Welcome to Jennifer Fink

By: Paula Sweitzer

Jennifer Fink joined Duquesne University on August 3, 2015 as the associate legal counsel and director of risk management.

Jennifer will report to Vice President and General Counsel Madelyn Reilly assisting in all aspects of legal affairs. In addition, she will oversee the Office of Compliance, Risk Management, and Environmental Health and Safety at Duquesne.

Jennifer most recently served as an attorney fellow for the University of Pittsburgh’s Office of General Counsel. In that role, she was responsible for counseling faculty and staff on the PHRA, EEOC, ADA, Title VII, Title IX, Section 1981, FMLA, and other key laws and regulations impacting higher education. Jennifer also provided guidance on religious accommodations, disability accommodations, FERPA requirements and affirmative action in hiring.

We are exciting to have Jennifer on campus and we all look forward to working with her.

Duquesne University Achieves Fire Safety Honor Roll

By: Paula Sweitzer

DU was named on the 2016 Princeton’s Review Fire Safety Honor Roll due to our fire safety and fire prevention practices and policies. Out of 1,178 schools, Duquesne University was amongst the top 23 colleges being names in this year’s fire safety ratings. Our dedication to fire safety has granted us this award and we are pleased with our fire safety awareness across campus; from fire alarms, to sprinklers, to evacuation drills and trainings. Here on campus we have a striving group of floor marshals, who are volunteers that help during emergency events on campus. They help folks evacuate quickly and safely from their area/floor. Without these volunteers, we would not have successful drills every year.

For more information about our emergency procedures, please visit our website at www.duq.edu/ehs. If you are interested in becoming a floor marshal, please contact Paula Sweitzer x4763 or sweitzerp@duq.edu. We are always looking for more volunteers!
The Safety Chronicle

History of Safety

By: Ryan Reilly

Long ago skilled craftsmen produced or serviced one thing at a time in a skillful and safe manner not to affect production. This was of course before the 18th century Industrial Revolution with the development of instruments such as the power loom and cotton gin. The modernization of machinery emphasized a greater sense of production changing safety and health conditions for workers in the industrialized nations. The factory concept led to steam driven mechanical energy opposed to animals, unguarded machines, new methods for iron production, and brought along inherent process safety hazards and environmental factors affecting all employees’ health. With mechanized factories and no child labor laws businesses focused on production first in the early 1900’s. Sadly death and injury was an accepted business practice in this era.

In 1910 a brief moment of light shown for employees with the passage of a bill for workers’ compensation (the Wainwright Law), yet March 25, 1911 was declared unconstitutional – the same day 146 American lives perished in the New York City’s Triangle clothing factory due to inadequate exits, no fire escapes, and chained exit doors. The public immediately demanded safety reform resulting in the Workmen’s Compensation Act in 1914. This approach held employers accountable for losses suffered by an employee.

Soon enough industries started adopting the “Three E’s” of safety – engineering, education, and enforcement. Coupled with this approach industry and agencies paired their efforts to address health and safety concerns. Through research and cooperation with industry, health hazards discovered in the past 120 years identified occupational diseases from mercury, lead, beryllium, and chromium, asbestos, and health effects from fossil fuel burning. Business leaders’ mindset soon changed realizing a protection of workers led to savings across the board in production, compensation costs, retraining’s, and medical expenses.

The safety movement throughout the United States has and is working. According to the National Safety Council the safety movement has helped save more than 3 million lives and billions upon billions of dollars every year. A broad approach for enforcement was developed in 1970 with the passing of the Williams-Steiger OSHAct. Agencies and organizations such as OSHA, AIHA, NFPA, and ANSI shape the framework for industries to protect their employees at all costs.

Within the past 10 years baby boomers are retiring with no replacements and a “do more with less” attitude has been adopted throughout industries. Accidents have not significantly increased due to advancing technologies in industry and safety. Although this trend will continue, an intrinsic value for your own safety should be instilled in your work ethic. Management, supervisors, and safety professionals are not always going to look over your shoulder. Policies, procedures, engineering devices, trainings, and personal protective equipment are constructed for the worker’s safety and health, but you have to choose to follow and use these tools effectively.

EHS Student Aides

By: Ryan Reilly

EHS has two outstanding student aide employees – Breelyn and Michael. They do a great job helping our staff with monthly fire extinguisher inspections, weekly flushing of the eyewash stations, filing and inventory of safety data sheets, and errands. They will also be helping us during our upcoming hands-on fire extinguisher training and the building evacuation drills.
The Safety Chronicle

Tips on How to Survive a Fire

By: Bob Haushalter

With recent news reports of several home fires, I thought it might be a good idea to review some safety items. Also listed is a brief quiz from Safe Bee (http://www.safebee.com)

- Cooking is the number one cause of home fires and injuries in the United States (especially unattended cooking). (Do not leave the kitchen when using the stove)
- Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires & home fire deaths in the United States. All heaters need space. Keep things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Install and maintain fire & carbon monoxide alarms inside your home to provide early warning. They should be inspected once a month and the batteries changed twice a year.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

Fire Safety Quiz
1. For fire safety reasons, it’s best to sleep with your door:
   A. Open
   B. Shut
   C. Slightly ajar

2. The only thing you should grab when leaving a burning home is:
   A. Your pets
   B. Nothing
   C. Your photos

3. How should you handle a grease fire on your stove?
   A. Carry the burning pan outside
   B. Douse it with water
   C. Cover it with a lid

4. What should you do with the doors as you leave your house?
   A. Close them
   B. Leave them open
   C. Leave them slightly ajar

Answers on back of newsletter.
Look Up Walk Smart Campaign

By: Paula Sweitzer

The Departments of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) and Public Safety have teamed up to ask members of the University community to look up and walk smart.

Through their Look Up and Walk Smart campaign, EHS and public safety hope to call attention to the dangers of using a smart phone while walking.

“People are texting, tweeting, banking, streaming, shopping, emailing, gaming and, basically, not paying attention to their surroundings,” explained EHS Director Paula Sweitzer. “It has become second nature for some to multitask while walking from one building to the next. Across the country, people are running into objects, falling and being struck by cars.”

A 2013 study conducted by The Ohio State University found that more than 1,500 pedestrians were treated in emergency rooms in 2010 for injuries related to using a cell phone while walking. The number continues to trend upward at a rapid pace.

“These injuries can be easily prevented,” Sweitzer said. “Pedestrians have higher mortality rates and more serious injuries because they don’t have the protection of being in a vehicle.”

The National Safety Council offers these tips:

- Don’t walk, talk and text
- If you have to talk or text, move to the side and out of the way of others
- Never cross or walk in the street while using an electronic device
- Don’t walk while wearing/using headphones
- Keep track of your surroundings.

For more information about the Look Up and Walk Smart campaign, contact Paula Sweitzer at 412.396.4763 or Public Safety Captain Lee Speer at 412.396.4935.

YouTube Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvndYuWcKUI
**Fire Safety Quiz Answers**

**Question 1**

The answer is “b” (*Sleep with your door shut*): Keeping your door closed will protect you from smoke or fire on the other side of the door. But it can also keep smoke from inside the bedroom from reaching the smoke alarm in the hall. If you sleep with your door shut — especially if you smoke in your room — it’s smart to have a smoke detector inside your bedroom too.

**Question 2**

The answer is “b” (*Nothing*): As much as you want to go searching for your dog or cat, your only focus should be getting yourself and your human family out safely. Leave pet rescue to firefighters, who are trained and have the right equipment to rescue pets. Let them know how many animals you have and where they are likely to hide.

**Question 3**

The answer is “c” (*Cover it with a lid*): Adding water will cause the burning oil to splash, spreading the fire even more. Don’t try to carry the pan outside or the burning grease could spill, setting small fires throughout your home. Instead, turn off the burner and cover the pan with a lid or a cookie sheet to smother the fire. A dry chemical fire extinguisher will also do the trick, but it will contaminate your food and make quite a mess.

**Question 4**

The answer is “a” (*Close them*): Closing doors will slow smoke and fire from spreading. As you leave any room, shut the door behind you. Before you open a door in your house during a fire, feel the door and the doorknob. If either is warm, use another way out.