from participating in high risk tasks such as working with reproductive toxins and carcinogenic materials and

## DOHS Makes Safety Training Easy

It is hard to believe that in a few short weeks the students will be migrating back to campus for the start of the '07 - '08 school year. This new start brings with it the weight of the training requirements to ensure that all staff, students and faculty are properly trained to safely perform the varying tasks/jobs/assignments on campus.

DOHS has a webpage dedicated to safety training and urge everyone to review the contents. This page outlines what is required and the various platforms or avenues available to accomplish the training requirements. For more information please contact DOHS at 831-8475 or visit our

website at <http://www.udel.edu/OHS/safetvedu.html>. Additionally we list the upcoming trainings for the month on the last page of the newsletter.

# WebCT



## Household Hazardous Waste Days



**Household Hazardous Waste Day**

Materials we use at home that are safe when used as designed may be hazardous to people or the environment when disposed of in their concentrated form.

To prevent health and environmental effects, the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) holds quarterly Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection days in New Castle County. This is a free service. The next HHW day is September 1, 2007 at the Old Curtis Paper Mill on Paper Mill Road in Newark from 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

Materials accepted by DSWA include:

- Household items such as: aerosol cans, bleach, chemistry kits, nail polish, polish removers, perfumes, disinfectants, drain cleaners, floor wax, mercury thermometers, moth balls, oven cleaner, smoke detectors, spot remover, toilet cleaner, and prescription medications.
- Workshop or garage items such as: cor-

rosives, paints (other than latex), small compressed-gas cylinders, solvents, stains, strippers, thinners, varnish, wood preservatives, and fluorescent bulbs.

- Garden or yard materials such as: fungicides, herbicides, pesticides, and pool chemicals.
- Automotive materials such as: antifreeze, auto batteries, degreasers, waste fuels - gasoline, kerosene, or used motor oil mixed with other fuels.

For more information you can go to <http://www.dswa.com/> or you can call the DSWA's Citizens Response Line at 1-800-404-7080.

## Look Who's Safe Grad Fellows—Safety Spokespersons in their Field

DOHS would like to recognize Art Conservation's graduate Fellows for this edition of Look Who's Safe. This department, lead by Debra Hess Norris, has had three of their graduate Fellows serve consecutively as student members on the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) Health and Safety Committee.

The current student member is Meghan McFarlane. The Committee is charged with disseminating health and safety information specific to the art conservation industry through a variety of communication methodologies in an effort to increase safety awareness. Meghan is hoping to contribute a few

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**Meghan McFarlane**

safety related articles for the AIC's newsletter during her time on the committee.

This nomination is a two year assignment and is strongly supported by the Art Conservation department. This type of involvement facilitates an understanding of the priority the role of safety plays in the industry and sets the stage for a more safety oriented outlook going forward for the student members. The training that the Department provides to these Fellows through their program at Delaware is certainly creating leaders in the area of Art Conservation safety. We applaud all of the student members and Art Conservation for being so safety conscious.

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**Check out our web page!**  
**[www.udel.edu/ohs](http://www.udel.edu/ohs)**

*Think Safety!*



## Training Schedule for upcoming DOHS Courses

\* Note: All trainings take place in GSB 130 unless otherwise specified.

August 2007	<a href="#">Computer Workstation Ergonomics Training</a> offered as needed	N/A	<a href="#">William Fendt</a>
August 2007	<a href="#">Bloodborne Awareness Safety Training</a> offered as needed	N/A	<a href="#">Kathleen Schmidt</a>
August 7, 2007	<a href="#">Chemical Waste Training</a>	10:00-11:00a.m.	<a href="#">Murray Tate</a>
August 7, 2007	<a href="#">LASER Safety Training</a>	3:00-4:30p.m.	<a href="#">William Fendt</a>
August 9, 2007	<a href="#">Right-to-Know/Chemical Hygiene Training for Lab Workers</a>	1:00-2:00p.m.	<a href="#">Kevin Eichinger</a>
August 14, 2007	<a href="#">Refresher Radioactive Material Safety Training</a>	9:00-10:00a.m.	<a href="#">William Fendt</a>
August 14, 2007	<a href="#">Compressed Gas Safety Training</a>	10:00-11:00a.m.	<a href="#">Kevin Eichinger</a>
August 14, 2007	<a href="#">Fume Hood Safety Training</a>	11:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	<a href="#">Kevin Eichinger</a>
August 15, 2007	<a href="#">Environmental Programs at the University of Delaware</a>	9:00-10:00a.m.	<a href="#">Dave Levandoski</a>
August 17, 2007	<a href="#">X-Ray Safety Training</a>	9:00-10:30a.m.	<a href="#">William Fendt</a>
August 17, 2007	<a href="#">Storm Water Quality Training</a>	11:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	<a href="#">Leslie York-Hubbard</a>
August 20, 2007	<a href="#">Confined Space Safety Training Part 1</a>	10:00-11:00a.m.	<a href="#">Joe Miller</a>
August 22, 2007	<a href="#">Safety Program Orientation</a>	8:30-9:30a.m.	<a href="#">Robin Elliott</a>
August 23, 2007	<a href="#">Reactive Chemical Safety Training</a>	1:00-2:00p.m.	<a href="#">Kevin Eichinger</a>
August 27, 2007	<a href="#">Toxic Chemical Safety Training</a>	2:00-3:00p.m.	<a href="#">Kevin Eichinger</a>
August 27, 2007	<a href="#">Safety Program Orientation</a>	11:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	<a href="#">Robin Elliott</a>
August 27, 2007	<a href="#">Fire Extinguisher Safety Training</a>	2:00-3:30p.m.	<a href="#">Kevin McSweeney</a>
August 28, 2007	<a href="#">Corrosive Chemical Safety Training</a>	10:00-11:00a.m.	<a href="#">Kevin Eichinger</a>
August 28, 2007	<a href="#">Hydrofluoric Acid Safety Training</a>	11:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	<a href="#">Kevin Eichinger</a>

## Lessons Learned—"Call Before You Dig"



**It's the Law!**

Every summer, the UD campus goes through a busy season of construction and renovation projects in preparation for the Fall Semester. Many times these projects involve extending or creating new underground utility service. The importance of contacting Miss Utility cannot be overstated prior to executing such work activity.

An incident occurred recently where the lines painted by Miss Utility were disturbed or lacking and heavy equipment operators struck a small diameter natural gas line. Quick action by the



**It's the Law!**

crews on site resulted in the shutdown of the gas without injury or greater incident.

It is important to remember that coordination with Miss Utility must occur at least two days prior to date of work, and the ticket life of the notification is good for up to 10 days.

Operations and Maintenance Crews and outside contractors are very familiar with these procedures, but it doesn't hurt for crew leaders and project managers to remind them to engage this survey before digging. The same rules apply at home if



**It's the Law!**

you decide to do any digging on your property.

In Delaware Miss Utility can be engaged either by phone at 800-282-8555 or their website, <http://www.missutility.net/delaware/>. Let's have a safe construction season and call before we dig! Can you dig it? Only if you call first!