Outstanding Student Section
APPLICATION
(Please print or type all information)

Application Date: 03/30/2008

Activity Dates: September 2007 through May 2008

Student Sections Name: Murray State University ASSE Student Section

Chapter: Purchase Area

Faculty Advisor: David L. Fender, Ed.D, CSP

Number of Students Pursuing an Academic Degree in Safety or another Safety-related discipline: 214

Number of Section Members: 69

Names and Titles of Student Section Officers and Leaders
(i.e. President, Vice-President, Committee names and Chairmen, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Seay</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Cope</td>
<td>Executive Vice-President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Boyd</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryanna Pendley</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Scott</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Scott</td>
<td>Recorder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outstanding Student Section Award
Application Contact Page

We attest that the information provided in this application is a true presentation of
the Student Section activities for the period specified.

Signature – Student Section President

Signature – Faculty Advisor

Student Section Address:

157 Industry and Technology Center

Murray, Kentucky 42071-3347

Phone Number:

(270) 809-6641

Please email application and supporting data to:
Attn: Katie Koleski
Coordinator, Chapter/Student Services
ASSE
1800 E. Oakton St.
Des Plaines, IL 60018-2187
kkoleski@asse.org
MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SECTION
OF THE PURCHASE AREA CHAPTER
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS
(September 2007 – May 2008)

Annual Minimum Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check Off</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Documented under Support Documentation, 6 newsletters (Section 8.0)</td>
<td>Student Section publishes a newsletter at least four times during the academic year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members have attended five parent chapter meetings.</td>
<td>Section sends at least one representative to a minimum of two parent-chapter General Membership or Executive Committee meetings per year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation under Professional Development (Section 2.0)</td>
<td>Section conducts at least six meetings per year, with four being of technical content. The definition of “technical” in this context is that the process or procedure directly relates to SH&amp;E practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewed and approved on 11/16/06</td>
<td>Section Bylaws are reviewed annually and revised and re-approved within the last two years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation under Endorsements (Section 6.0)</td>
<td>Students work with and cooperate with the Faculty Advisor on all matters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.0 Professional Development

Section meetings are devoted to advancing students' safety education, industrial hygiene education, professionalism, community awareness, and research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker/Agency</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/13/07</td>
<td>How to Become an Effective Safety Director</td>
<td>Bart Leist, Compass Safety</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/01/07</td>
<td>How to Become a Consultant</td>
<td>David Brooks, Brooks Consulting</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/13/07</td>
<td>Private vs. Public Sector</td>
<td>Cindy Medford, City of Paducah KY</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/23/08</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>Officer Team</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/03/08</td>
<td>How Luck Influences Safety</td>
<td>Anthony Carter</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/16/08</td>
<td>Elections</td>
<td>Officer Team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/21/08</td>
<td>“Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Program” Symposium</td>
<td>J R Gray, Commissioner of Kentucky Department of Labor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.0 Section Sponsored Research

“Safety is Good Business” White Paper

Three ASSE Student Section members have prepared a white paper on “Safety is Good Business.” This white paper summarizes the literature in this area and will include the subjects of sustainability, communicating change, the cost of safety, resources needed, company examples, the role of SH&E professionals, business challenges, demonstrating to management the benefits of SH&E and metrics. This project is being coordinated with the ASSE Public Affairs office and they have agreed to distribute the final document within the Society and to outside government agencies and interested individuals and groups.

Back Pack Survey

Back pain is a major economic and health issue, affecting nearly 80% of people at some time in their adult life (Taimela S. 1997). There has been a concern among educators, health care professionals, and parents that back pain is becoming a serious health issue in children and young adults due to the use of heavy backpacks (Wall E., 2003). Some school-based questionnaire studies have concluded that there is an association between back pain and backpack use (Burton, AK 1996). Studies have shown that by 15 years of age, the prevalence of back pain is 50-70%, which approaches the adult rates (Skaggs, D., 2006) and a higher prevalence of low back pain among females (Balague F, 1994).

Questionnaire and protocol for this study was based upon previous published studies (Skaggs D, Early S, D’Ambra, P. et al. Back pain and backpacks in school children. Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics. 2006;26:358-363). Questionnaire has been shown to have a same-day repeatability of 99% and an 84% consistency rate over 6 months. The purpose of this study was to see what factors influence the prevalence of back pain in college-age students, with particular attention to the weight of the student's backpacks.

This project was performed by undergraduate and graduate ASSE section members and a key purpose of this study is to give the students experience in research, data collection and analysis. The data gathered was compared to other published research in this area and information will be provided to student publications to inform students as to how they can protect themselves from health-related problems through carrying heavy backpacks.

Results from the data have been tabulated and summarized using measures of central tendency. The results were stratified into four main categories, demographic, backpack characteristics, and experiencing back pain. The association between each category and a number of variables were analyzed. General variables are age, gender, presence of back pain, activity modification, and use of medication. Variables related to backpack use include method of carriage, backpack weight, weight of student, and ratio of backpack weight to body weight.

A total of 103 students (mean age 22) participated in the study, 78 male and 25 female. Of these individuals 28% of the males and 48% of the females said that they experience back pain at times and on a scale of 1 to 10 with one being the lowest level of pain, 86% of the males who
experienced back pain rated the pain from 3-5 and 75% of the females did the same. Another indication of the pain level was that 36% of males and 41% of the females said that the pain was severe enough at times to limit their activities. Also of those who experienced back pain 68% of males and 66% of the females said that they believed their back pack made their pain worse and 15% took pain medication.

The American Chiropractic Association, the American Physical Therapy Association and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons set the following limits for backpack weight. There were 5 individuals in the sample who exceed these standards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person’s Weight (lb.)</th>
<th>Maximum Backpack Wt. (lb.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-75</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 or more</td>
<td>25*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*No one should carry more than 25 lb.

Backpacks varied from 1.6 pounds to 32.6 pounds with a mean weight of 13.2 pounds. Bivariate analysis indicated that the connection between backpack weight and back pain was not significant.

The results from this study were given to the campus newspaper with recommendations to prevent back injuries from backpacks.

**Physical Disability Survey**

The Section conducted a study in November 2007 regarding specific areas or items on campus that give individuals problems whether or not the issues are considered legally non-conforming. To conduct this study the offices of Student Support Services was contacted and they were asked to inform students that they worked with that had physical disabilities about the study and information was provided so that interested students could let ASSE know of their interest in participating. These individuals then met with one of the ASSE student section members and they were asked to describe their concerns and a photograph of the problem area was made. There were a total of 5 individuals who participated in the study, 3 in wheelchairs, and two with visual disabilities. A total of 27 concerns were identified and a report was forwarded to appropriate offices on campus for their information and action.
Murray State University 16th Street Pedestrian Survey

The study was on where and how people crossed 16th Street, a major road that divides the campus.

Part 1—Survey Results
Members collected data on September 27, 2007 from 9:00 to 10:00 am and 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Students collected data about pedestrians using the street, their gender, designation (student, faculty/staff), cars yielding to crosswalk users, the driver’s gender, and vehicle information (student, faculty/staff, MSU owned vehicles).

Of the individuals observed 43% (411 individuals) were males and 57% (545 individuals) were females, for a total of 956 individuals during these two hours. Figure 1 shows that in previous surveys, in February 64.7% of individuals used the crosswalk, in November 81.2% used the crosswalk and in Sep, 2007 95.7% used the crosswalk. It should be noted that both 2006 percentages are based upon the entire campus and the 2007 percentage is just for 16th Street. In 2006 the one crossing monitored on 16th Street (Alexander Hall) had a 95.6% usage rate so the percentage indicated for 2007 in Figure 1 is almost identical.

![Graph showing percentage of individuals using the crosswalk over different months](image1)

**Figure 1**

Figure 2 shows the percentage of vehicles on 16th St. that yielded to pedestrians by classification of vehicle, i.e. faculty/staff, students, MSU-owned vehicle, and vehicles with no tags.

![Graph showing percentage of vehicles yielding to pedestrians](image2)

**Figure 2**
Although much has been done to make the crosswalks obvious through markings on the pavements and signs the last survey showed that 10.5% of vehicles do not yield. While that is not a large percentage, each failure to yield (86 cases in 2 hours) was a potential pedestrian(s)/vehicle collision.

Research was performed to determine if anything else could be done to increase the number of vehicles yielding to pedestrians. The results of this research are provided in Part 2 of the report.

**Part 2—Recommendations**
The ASSE section addressed possible approaches to the University.

1. The traditional approach. It is the responsibility of the pedestrian and the driver to obey the laws and keep everyone safe.
2. This recommendation is also traditional but important and that is to make sure crosswalks are well-marked with appropriate signage and markings that are plain to the motorists and pedestrians.
3. This recommendation builds upon work done by others on ways to make crosswalks safer and may especially be appropriate for 16th street. Traffic calming is an approach that works to reduce the speed and/or volume of traffic to levels that correspond to the class of the road and that are appropriate for the neighboring activity.
   a. One idea that should be explored is to install “raised cross walks” at high volume crosswalks.
   b. Another method that can be used to slow traffic is a “choker”. A choker is used to narrow the street and can be used at mid-block or at intersections.

### 3.0 Community and Professional Enhancement

#### A. Section-sponsored community activities

**The Great Escape**
In February, ASSE section members, in cooperation with the Murray Fire Department, taught 372, 3rd grade students from Murray/Calloway County area how to prepare a fire escape plan for their own homes. Section members made presentation to the elementary students on how dangerous fires can be in the home and showed them an example of a fire escape plan and asked the students to draw a fire escape plan for their home. A contest was held for the best fire escape plan in each class and the section officers judged the plans. The grand prize winner from each of the 16 classes won a trip to the fire department to eat lunch with the on-duty fire fighters. The student section provided and served the meal.

**Public Service Announcement**
December 6, 2007 Student Section President Melissa Scay did a public service announcement with Froggy 103.7 FM. She presented information about candle safety, and Christmas tree safety. Melissa addressed statistics about the dangers of Christmas tree incidents that involved fire during the holiday season. This PSA which was played throughout the Christmas season made the public more aware of simple mistakes that affect many people during this holiday season.
B. Section participation in other community activities

Operation Christmas Child
Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. This program of Samaritan's Purse provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on mission’s project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas-Jesus Christ. Several of the student section ASSE members participated in this charity by giving their time and money to make shoeboxes for boys and girls of several different age groups.

Calloway County Safety Day
On October 23, 2007 six ASSE members participated in the Calloway County Safety Day for Calloway County High School students. The members taught students the basics of earthquake safety as well as what should be put into a disaster preparedness kit.

Coalition for Alcohol Risk Evaluation
On October 9 2007 ASSE members participated in stuffing envelopes for the Coalition for Alcohol Risk Evaluation. These envelopes were sent to all of the freshmen students on the Murray State University Campus.

College of Health Sciences and Human Services Health Fair
On April 4, 2008 eight ASSE members will participate in the College of Health Sciences and Human Services Health Fair for Calloway County High School students. The members will teach students the basics of confined space entry and hazardous material safety as well as using videos of accidents in the workplace and home to illustrate how accidents can occur.

Pemiscot County Workplace Safety Camp
On April 24th, six section members will head to Pemiscot County, Missouri to help with the North Pemiscot School District's Workplace Safety Camp. Approximately 600 fifth graders will be attending this event. There will be several stations where the children will learn about some aspect of safety. The MSU ASSE section members will present the children with material that will explain what an earthquake is and how it happens. At each station section members will simulate an earthquake using a model of a house and a bag of water. Fifth graders will be taught how to prepare for an earthquake and what to do after an earthquake. Since Pemiscot County is a Class I earthquake zone, the intention is to make the children more aware of earthquakes and how being prepared can pay off. This is the eighth year the student section has participated in this event.

As part of North American Occupational Safety and Health week, the student section members participating in the Workplace Safety Camp will also be putting on a personal protective equipment fashion show to promote safety and health. The fifth graders will be shown all types of personal protective equipment including safety glasses, gloves, fall protection equipment, etc. The section members think the fashion show will be a huge success with the fifth graders.
Lions Club Telethon
The fifty first annual WPSD, Lions Club, Telethon of Stars was November 10th and 11th with set up on November 9th. ASSE officer, Jonathan Scott, volunteered his time to work with the Telethon of Stars. The telethon is the longest running locally produced telethon in the United States. The telethon raised $601,527.38 this year with the proceeds benefiting the Easter Seals centers in Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, and Missouri. Easter Seals provides services to help children and adults with disabilities and/or special needs as well as support to their families.

The telethon is primarily an entertainment and informational show, with fifteen continuous hours of live music with features and interviews of the clients and support staff from the Easter Seals centers in the four state region. The musical entertainment consists of a variety of entertainment from local talent to headliners. Three stages are used during the telethon to quickly switch from one musical act to the next. During the actual telethon, Jonathan worked as the audio stage manager and the audio floor director. His team was responsible for ensuring that the talent is set up and ready to perform. This involves several quick set changes throughout the fifteen-hour broadcast. He was also responsible for communicating with the three audio mix stations and the video floor director. In addition, his team assisted with the setup of the telethon before the show and assisted with tearing down the setup after the show had gone off the air.

National Fire Safety Week Booth
During the week of October 8th-12th, section members in cooperation with Mr. Anderson, assistant director of safety for facilities management at Murray State, set up a booth in the Curris Center to raise awareness of National Fire Safety Week. Several student section members worked the booth throughout the day. Students passed out fliers and candy to college students. To the younger children, plastic firemen hats were given out, as were fire safety coloring books. Movies were shown throughout each day concerning emergency preparedness, natural disasters, and fire extinguishers.

C. Section Sponsored Campus Activities

Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Program Symposium
On April 21, 2008, J.R. Gray the Commissioner of Labor for the State of Kentucky will speak to the students regarding the status of the Kentucky OSHA program and Randy Gray with the Kentucky Department of Transportation will speak on accident investigation. The officers will host their guests at a luncheon followed by their remarks and a question and answer period.

Student Mentor Day
On October 16, 2007 ASSE student members had the opportunity to visit numerous industries in the surrounding area. The Purchase Area Chapter of ASSE sponsored the event. Student Mentor Day allowed student members to shadow a safety and health professional while at work. Arkema, Inc. City of Paducah, Ingram Barge, City of Hopkinsville, were a few of the companies who participated in Mentor Day. A total of thirteen student section members participated in the Mentor Day experience.

Construction Award of Excellence
We assisted the Mid-Tennessee Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors with selecting their construction award winners for the year. The Section developed a rubric to grade
the safety aspect of the submissions and six Section members went through the 23 submissions, each contained in a three-ring binder. These scores were combined with scores from groups that reviewed other aspects of the submissions to determine the winners. This real-world experience gave the Section members experience in reviewing safety aspects of construction projects. Four section members attended the awards banquet where they were recognized for their assistance.

Great Beginnings
Great Beginnings starts several days before school for the new freshman. On Tuesday, August 21th, several of the officers participated in the organization/career fair as part of Great Beginnings on Murray State’s campus. The officers passed out information about our student section and the Occupational Safety and Health Department. The officer team talked to several new freshmen and has considered this event to be quite a recruitment success.

ASSE T-Shirts
As a fund-raising activity Section Executive Vice-President, Josh Cope, designed an ASSE t-shirt for students to purchase. This allows students to support their department and ASSE. Over 60 t-shirts were sold during the fall semester. The student section has donated $100 to the ASSE Foundation as part of this fundraiser.

Student Ambassadors
Two student section members, Janelle DeCourcy and Erin Hampton, are student ambassadors for the Occupational Safety and Health Department. Representing the Occupational Safety and Health Department, these students speak at Freshman Orientation classes for those who have not declared a major. They also attend Summer Orientations, Junior Jams, and other major fairs.

Section Web Page
The Student Section has created a section specific web page. This provides students, faculty, staff, and professionals with current up-to-date information about the student section’s activities. Jerry Boyd, Vice President, is responsible for keeping the web page up-to-date. The page has been linked to the parent chapter web page. To view the web page, go to http://campus.murraystate.edu/org/safety_engineers/asse.htm.

Tent City
Murray State University’s Football Homecoming was held on Saturday, October 13th, 2007. Prior to the game, organizations participated in Tent City including the Occupational Safety and Health Department. Tent City allowed students, faculty, and alumni to get together and catch up. Several alum and current departmental students showed up to support the homecoming festivities. ASSE members helped organize and run the departmental tent.

Murray State University Health Fair
On October 10, 2007 three ASSE members participated in the Murray State University Health Fair. The fair provided screenings and educational materials to build awareness of health risks and information to promote lifestyle changes for overall health enhancement. Our group taught the Disaster Preparedness in accordance with Murray State University’s new Emergency procedures that where put out at the beginning of the semester.
Resume Packet Workday
During both the fall and spring semesters, the Occupational Safety and Health Department puts together resume packets for both graduates and interns. Undergraduates wanting an internship must submit 150 copies of a one page resume, while those applying in the workforce must submit 150 copies up to two pages for their resumes. The resumes are then placed into either an internship or job placement packet. The packets are then sent to approximately 100 businesses for their review. Several ASSE section members assisted in putting the packets together.

Welcome Back Picnic
On September 11th, the student section of ASSE sponsored the Occupational Safety and Health Department annual Welcome Back Picnic. Students and faculty were brought together outside the IT building for hamburgers, chips, and drinks. This also gave the officer team a chance to promote ASSE to former students and new students that are non members.

Officer Team Building
On August 23, 2007, the ASSE officers began the year with a team building event. Dr. Kelly Rogers, from the Department of Wellness and Therapeutic Science, lead the team building activities. We participated in activities that taught communication, dedication, and trust in order to help us in continuing the growth of our chapter.

Resume Writing Workshop
On February 20th 2008, ASSE student section member Janelle DeCourcey put on a program in cooperation with Alpha Phi Alpha. She went through the steps of writing a resume, a reference page, and a cover letter. Appearance is another topic that was discussed along with the importance of time management. Directly after the meeting Janelle performed mock interviews for those students interested, to provide them with and idea of how most interview processes are performed.

4.0 Recognition

Department Awards Forum and Recognition Night
The Department of Occupational Safety and Health will hold its annual awards forum on May 1st 2008. The student section, in cooperation with the AIHA student section, will organize the evening. Scholarships will be awarded at this event, including section-sponsored scholarships, Purchase ASSE Chapter scholarships, Middle Tennessee ASSE Chapter scholarships as well as recognition of the old officers of ASSE, AIHA, SESHA, and Rho Sigma Kappa and installation of the new officers. The Outstanding Undergraduate Students will also be honored during this evening.

Scholars Week
During the week of April 21st, Murray State University will hold its annual Scholars Week. This week is devoted to highlighting research, scholarship, and creative work done by graduate and undergraduate students throughout the university. Section members will be presenting the student section research conducted this year. The section hopes that through this presentation we will increase awareness in the importance of safety in our everyday lives.
5.0 Student Section Participation

A. Percent of eligible students involved in the section.

In the Spring Semester the student section boasts 69 members with current dues for this semester. This represents about 33% of all students in the undergraduate and graduate programs. Of this, 5% are freshmen, 5% sophomores, 21% juniors, 41% seniors and 28% graduate program students.

B. Percent of section members attending section meetings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Dates</th>
<th>Attendance Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 September 2007</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 October 2007</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 November 2007</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 January 2008</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 March 2008</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 April 2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 April 2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Annual publication and distribution of a section roster.

An annual publication and distribution of a section roster is not allowed by Murray State University policy due to privacy concerns.
6.0 Endorsements

Endorsement Letters
March 13, 2008

Awards Coordinator
American Society of Safety Engineers
1800 E. Oakton
Des Plaines, IL 60018-2187

Dear Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to endorse the application from the Murray State University ASSE Student Section for consideration for the Outstanding Student Section Mine Safety Appliances Award. As Chair of the Department of Occupational Safety and Health for the last fifteen years, I have had the opportunity to watch this outstanding student section develop and mature into an extremely active professional organization. This is an organization that I can honestly say that we are very fortunate to have as part of our department, university, as well as the community.

The leadership provided by the student executive officers and their faculty advisor Dr. David Fender been second to none. Their dedication and commitment to providing quality meetings and beneficial activities are directly responsible for the continued growth and development of this organization. The ASSE Student Section membership has brought in professional presenters, participated in fundraising projects, assisted at state and national conferences, and conducted numerous community and departmental services, in addition to conducting valuable research in the occupational safety and health field.

This year the ASSE Student Section provided 372 third graders with fire escape plan training, researched pedestrian and backpack safety issues, conducted literature reviews, and will host a safety symposium with the Commissioner of Labor for Kentucky. I have highlighted only a few of the many activities that this group has participated in during the past year. This is truly a group of dedicated, hard working, and committed future safety and health professionals.

Each year I am amazed and impressed with the accomplishments and success of our ASSE student section. I can honestly say that this year they have exceeded the high level of expectations, and have completed one of their strongest years ever.

I have full confidence that they are an exceptionally deserving applicant and will be a credit to both the occupational safety and health profession and this award. In summary, I feel that the
ASSE Student Section at Murray State University definitely deserves my highest endorsement. I wholeheartedly recommend them for the ASSE Student Section Mine Safety Appliances Award. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

David G. Kraemer, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Occupational Safety and Health
March 6, 2008

American Society of Safety Engineers
ATTN: Chapter Services
1800 E. Oakton St.
Des Plaines, IL 60018-2187

Dear Task Force Members:

Please consider the Murray State University Student Section of the American Society of Safety Engineers an exemplary candidate for the Outstanding Student Section Award. As the Faculty Advisor of the student section, I have been impressed by the dedication, team effort, and genuine commitment, indicated within this petition, that has been put forth to achieve the objectives of this organization.

I see my position as faculty advisor as not someone who does things for the students but who provides guidance and assists the students when they need or request it. I and the Occupational Safety and Health Department do not hold the student’s hands or direct what they do. The activities and accomplishments for this year have been student ideas and student planned and executed.

I wish to highlight some of this year’s activities. Although it has not happened at this writing we are thrilled that the Kentucky Commissioner of Labor has agreed to come speak to the Student Section in April. Under an OSHA state plan the Commissioner is in charge of Kentucky OSHA and to have someone of his caliber come speak is a wonderful opportunity. The other speakers for the Section meetings were all excellent this year.

Community involvement by the section is also extensive. The section members developed a plan to teach all 16 third-grade classes, in the Murray area, on home fire safety. Section members coordinated with the local fire department and schools, developed the lesson plan and with fire department members presented the instruction to 400 third-grade students. Each student was asked to develop a home fire escape plan and Section members judged these and selected a grand-prize winner from each class. Grand prize winners ate lunch at the fire station and were given a tour of the fire house. The Section provided the food and members assisted in serving and working with the children.
Research has been at the forefront of Section activities. For example, a special survey on street crossing problems for a principle street that passes through campus was conducted and additional research was done on ways to design crosswalks to reduce the hazards identified. This information was put into a report and forwarded to Public Safety. Research was done on backpack usage and weight by students. The results, with additional information, was publicized on-campus through the campus newspaper. A major research project with national implications was performed by three of the Section members, with guidance from faculty, and resulted in a White Paper titled “Safety is Good Business” and will be published by ASSE.

I believe that the biggest advantage of students participating in Section activities is getting involved in safety-related activities and leadership opportunities. Leadership is hard to quantify but my observation is that the opportunity for leadership growth has been outstanding this year and I have seen real growth in several individuals. The ability to evaluate, make decisions, and execute those decisions is crucial to a safety professional and thus I am gratified to see the amount of independence and willingness to make decisions that the students have demonstrated.

I highly recommend the Murray State University ASSE Student Section as an outstanding candidate and well deserving of this award.

Sincerely,

David L. Fender, Ed.D., CSP  
Associate Professor, Occupational Safety and Health  
MSU ASSE Student Section Faculty Advisor
March 13, 2008

Student Activities Task Force
American Society of Safety Engineers
1800 East Oakton St.
Des Plaines, IL 60018-2187

Dear Task Force Members,

I am with pleasure and conviction that I recommend the Murray State University Student Section of the American Society of Safety Engineers for the Outstanding Student Section Award. As the President of the Purchase Area Chapter, I am impressed with the leadership displayed in the officers and members of the Student Section.

The attendance and support that the Student Section shows at Chapter meetings and activities is continuous and speaks volumes to their commitment to the profession. Several members of the section including the executive board make a point to cultivate the relationship between the Chapter and the Section, by offering to assist with committees, finding partnership opportunities through student shadows, asking questions and demonstrating a level of intellectual curiosity that any employer would seek.

I have hired my fifth intern from the program at Murray, and continue to be both pleased and amazed at the continual improvement the Section is able to sustain. The Student Section at Murray State University is indeed deserving of the Outstanding Student Section Award.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns, you may reach me at 270-556-6414.

Sincerely,

Cindy Medford, CSP
President, Purchase Area Chapter ASSE
March, 25, 2008

Student Activities Task Force
American Society of Safety Engineers
1800 East Oakton St.
Des Plaines, IL 60018-2187

Dear Task Force Members,

It is my honor and privilege to recommend the American Society of Safety Engineers Student Section at Murray State University for the Outstanding Student Section Award. This is the second year I have been involved with the student section as an officer and I can truly say it has been very active. We have offered a variety of activities for our members to participate and develop leadership qualities that will help us later in our safety professions. I am proud to be a part of this student section because we have helped the university and the community become a better place. The best part is interacting with all different types of people and sharing our safety knowledge that could someday save their life.

Through the activities of our student section this year I can say that we have accomplished our goals. The officer team and several members have come up with new ideas for research topics and activities to get the community involved. This has resulted in more opportunities for our student section members to participate. The section made shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and broadcasted public service announcements for helpful tips on Christmas safety. We are also very excited about hosting J. R. Gray the Kentucky Commissioner of Labor to come speak to students about Kentucky OSHA. The Great Escape was a program where members in conjunction with the Murray Fire Department gave a forty five minute presentation and sponsored a contest for all 16 third grades in Murray Calloway County. The section also participated in Calloway County Safety Day where members taught students about earthquake safety and how to prepare for one.
I am very proud of the student section for all of the activities we have been a part of this year. I feel it has been an honor to work with my officer team and Dr. David Fender. I have learned a tremendous amount of leadership and effective communication that I will take with me for the rest of my life. I am thankful to have the opportunity of being able to serve as the President of this student section.

After reviewing the packet, I can assure the task force, all activities were done by student section members. The activities shown in this award are all valuable in making this student section the most deserving of the Outstanding Student Section of the Year Award.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Melissa Seay
President
Murray State University ASSE Student Section
March 6, 2008

Student Activities Task Force
American Society of Safety Engineers
1800 East Oakton St.
Des Plaines, IL

Dear Task Force:

I would like to recommend Murray State University’s ASSE student section for the Outstanding Student Section Mine Safety Appliances’ Award. Over the past year our student section has excelled in encouraging the community and the department to apply safety in everything in every chance they get.

The 2007-2008 student section participated in many community activities such as teaching the importance of fire escape plans with local third graders, public announcements on holiday safety, and a backpack research project. Teaching the third graders on the importance of fire escape plans was especially rewarding for our student section because it gave us the chance to make a difference in the eyes of the upcoming generation.

Upon review of this award packet I assure the committee that all activities in this packet were performed by the student section and is completely authentic. It is my pleasure and honor to offer my recommendation of Murray State University’s student section for the Outstanding Student Section Mine Safety Appliances’ Award.

Sincerely,

Joshua A. Cope
Joshua Cope, Executive Vice President
American Society of Safety Engineers
Murray State University Student Section
7.0 Student Section Participation

A. Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Murray State University

The Program
The program at Murray State University (MSU) offers career preparation courses related to occupational safety and health; industrial hygiene; safety compliance; safety management; loss control special interest; and the environmental sciences. The curriculum in the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Department at MSU provides a broad-based educational background, which is designed to prepare students for entry-level positions and advanced work in an environmental or safety related field. The program, itself, prepares the students to apply, analyze, and evaluate safety performance. Students must have fundamental knowledge of chemistry, mathematics, physics and statistics, as well as fundamental engineering disciplines to be successful in the workforce. The curriculum options designed to meet the aforementioned requirements include:

--Bachelor of Science (128 – 129 semester hours)
  - Environmental Safety and Health
  - Occupational Safety and Health

--Master of Science (30 semester hours)
  - Environmental Safety and Health
  - Industrial Hygiene
  - Safety Management

Degrees in occupational safety and health are accredited by the Applied Science Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ASAC/ABET). They were formerly accredited by the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE).

The graduate program in OSH is designed to provide philosophical, scientific and technical knowledge that is necessary for individuals seeking professional management and administrative positions in the field. Persons pursuing this degree must have a Bachelor of Science degree in OSH or a related field and/or complete a core of 21 semester hours of undergraduate work.

Facilities

The Department of OSH is located in the Martha Layne Collins Center for Industry and Technology, completed in 1991. Facilities include specialized labs for study in industrial hygiene and physical agents, physical hazards, product safety, ergonomics, work enhancement, emergency medical training, hazardous materials, and fire safety. At the beginning of the fall semester in 2003, a new addition was made to the Practical Applications Lab. J.I. Keller, a company based out of Neenah, Wisconsin, donated many regulatory guides, compliance manuals, log books, training handbooks, newsletters, video-based training kits, forms, supplies, software, custom products, programs, and a subscription to the J.I. Keller Online site were also donated by J.I. Keller. Having this material easily accessible to any student or faculty member in the Occupational Safety and Health Department at Murray State University, allows J.I. Keller and the department to promote the importance of educating people about the hazards they will
deal with in the real world. In addition Clarity donated a computer and access to their online training programs. All students participate in fieldwork while serving as interns, and many avail themselves of the opportunity to study and work in our exchange program with the University of Tampere in Finland.

**B. History and Development of Murray State University Student Section**

In 1977 Murray State University’s Occupational Safety and Health department was established on Murray State University’s campus. In 1978 students were able to start enrolling in the program. Murray State University’s American Society of Safety Engineers Student Section was also founded in 1978. Dr. Nichols, professor at Murray State University, was the founder of the chapter. The Louisville ASSE Chapter was Murray’s student section chapter’s parent chapter. When the Purchase Area ASSE Chapter was formed in the local area it became the student section’s parent chapter.

There were approximately nine student members when the chapter was founded versus the seventy-seven members the chapter boasts today. During that time the student section had been involved in many safety campaigns. The student section mostly concentrated on promoting safety in the home. Although today the student section still promotes safety in the home, the student section has diversified its activities and focuses. While promoting safety in the home, they sold fire extinguishers. The student section also promoted school bus safety while helping out at local schools. To give student section members a real world view, the student section also visited and toured local industries. Much like the student section today, the student section in the past promoted the field of occupational safety and health, and promoted safety to the community.
C. Student Section Goals for Fall 2007 and Spring 2008

At the beginning of the fall semester the Murray State University Student Section ASSE Officer Team met on several occasions to discuss the upcoming events of the school year. The team officers planned section meetings and activities as well as the years and long-range goals. The following is a list of goals that were compiled by the officer team.

Student Section Yearly Goals and Actions

**GOAL:** WIN MSA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENT SECTION!
**ACTION:** Section ensured that requirements were met and application submitted

**GOAL:** Bring officers together to function as a cohesive team.
**ACTION:** With the help of Dr. Kelley Rogers, the officers attended a team builder event at the beginning of the year to emphasize the importance of working together as a team.

**GOAL:** Plan more research that would benefit student’s needs.
**ACTION:** We accomplished this by doing the backpack research and students were informed of how much weight they should carry in their book bag.

**GOAL:** Have guest speakers for at least four of our seven meetings.
**ACTION:** During the course of the year we had a guest speaker at five of our meetings.

**GOAL:** To attend at least one other ASSE chapter meeting besides our parent chapters meeting.
**ACTION:** The section sent representatives to the Middle Tennessee ASSE meeting on March 10th.

**GOAL:** To become more involved in community outreach involving safety or safety related issues.
**ACTION:** This year we have reached this goal through the educating elementary schools with Fire Escape training, public service announcements, and high school health fair.

**GOAL:** Increase knowledge of ASSE and the importance of being a member.
**ACTION:** The officer team had Cindy Medford speak on the importance of being an ASSE member during and after college and the benefits of involvement with an organization devoted to safety.
D. Student Section Long Range Goals and Intended Actions

**GOAL:** Continue to increase membership of Murray State University Student ASSE Section.  
**INTENDED ACTION:** Through advertising, word-of-mouth, and increasing the quality of sponsored events to encourage non-members to join.

**GOAL:** Increase students' participation in section activities.  
**INTENDED ACTION:** To plan a variety of section activities so that there are ample opportunities to be involved.

**GOAL:** Increase student participation in Purchase Area Chapter ASSE Meetings.  
**INTENDED ACTION:** The officer team will ensure that these meetings are advertised throughout the department for faculty and student section members and will coordinate transportation.

**GOAL:** Continue to update the digital display monitor with team recognition and a calendar of events.  
**INTENDED ACTION:** Each year the officer team will ask a different member to update the digital monitor not only to keep it updated but also to enable a diversity of members to be involved in different areas of our student section.
8.0 Other

**Kentucky Governors’ Safety Conference**
On May 6th – 9th, approximately eighteen student section members will travel to Louisville, Kentucky to be student facilitators at the Kentucky Governor’s Safety and Health conference at the Galt House. Section members will assist in conducting the conference, managing rooms, assisting speakers, and assisting the conference organizers. Students representing Murray State will have the opportunity to attend professional enhancement sessions as well as make new contacts around the state of Kentucky.

**Student Section Scholarships**
The student section is sponsoring one scholarship for undergraduates and one for graduate students in the amount of $1000 each. Undergraduates applying must have a minimum GPA of 2.5, while graduates must maintain a 3.2 GPA. Applicants must be a current member of the MSU ASSE Section and must be studying Occupational Safety and Health with a major or a minor. Undergraduates applying must be officially classified as a sophomore or higher starting the fall semester of 2007. To apply for the scholarships, applicants must submit a resume, a list of university, departmental, ASSE, or other activities. They must also address the following question in essay form: "Why are you seeking a degree in Safety and provide a brief description of how your current activities relate to your career goals and objectives?" Applicants must submit completed applications to Dr. Fender by April 24th.

**Middle Tennessee Meeting**
On March 10th, the Middle Tennessee ASSE Chapter invited Dr. Fender the section advisor, and the Student section Officers to be the guest speakers at one of their regular meetings. Dr. Fender and six officers and members attended. The Dr. Fender and the student members made a presentation regarding the activities of the department and the student section.

**Students Attend ASSE National Leadership Conference**
Five section officers, Melissa Seay, Josh Cope, Jerry Boyd, Maryanna Pendley, Heather Scott, and 2 other section members had the opportunity to attend the 2007 ASSE National Student Leadership Conference on November 8th -10th. The conference was held in Nashville, Tennessee where they were given the opportunity to attend sessions with guest speakers from the safety and health profession. The programs were structured to prepare students for the transition from student life to employment as a SH&E professional. The students had the opportunity to meet and talk with other student ASSE members from different universities, which allowed them to share ideas and motivation techniques. While at the conference students were also given the opportunity to tour local companies. This is the fifth year that the Murray State University Section participated in this event.
Following is a sample of the newsletters published this academic year.
Coalition for Alcohol Risk Education

The Coalition for Alcohol Risk Education will be held on Tuesday, October 9, in the OSH Training Center from 2-4 pm. If you are available during this time, please come out and help put envelopes together.

Mentor Day

The Fall Mentor Day will be on Tuesday, October 16. Students will be excused from classes that day to shadow a Safety Professional of their choice. Please sign up in the OSH Department if you are interested in being mentored.

Homecoming Weekend/Tent City

Homecoming weekend is October 13-14. Tent city will be inside the football stadium. Please come out and help show your support during this event.

Purchase ASSE Meeting

The Purchase Area ASSE meeting for this month will be on Monday, October 15 at 11:30 am. It is at Pagliai’s in Murray, located at 970 Chestnut Street. Dr. Kraemer, Jay Bruffet, and Jonathan Scott will be giving a presentation on "Slip and Fall Accident Prevention. Please try to attend if you are available.

ASSE Safety Day

The Calloway County Conservation Office sponsors Safety Days for high school students each year. This year the ASSE Student section will be presenting Earthquake Safety on Wednesday, October 24 from 8:30-2:30, at the Cherry Agricultural Exposition Center. If interested, please see ASSE President - Melissa Seay.
ASSE T-Shirts

The ASSE T-Shirts $11 each and will be ordered on Thursday, October 4. Please turn your money in with your order by October 1.

Special Thanks

Thank you to all those who helped with Cross Walk Surveys last week. The information obtained from the surveys will be used for research purposes to determine the safety of our crosswalks here at Murray State.

Upcoming Events...

October 2nd – Tuesday
- Chevron Information Session

October 3rd – Wednesday
- Career Fair – 10am- 2pm
- Chevron Interviews
- Summit Information Session
**Interviews will be held at Career Fair

October 9th – Tuesday
- Cargill Information Session
- Vulcan Interviews
- Coalition for Alcohol Risk Education

October 10th – Wednesday
- Cargill Interviews
- Health Fair

October 15th – Monday
- Purchase Area ASSE Meeting
- GM Information Session

October 16th – Tuesday
- Mentor Day
- Western Summit Information Session
- GM Interviews

October 17th – Wednesday
- Western Summit Interviews
- Liberty Mutual Information Session

October 18th – Thursday
- Liberty Mutual Interviews
- CBI Interviews

October 23rd – Tuesday
- Marathon Information Session

October 24th – Wednesday
- ASSE Safety Day
- Marathon Interviews
- Granite Information Session

October 25th – Thursday
- Granite Interviews
Future Safety Leaders Conference

The ASSE Officer team and a couple of ASSE members traveled to Nashville, TN to participate in the 3rd Annual Future Safety Leaders Conference sponsored by ASSE Foundation, Washington Group International and Liberty Insurance. John Drebinger spoke about how to have effective communication skills for a safe, productive, and profitable workplace. The group also sat in on a panel discussion among six professionals from different areas within the safety and health field. Steve Ramage gave a closing address about teamwork. He discussed how the Murray State student section works together to achieve goals and briefly described our activities for the year.

ASSE T-Shirts
The ASSE T-shirts are available for pick up in the OSH department. They are $11 each and you must pay before picking them up. If you failed to get your name on the order list, there are a few extra if you would like one, however they will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please see Maryanna Pendley or Dr. Fender to get your shirt.

ASSE Scholarships

ASSE Scholarships are due by December 1. If you are interested in applying, the application can be found on the OSH Department's website under Departmental Scholarships.

Purchase ASSE Meeting

The Purchase Area ASSE meeting for this month will be on Monday, November 19 at 11:30 am. It is at Majestic located in Draffenville, KY - 244 US Hwy 68E. Jay Jennings will be discussing the topic on "Developing and Sustaining a Safety Program during Combat Ops in Iraq." Please try to attend if you are available.

Summer Intern Meeting

Students who plan to participate in a 2008 Summer Internship must attend a mandatory meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 8:00 - 8:45 am OR Wednesday, December 5, 4:45 - 5:30 pm.
Big Thanks

We would like to say Thank You to all those who helped with the Great Escape project for third grade students, and a special thanks to Janelle DeCourcey for all the time and effort she put into this project. The BackPack Research is finished, and we would like to say thank you to everyone who participated. The results should be available by the end of March. The spring semester kicked off to a great start, let's continue to make it a success.

Scholarships

The ASSE Student Section Scholarship applications are now available. We will be awarding a $1,000 scholarship to one undergraduate and one graduate student. If interested in this scholarship, please visit the ASSE website for more information.

Career Fair

The Career Fair is Wednesday, March 5 in the Curris Center Ballroom. Please make every effort to attend, as it is a great time to network and find opportunities for jobs and internships. ***Don't forget to dress professional.***

ASSE Officer Elections

Officer elections for the student section here at Murray State will be at our last meeting of the semester. If you interested in becoming an officer, applications are due Friday, April 4 to Dr. Fender.

Upcoming Events

March 3rd – Monday
- Benny Plastics Interviews

March 5th – Wednesday
- Career Fair
- Summit Interviews
- ADM Interviews

March 6th – Thursday
- ADM Interviews
- Balfour Beauty Interviews

March 10th – Monday
- Brasford Gorrie Information Session

March 11th – Tuesday
- Brasford Gorrie Interviews
- Lyondell Information Session

March 12th – Wednesday
- Lyondell Interviews