“Leaders are born, not made.” That’s an adage we’ve all heard—and perhaps even believed. But the opposite is actually true: Leaders are made, not born. Leadership is developed by learning and refining a set of skills—skills that anyone can learn and apply. And that’s the ultimate goal of ASSE’s annual Leadership Conference—to help volunteer members gain valuable insight and ideas so that they can become better Society leaders—and more effective leaders in their companies.

This year’s conference, held Oct. 17-19 in Oak Brook, IL, drew more than 120 attendees eager to learn strategies to grow their groups, engage volunteers, develop successful programs and communicate effectively. To meet these needs, the program featured lively breakout sessions on teambuilding and coaching; informative roundtable discussions on topics such as awards and honors; officer recruitment and member retention; chapter financial management; education activities and CEUs; motivating member participation; chapter scholarship funding; selecting meeting topics; and website hosting; and hands-on workshops covering website and newsletter development; using ASSE’s Online Community; long-range strategic planning; governmental affairs; risk financial management; public relations; and seminar logistics. A Chapter Idea Center was also made available to highlight the “best of the best” in chapter/region activities and publications.

This year’s speakers included many of the Society national leaders, such as...
2002 Leadership Conference
(continued from page 1)

2002-03 President Mark D. Hansen, P.E., CSP, CPE; Donald S. Jones, P.E., CSP, Vice President, Council on Practices & Standards; Warren K. Brown, CSP, ARM, CSHM, Vice President, Council on Professional Development; James D. Smith, CSP, Vice President, Council on Professional Affairs; and Gene Barfield, CSP, Senior Vice President. Networking opportunities abounded throughout the event as well, including two networking luncheons, an evening reception at ASSE headquarters and a “Breakfast with Your Regional Vice President,” during which attendees were able to share feedback with and ask questions of various national and local leaders.

Attendees were also treated to an entertaining opening keynote delivered by Richard Calabrese, Ph.D. He offered practical ways to motivate others and reinforce their efforts—both key to effective leadership—and advised attendees to take a positive approach to their interactions with others. It’s also important to keep an open mind, Calabrese said, because “you don’t know what you don’t know.”

“Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive,” says Conference Chair Glenn Young, CSP, OHST, noting that many officers plan to attend again. “We’ve gathered a wealth of new ideas to implement in 2003.” The 2003 conference will be held Sept. 11-13 at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare. “It will be an exciting opportunity to learn from the best chapters in the country,” Young says.

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Clockwise from right: Glenn Young, CSP, OHST, and guests during one of two networking luncheons; keynote speaker Richard Calabrese talks about effective leadership (see sidebar below); attendees enjoy one of the many breakout sessions.

“Great ideas and opportunities to gather and share.”

Be an Effective Leader: Motivate Your Staff

How do effective leaders motivate their staff and propel them toward excellence? Keynote speaker Richard Calabrese offered the following tips:

1. Praise the specific task or job.
2. Give special assignments.
3. Give the “ok” signal when you agree with others.
4. Actively listen.
5. Write down others’ ideas.
6. Take ideas seriously.
7. Accept others’ opinions.
8. Accept differences in others.
9. Express feelings.
10. Recognize feelings.
12. Recognize important events in others’ lives.
14. Arrange for the boss to acknowledge good work.
15. Point out the good consequences of another’s actions.
16. Spend time with others.
17. Support others’ actions.
18. Ask for opinions on how to solve problems.
19. Delegate.
20. Ask for help.
22. Admit when you are wrong.
23. Say, “You are right.”
24. Repeat compliments from others.
25. Say, “Hi. How are you?”
26. Show concern about performance problems.
27. Shake hands.
28. Smile.
29. Ask about others’ interests.
30. Invite someone to join you for coffee.
31. Inquire about someone’s family.
32. Provide a new piece of equipment.
33. Ask a person to lead the whole meeting or part of it.
34. Give a teaching assignment.
35. Use the employee’s name.
36. Establish and keep follow-up dates.
37. Share information.
38. Give complete reasons for directions.

“This gave me an excellent opportunity to learn good information about ASSE.”

Great ideas and opportunities to gather and share.”

Mission Statement
To provide communications covering all Society activities, services, benefits, position statements, actions of the Board of Directors, House of Delegates, bylaws changes and related activities of interest to members of the American Society of Safety Engineers. Further, Society Update is a vehicle to recognize individual members, chapters, regions, areas, divisions and the profession. The newsletter also provides a forum for commentary by Society membership on areas of interest and concern in all Society operations. Opinions and conclusions expressed in this publication are the authors’ and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Society Update or ASSE. All members and units of the Society are encouraged to submit news, pictures and comments to Society Update for publication.
Future Leaders Gather at Oakland University

Students learn networking tips, get career planning advice

Eighty-one student members gathered recently at Oakland University in Rochester, MI, for ASSE’s 2002 Student Leaders Conference. The two-day event was presented by ASSE regions VI, VII and VIII, and hosted by the Society’s Greater Detroit Chapter, with sponsorship from ASSE and the ASSE Foundation. The students represented 11 schools: Illinois State University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Grand Valley State University, Northern Illinois University, Marshall University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Middle Tennessee State University, Murray State University, Millersville University, Penn State and Oakland University.

Day one featured tours to local facilities including ABB Inc., Tesco Engineering Inc. and DaimlerChrysler. “The tours demonstrated the integration of safety into company operations and allowed the students to explore different processes,” explains Darryl C. Hill, CSP, Region VII Vice President and conference presenter. “Many students enjoyed the ABB facility tour, primarily because they see robots only on television or in magazines. The tours at Tesco and DaimlerChrysler gave them insight into automation and some idea regarding the ‘world of tomorrow,’ and how to prepare academically and professionally.” The day was capped off by Tarheel Chapter member Bill Spiers, CSP, director of AON’s product management group in Charlotte, NC, who introduced attendees to “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Safety Professionals.”

Day two featured a variety of concurrent breakout sessions and industry-specific panel discussions. Topics included conducting a job search, organizing community service projects, understanding the business of safety, networking effectively and the importance of self-development. Speakers included Gene Barfield, CSP, ASSE’s Senior Vice President; Jim Fix, CSP, ARM, Region VIII Vice President; Frank Cleary, P.E., CSP; James W. Armstrong, CSP; Patricia L. Bellm, CSP; Sean Drzewiecki; Tim Kearney; Katherine A. Glodich, ASP; Douglas L. Pastore, CIH; and Rebecca Drzewiecki, ARM.

Mock interview sessions were conducted to help participants develop skills for their job search process. The day also featured the annual Safety Quiz Bowl, which brings together interschool teams (with participants selected at random) to answer safety-related questions. “The competition encourages teamwork and networking,” explains Carla Rea, ASSE’s manager, chapter services.

Through these activities, attendees got a glimpse of the real world of safety and started to think more definitively about their future. “The students were able to address some key concerns, such as what is the best field/industry to pursue within safety, certifications, professional development and the value of obtaining an advanced degree versus seeking immediate employment,” Hill says. “They were also able to get some guidance on another major challenge they face, namely preparing a long-term career plan: Where do I want to be three, five, 10 years from now and how do I map a course to get there?”

Overall, attendee feedback was positive. According to representatives from ASSE’s Northern Illinois University Student Section, “the conference was well-organized and the speakers were very insightful . . . [and] the tours were also very informative and very interesting.” Many attendees are already making plans to attend the 2003 conference, which will be sponsored by ASSE’s Central Pennsylvania Chapter Nov. 8-9 in Pittsburgh.

ASSE’s Student Member-Get-a-Member Campaign

Clothes, coffee, cash. Sounds like a college student’s wish list. And ASSE is making it easy for students to get all three through its Student Member-Get-a-Member campaign. With just a couple of mouse clicks and some face-to-face networking, you can receive an ASSE sweatshirt (sponsor five new student members); a $25 Starbucks gift card and an ASSE travel mug (10 members); or a $50 American Express gift check (15 members). Here’s how it works:

1) Download the student application from www.asse.org/studentmemapp_02.pdf.
2) Write your name as the sponsor on as many applications as you’d like.
3) Distribute them to fellow students who are not ASSE members.
4) Communicate the benefits of membership. ASSE has even created a “cheat sheet” for easy reference; it’s available online at www.asse.org.
5) Follow up to make sure your peers have sent in their applications.

The campaign runs through March 3, 2003. Prizes will be awarded during the last week of March, following final tallies. If you have any questions, contact Geri Golonka at (847) 768-3435.
Swartz Inducted into Safety & Health Hall of Fame

George Swartz, CSP, was a 2002 inductee into the Safety and Health Hall of Fame International, which recognizes leaders and pioneers for their innovative contributions to the safety, health and environmental industry worldwide. Swartz was the corporate safety director of Midas International for 23 years. During that time, the company’s safety statistics improved dramatically. For example, seven sites achieved Star status, the highest recognition awarded by OSHA’s Voluntary Protection Programs. Swartz has authored five books and numerous articles, including many published in Professional Safety. His quest for personal education has never stopped. He completed his first M.S. in Safety at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb. He then attained a second advanced professional degree in safety. Swartz earned his ASP and CSP certifications on the first try. And he earned a third graduate degree in Managerial Communication from Northwestern University.

A professional member of the West Florida Chapter, a former chair of ASSE’s Editorial Review Board, and a member of ASSE’s Management Practice Specialty, Swartz received the 1992-93 Charles V. Culbertson Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. In 1992, he was named an ASSE Fellow, the Society’s highest honor.

Spath Helps Spread the Word About Gas Pump Safety

John P. Spath, CSP, was recently featured in a televised report that aired on the Boston NBC affiliate WHDH Channel 7 during a special report on safety at the gas pump. Speaking on behalf of ASSE, Spath discussed how to avoid the various hazards of filling up a vehicle’s gas tank.

“When you get out of the car, you’ve built up a static charge on your body,” Spath said. “The first thing you touch, you discharge that static electricity. . . . If the first thing you touch is that gas pump, and you’ve got flammable vapors there, you could be in trouble.”

The report reiterated safety tips that ASSE provided in a recent press release aimed at reducing the public’s risk when filling up a vehicle.

ASSE Honor Roll

ASSE’s Honor Roll is now a featured element of Society Update. Monthly listings are also available online. ■

Presidents Council • Members who have sponsored 30 or more new members since May 1, 1981.


(continued on page 5)
Members in the News

Pikes Peak Chapter Honors Hansen

The Pikes Peak Chapter recently presented Society President Mark Hansen with an award of appreciation. Before he was ASSE president, senior vice president and VP of finance, Hansen was president of the Pikes Peak Chapter. The inscription on the award reads, “Mark Hansen, President, American Society of Safety Engineers, 2002-03; with gratitude, from Pikes Peak Chapter ASSE, 2002.”

Hansen was surprised to receive the unexpected award. “I guess you can go home sometimes,” he said.

President’s Club • Members who have sponsored 2 to 3 new members since April 1, 2002.

Acadiana: Gene Barfield
Alaska: Albert R. Grant
Audubon: Robert L. Rickenbaugh, Thomas L. Redmon
Bakersfield: Chris R. Vochozka, Jack R. Irion
Cape Canaveral: Gordon M. Bowling
Central Illinois: Kathy J. Mueller
Central Indiana: Chris A. Harris, Jim Thornton
Central New York: Robert N. Andres, Henry L. Hedges
Central Pennsylvania: Kenneth L. Grace
Central Texas: Delmar E. Tally
Chattanooga Area: James D. Moore
Chesapeake: Patricia C. Rosen
Colonial Virginia: Barry B. Reynolds, Chas K. Driggers
Columbia-Willamette: Chris A. Carlson, Al S. Klasius
Connecticut Valley: David R. Gelpke
Four Corners: Tom J. Hudson
Georgia: James E. Roughton
Gold Coast: Gregory S. Thompson
Great Plains: Doris A. Burns
Greater Boston: Keith R. Barrows
Greater Chicago: Robert A. Riley, Robert K. Krall
Greater Detroit: Roland S. Jagutis, Charles W. McSlothlin Jr., Patrick D. Moore
Greater San Jose: Tyler Q. Nguyen
Greater Tidewater: John W. Dickens
Gulf Coast: Jody L. Jackson, Michael K. Betts, Charles B. Rouse, Michael Narvaez
International: Felix E.K. Nakpodia
Kuwait: Manda N. Murthy, Rajeev L. Pandey

*Report as of 11/4/02

ASSE Honor Roll
(continued from page 4)

Mississippi: Dennis K. Blackledge (47)
Mobile: Frank C. Daniels (69)
National Capital: Richard L. Holdcraft (40)
New Jersey: JoAnn V. West (49)
Nicolet: Al D. Nelson (36)
Northeast Tennessee: Wilson S. Robinson (40)
North eastern Illinois: Melanie K. Javers (38)
Northwest: Rene E. Hilgemann (45), Thomas Choinski (65)
Orange County: Arthur D. Shenoi (42)
Paso del Norte: Helmut W. Paschold (69)
Philadelphia: Alan K. Smith (37), William T. McGrath (108)
Puget Sound: W.B. Kelley (52)
Quad Cities: Michael W. Smeaton (38)
Sacramento: Jack Kastorff (104)
Savannah: Miles M. Pinkney (30)
Southern Mississippi: Johnnie L. Campbell (33), John S. Fleming (52)
Southwest: Wayne D. Jones (60)
St. Louis: Arthur C. Hardy (53)
State Line: Edward P. French (239)
Tarheel: Carlyle H. Hill (31)
West Florida: Fred F. Fleming (54)
Wisconsin: Thomas C. Atz (31), Jack H. Dobson Jr. (39)

President’s Circle • Members who have sponsored 4 or more new members since April 1, 2002.

Arizona: David L. Bellmont (5), David M. Howard (4)
Central Indiana: Jim Kriner (6)
Colorado: Patricia M. Ennis (4)
Columbia-Willamette: Timothy J. McDonald (4)
Eastern Carolina: Oscar A. Pareles (4)
Egypt: Said M. Khalifa (5)
Greater Detroit: Darryl C. Hill (6)
Gulf Coast: Michael W. Thompson (10)
Kuwait: Ujjwal Ritwik (6)
Long Island: David Krugman (7)
Metropolitan: Theodore J. Mellard (7), Ralph D. Short (6), James C. Bifulco (5)
Niagara Frontier: Guy M. Zaczeck (4)
Piedmont: Stanley R. McAllister (14)
Puerto Rico: Luis M. Padilla (5)
Sacramento: Jack Kastorff (4)
San Diego: Marie Meese (7)
Triad: Diana M. Pressmann (5)

American Society of Safety Engineers
Human Error: Safety’s Next Frontier

Through this two-day symposium, you’ll develop an expanded understanding of the causes of human error, information that will help you control—and ultimately prevent—work-related injuries and illnesses. You will examine the relationship between work culture and human error—and how the synergy between these two elements can produce loss. You will also explore the interaction between humans, equipment, materials and technology, and learn to identify error-provoking systems and cultural influences on error.

The bottom line: new insight into the causes of human error; guidance from human error experts; practical techniques to reduce the occurrence of errors, incidents and accidents; and knowledge gleaned from lessons learned in other disciplines.

Advance PDC Alert

The advance brochure for this year’s Professional Development Conference in Denver is scheduled to be mailed this month. Watch your mailbox, or visit www.asse.org regularly for updates. Sneak peek: General session speakers include Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSH John L. Henshaw, Howard Putnam, Andrew J. Razeghi and Bruce Wilkinson.

Countdown to SeminarFest

One place, one week, 41 continuing education seminars for SH&E professionals. It’s called SeminarFest and it’s coming to Orlando, FL, Jan. 27-Feb. 3. Still haven’t registered? Here’s the low down.

SeminarFest is a professional development experience for the SH&E industry. A full week jam-packed with one-, two- and three-day seminars. Can’t commit to a whole week? You don’t have to. Enroll in as many or as few seminars as you like — you have 41 to choose from! Interested in technical? We’ve got that. Need management? Skills development? We’ll see you there.

This event will help you cultivate the tools, skills and contacts you need to get that extra edge. Plus, you can earn up to 5.0 CoCs and 7.0 CM points while increasing technical knowledge, safety management and business skills. In fact, let us whet your appetite with some examples:

During the three-day CSP Examination Preparation Workshop, the learning objectives will challenge you to use your knowledge of probability, statistics and calculus; safety and environmental occupational health and fire protection; applied management principles, ergonomic analysis, risk management and WC; and legal/regulatory and professional affairs. This course is designed to get you primed for the exam through lectures, sample problems and in-depth discussions.

Maybe you’ve already attained your CSP. How about attending “The Participation Factor: How to Increase Involvement in Occupational Safety & Health”? At this one-day seminar, led by E. Scott Geller, Ph.D., you will discuss how to implement psychological principles and strategies to achieve greater employee participation in safety improvement efforts. This workshop will also provide a window to understanding the dynamics of human nature and how to increase awareness and participation in safety and health. Specific topics include:

• social influence principles to benefit any safety improvement process;
• using the human need for competence to fuel safety participation;
• how to help people develop self-accountability for safety;
• the role of self-persuasion in maintaining long-term change.

Interested in mold? At “The Fundamentals of Molds” course, you will discuss basic information about molds in buildings; learn how to examine ventilation and air quality in buildings; add a strategy to your safety program that considers the health effects of exposure to molds; and review mold remediation guidelines.

As these examples show, SeminarFest has something for everyone. To learn more (and to register), visit www.asse.org.
November’s Emergency Preparedness and Response: Safety Leadership During a Crisis symposium in Scottsdale, AZ, drew nearly 200 attendees. Participants learned to integrate emergency preparedness into an organization’s safety management system, conduct a vulnerability assessment to determine the probability and impact of a loss; activate an up-to-date response management plan in the face of an emergency, and help an organization recover from a crisis.

According to Nancy J. McWilliams, CSP, ARM, and master of ceremonies, SH&E professionals need to challenge themselves to leave their comfort zones and become knowledgeable in new areas: biological, chemical and radiological threats. “We cannot sit back and say, ‘That’s not safety’s responsibility.’ [They are] our responsibility because employees are at risk [as a result] of these new threats.” Bob Edgar, CSP, and task force member, says another challenge facing SH&E professionals is integrating emergency preparedness plans, security and business continuity into operations, and accomplishing this efficiently, with the same level of people and resources.

Attendees responded positively to the timely topics and the qualified speakers. Edgar says the symposium offered down-to-earth, practical presentations including the real dangers of dirty bombs and how to deal with them, an employer’s responsibilities during a bomb scare, the do’s and don’ts of an incident commander and practical considerations for updating your emergency plan.

According to Steve NyBlom, CSP, CPEA, ARM, ALCM, and task force member, the symposium participants were able to sharpen their identification/risk assessment skills, and gain a new understanding of emergency response and assistance available from government agencies.

Preparation was a prevalent theme throughout the symposium. During his keynote speech about new directions in crisis management, Dr. Neil C. Livingstone, chair and CEO of GlobalOptions, said, “We cannot prevent terrorist actions or natural disasters, but we can be prepared.” Likewise, McWilliams stated that Brett Eaton, information and communication team leader, Pentagon Renovation Program, gave a moving presentation on the safety and security improvements to the area where the plane hit the Pentagon—improvements that helped save lives and minimize damage on Sept. 11, 2001.

Edgar says, “Keep learning to improve your SH&E skills and continue to improve your ability to relate to business management; become better at technical and people skills.” NyBlom adds that “this can be accomplished by attending topic-specific symposia, reading an assortment of professional magazines, attending professional society meetings and networking with colleagues.”

Certificate in Safety Management

ASSE’s Certificate in Safety Management program consists of three required courses and various electives. To receive the certificate, participants must earn a total of 7.5 CEUs, and all courses must be completed within a five-year period. Earning ASSE’s Certificate in Safety Management is an excellent way to advance your career. For more information, visit www.asse.org or contact ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929.

Recent Recipients of the Certificate in Safety Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company/Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gladys I. Biglor</td>
<td>safety director, U.S. Forest Service, Bend, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Boop</td>
<td>senior manager of field safety, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, Temecula, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Scott Chamberlin</td>
<td>safety manager, Lennox International/Service Experts, Richardson, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary L. DeClue</td>
<td>Lockheed Martin, Litchfield Park, AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas S. Dmochowski</td>
<td>UAW safety representative, American Axle &amp; Manufacturing, Buffalo, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward C. Dobo</td>
<td>workers’ compensation/safety specialist, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Douthit</td>
<td>safety director, Jacobs Facilities Inc., Austin, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk C. Flowers</td>
<td>safety project leader, Florida Power &amp; Light Co., Juno Beach, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles A. Giesler</td>
<td>ES&amp;H administrator, Clark County Dept. of Aviation, Las Vegas, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James E. Hale</td>
<td>safety engineer, Marsh USA Inc./BCIA, Millbrae, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy L. Harmon</td>
<td>HQ region safety &amp; health coordinator, Weyerhaeuser Co., Federal Way, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Jordan</td>
<td>loss prevention manager, H.J. Heinz, Glessow, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert L. Knapp</td>
<td>safety engineer, Bean Stuyvesant LLC, Madisonville, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Leland</td>
<td>health &amp; safety superintendent, Tesoro Petroleum, Golden Eagle Refinery, Martinez, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehran Mobasseri</td>
<td>regional loss control manager, Crum &amp; Forster Insurance, Plano, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve W. Montgomery</td>
<td>manager, safety &amp; health, Reliant Energy, Las Vegas, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Christopher Parks</td>
<td>senior safety and environmental representative, Conoco Phillips, Odessa, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddy Ragdale</td>
<td>national safety manager, DuPont Flooring Systems, Spokane, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Simpson</td>
<td>manager public safety, Union Pacific Railroad, Kansas City, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas D. Sprinkle</td>
<td>director of safety, Parsons Aviation, Ashburn, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James G. York</td>
<td>safety coordinator, Rural Telephone, Lenora, KS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

American Society of Safety Engineers
I share a common concern with Sam Cahan. I have read with interest Samuel Cahan’s white paper, advocate additional study, enforcement of existing laws against distracted driving and driver education as opposed to additional legislation.

I believe we must separate scientific fact from media hype on all issues—especially the controversial ones. The University of Toronto study cited in the Union-Tribune letter was widely misinterpreted in the media. The researchers in the quoted study (“Association Between Cellular-Telephone Calls and Motor Vehicle Collisions,” by Donald A. Redelmeier and Robert J. Tibshirani, published in the Feb. 1997 New England Journal of Medicine) stated that their data showed “an association but not necessarily a causal relation between the use of cellular telephones while driving and a subsequent motor vehicle collision.” They conclude by acknowledging the role of individual responsibility while recommending that drivers avoid unnecessary calls, keep conversations brief and suspend conversations when driving conditions become hazardous. They suggest education for all drivers distractions—not just cellular phones—and the strict enforcement of current laws as effective means of promoting highway safety. The researchers also “cautioned against interpreting their data as showing that cellular telephones are harmful and that their use should be restricted.”

A retraction statement was submitted to Chance (Vol. 10, No. 2, Spring 1997), an epidemiological scholarly journal, to clarify the misinterpretation of their research after many concluded that their findings indicated that using a cellular telephone was equivalent to driving drunk. Rebutting that erroneous interpretation, the authors stated that “the cumulative risks associated with alcohol intoxication are much greater than those associated with using a cellular telephone.” The following list of studies may help readers further their understanding of this subject:

• “Investigation of the Use of Mobile Phones While Driving,” Center for Transportation Research, University of South Florida, June 1999.

John Spath, CSP
Member, Council on Professional Development
First-Ever Leadership Award Recognizes Mine Rescue Efforts

To acknowledge a government official’s leadership efforts during the July 2002 Quecreek Mine rescue operation, ASSE’s Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) presented the first-ever Award for Excellence in Advancing Workplace Safety, Health and Environment through Effective Government to Joseph Sbaffoni, chief, Bituminous Mine Safety Div., Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The award recognizes individuals who have made a difference in occupational safety and health through government. Sbaffoni directed the initial response at the Quecreek Mine, providing technical assistance to the DEP and to Pennsylvania Governor Mark Schweiker, as well as regularly briefing the media during the rescue operation. At a recent Western Pennsylvania Chapter meeting, Sbaffoni provided a first-hand account of the rescue operation to members. According to Chapter President Teresa Cole, CSP, the presentation was very informative, and provided members with a thorough understanding of what actually occurred during the historic rescue. The meeting was well attended, and the audience included many student members from West Virginia University and Slippery Rock University.

ASSE Region VIII Vice President Jim Fix, CSP, ARM, presented the award on behalf of the GAC.

ASSE Comments on Ergo Guidelines

In a recent letter from Society President Mark Hansen, P.E., CSP, to Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSH John Henshaw, ASSE commented on OSHA’s ergonomics guidelines for nursing homes.

In the letter, the Society supports OSHA’s efforts to develop and disseminate its industry-specific guidelines, stating that the guidelines provide a wealth of information on preventing injuries in an industry in which workers are twice as likely to be injured than in other workplaces. ASSE commends the agency for taking an important first step toward providing the kind of information employers and employees need in order to work together to prevent musculoskeletal injuries.

The Society also suggests several steps that reach beyond the guidelines which OSHA, the nursing home industry and interested parties might undertake:

- An effort to convince nursing homes to make the necessary investment in training, equipment and work oversight.
- Outreach training initiatives to assist nursing homes in training employees.
- Continuous updating of the guidelines to integrate best practices.

“ASSE members play a vital role in linking OSHA’s efforts to the worksite,” the letter concludes. “ASSE and its members look forward to working with OSHA to make sure that the information in [these] and the other industry-specific guidelines are readily available to both employers and employees and are used to make workplaces safer and healthier.”

For more information, visit www.asse.org in the Government Affairs section, ASSE Federal Statements and Testimony.

ASSE Urges OSHA to Promote Awareness about Z490.1

In a recent letter to OSHA, the Society encouraged the agency to help further awareness of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z490.1 standard, Criteria for Accepted Practices in Safety, Health and Environmental Training, of which ASSE is secretariat. ASSE asked the agency to help promote awareness about the standard through its activities, including:

- referencing the standard in future rulemaking or publications involving occupational safety, health and environmental training;
- providing links to the standard along with various OSHA training materials offered on the agency’s website.

Referencing the standard in this way “would be helpful in ensuring increased use of the standards in occupational safety and health training,” the Society says.

For more information, visit www.asse.org in the Government Affairs section, ASSE Federal Statements and Testimony.

ASSE to Distribute PDC Proceedings CD-ROM to All Members

Looking for a comprehensive information resource? Look no further than the January 2003 issue of Professional Safety, which will include a complimentary copy of the 2002 Professional Development Conference Proceedings on CD-ROM. The CD features more than 120 papers and is a great way to get a feel for the type of leading-edge information ASSE’s PDC delivers each year.
ASSE Joins CAOHC Council to Help Prevent Hearing Injuries

ASSE recently joined the Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC) Council.

CAOHC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the establishment and maintenance of training standards for those who safeguard hearing in the industrial, military and mining workplace.

Council members are objective third-party professionals in hearing conservation, dedicated to improving testing and other hearing conservation measures and to reducing the number of noise-related occupational injuries. The council consists of two representatives from each of eight organizations, and provides best practices, guidelines and standards from a mix of disciplines to help reduce occupational hearing injuries. In addition to ASSE, these organizations are:

- American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
- American Assn. of Occupational Health Nurses
- American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine
- American Industrial Hygiene Assn.
- Institute of Noise Control Engineering
- Military Audiology Assn.

ASSE is represented on the council by Marcella Thompson, CSP, RN, COHN-S, and John Elmore, CCC-A.

Thompson is principal safety engineer for ON Semiconductor Corp., East Greenwich, RI. She received an M.S. in Physiology/Occupational Health from Harvard School of Public Health, an M.S. in Occupational Health Nursing from Boston University and a B.S. in Nursing from Salve Regina University, Newport, RI.

Elmore has served as ASSE’s Vice President of Finance and a member of its Board of Directors. She cofounded the Thompson Scholarship for Women in Safety, an annual graduate scholarship awarded by the ASSE Foundation.

Elmore is an audiologist for Precision Hearing Conservation, Helotes, TX. He earned an M.B.A. from Oklahoma City University, an M.A. in Audiology from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, and a B.A. in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Adams State College of Colorado, Alamosa. A retired Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force, Elmore is a member of the National Hearing Conservation Assn. and a fellow of the American Academy of Audiology.

For more information on CAOHC and the council, visit www.caohc.org.

NAOSH Poster Contest

In order to raise awareness about workplace safety and the SH&E profession, ASSE is sponsoring the “Safety on the Job” children’s poster contest. The contest is part of the annual North American Occupational Safety & Health (NAOSH) Week, May 4-10, 2003.

The contest is open to all members’ children and grandchildren between the ages of five and 12. Entries will be broken down into four age groups: five to six; seven to eight; nine to 10; and 11 to 12. An independent panel of judges will select the four entries that best illustrate the theme, “Safety on the Job.” The winning entry from each category will be featured in a NAOSH Week poster, and will also be displayed at ASSE’s annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition in Denver, June 2003. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

For the past three years, ASSE has partnered with the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering to support NAOSH Week. The goal of the week-long event is to focus attention on the importance of preventing workplace injuries and illnesses.


New Staff Join ASSE

Two key positions have been filled at ASSE headquarters. Robert F. DeSiervo, CSP, ARM, has been named director of professional affairs, and Terry L. Wilkinson, Ph.D., CSP, has been named director of member/region affairs.

DeSiervo is a past president of the Metropolitan Chapter (NY) and served on the Society’s Board of Directors from 1994 to 1998 as vice president of the former Region XII. During that time, he served on various committees, including Finance, Bylaws, Strategic Long-Range Planning, Nominating & Elections, and Public Relations. In addition, DeSiervo has served on the Council on Professional Affairs since 2001. He joins ASSE from FOJP Service Corp. in New York, where he was director of safety and security. DeSiervo will join the staff later this month.

Wilkinson earned a Ph.D. in Agricultural Mechanization (Agricultural Safety and Health) from Purdue University. He comes to ASSE after serving six years with the National Safety Council, Itasca, IL, where he managed the Business and Industry Div. and the Board of Delegates. Wilkinson’s background includes experience in research, developing education programs, building coalitions and grant writing. He joined the staff in late November.

New Membership Classification Announced

ASSE has a new membership classification: international member. According to the Council on Member & Region Affairs, the classification applies to “an applicant engaging in the broad practice of safety and residing outside the U.S.” With this addition, the Society now has six membership levels, the others being professional, member, associate, emeritus and student. International members who have professional member qualifications will receive the professional member classification. Existing associate members and members who reside outside the U.S. will be converted to international member status and will receive benefits as a member.