

# SAFETY MATTERS

November 2018

"Safety Matters" is a monthly newsletter published by the HWCOE Safety Office.

## ESSIE LABS SHOWCASE TRAINING PROGRAM AT NATIONAL SAFETY SYMPOSIUM



Dr. Taylor Rawlinson (left) and Dr. Christopher Ferraro (right) recently presented “Implementation of a Safety Training Program for a Large Mixed-use Laboratory: A Lab Manager and Faculty Member’s Point-of-View” at the [CSHEMA \(Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association\) Safety Culture in Makerspaces and Sustainability](#) Symposium held on November 13 - 14 at Georgia Tech. For more information on their innovate strategies for advancing the safety culture in the ESSIE labs, please contact [Dr. Rawlinson](#) or [Dr. Ferraro](#).

*LESSONS LEARNED*



On November 5, 2018, an engineering student was exposed to a very strong acid and received burns on his neck. It is believed that a small volume of acid accumulated between the Teflon film lining on a plastic bottle cap and the cap itself. The student tried placing the cap onto a bottle, but the cap did not seem to fit correctly. He turned the cap over to inspect it and the Teflon film expanded rapidly and then burst, exposing him to the enclosed acid.



It was later discovered that the cap and the bottle did not belong together, they were from two different chemicals (however, not incompatible). The student was wearing all the necessary PPE (safety glasses, lab coat, gloves and long pants) and working in the fume hood at the time of the incident.

**Lessons Learned:** Ensure all caps are in good condition and seals are not compromised. Implement a cap labeling system to ensure that all caps stay with their original bottle. It is believed the cap was defective from the manufacturer.

## *SELF-INSPECTIONS EMPOWER RESEARCHERS*



**GATOR TRACS**

Maintaining safe conditions is takes ongoing effort by everyone working in the lab! The Engineering Safety office has implemented a system to empower researchers to identify safety concerns and ensure they get corrected.

This will be done through monthly self-inspections. Every single researcher can complete an inspection in the GatorTRACS system for their lab. Corrective actions can then be assigned to the responsible party. This will help spread safety awareness, responsibility and accountability to everyone in the lab.



**All lab members can now  
complete self-inspections**

**START YOURS TODAY!**

[gatortracs.ehs.ufl.edu](https://gatortracs.ehs.ufl.edu)

If you have any questions on how to complete your self-inspection, please let us know!

[safety@eng.ufl.edu](mailto:safety@eng.ufl.edu)

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## *SAFETY MATTERS TO ME...*



"Safety matters to me because I care for the wellbeing of my students, my peers, and society. Chemical engineers contribute to many aspects of today's economy and to addressing societal problems by developing processes that transform matter into useful forms. In doing so, chemical engineers often work with hazardous materials and processes and it is important to keep safety considerations foremost during design and execution of such processes. At UF ChE we strive to maintain a safe working environment and train our students to be safe engineers through safety seminars, a very active Student Safety Council, and required courses on chemical process safety for undergraduate students."

Carlos Rinaldi, Ph.D.

Dean's Leadership Professor and Chair, Department of Chemical Engineering

Professor, J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering

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## *LAB SAFETY LEADERS*



Rebeca Castro is the Scientific Laboratory Manager, Research Coordinator, and Lab Safety Manager for the Oweiss lab in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Despite the many duties she fulfills in her role, she has been designing a new surgical protocol for a DBS surgery with highly precise thalamic targeting in combination with a custom large cranial window for simultaneous imaging and stimulation.



Jiapu Liang is a PhD candidate in the Biomedical Engineering Department. His research centers on the engineering of cell-based tissues for the treatment of Type 1 diabetes, specifically the development of a translational biomaterial platform for in situ oxygen and drug release. He is the current president of BME student safety council and working with all the members to promote a safe laboratory environment for all BME researchers.

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## *5S WORKSHOP A SUCCESS*



20 Engineering graduate assistants and lab safety managers participated in an industry-level quality systems training in November. The 5S

workshop focused on strategies and techniques for reducing disruption, improving efficiency, quality and safety. It was facilitated by a well-known Quality Systems expert and faculty from ASQ. If you'd like to implement this quality-systems tool in your area, please [email safety](#) today!

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Kyle Ventura, MSE Phd candidate, participates in November's Fire Extinguisher training

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## *EHS UPDATE*



UF EHS hires Chemical Hygiene Officer, **Erica Gonzaga**. Erica comes to UF from [Carbonxt](#) where she's been an Applications Engineer for the last 4 years. In that position, Erica was the primary technical resource for customers and the company sales team. Erica completed her Master's in Environmental Engineering at UF with Dr. David Mazyck in 2014 (Thesis: Photochemical Reduction of Trace Aqueous Mercury Using a Visible Light Source).

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## LET'S TALK SAFETY

- Attend a committee meeting ([email](#) to confirm)
- Attend the [Student Safety Cohort | Coffee Safety Social]
  - 1st Monday of each month at 10 a.m. - Starbucks at the Reitz ([sign-up here](#))
- Schedule a CONNECT visit!
  - Remember we are here to CONNECT, NOT INSPECT!



[Click here to Connect](#)

Questions, comments, concerns? Contact [safety@eng.ufl.edu](mailto:safety@eng.ufl.edu)

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