

# SAFETY MATTERS

December 2018

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

**MAKE SURE YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON IS A SAFE ONE!**

*The 12 DAYS of SAFETY*

- Never use lighted candles near trees or boughs
- Keep poisonous plants out of reach of children and pets
- Keep trees away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources
- Make sure your tree has a stable platform
- Choose an artificial tree that is labeled fire resistant
- If using a natural tree, make sure it is well watered
- Check holiday lights for fraying, bare spots, gaps in the insulation or excessive kinking in the wire
- Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use
- When putting up decorations, use a step stool or ladder to reach high places
- Designate a sober driver
- When preparing a meal, wash hands, utensils, sink and anything else that touches raw meat
- Reheat leftovers to at least 165° F

*Happy Holidays*

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL  
nsc.org

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## LESSONS LEARNED



### LAB COAT PROTECTS STUDENT FROM SPLASH

11/20/18. An HWCOE lab recently reported a splash of chemical waste while transporting the carboy. This lab coat protected the individual from spilled hazardous waste, but reporting this near-miss incident helped us identify a process improvement to implement so a spill is much less likely in the future!

Report all incidents, including near-misses to Engineering Safety.

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

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## SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS



New sash stickers promote safety and sustainability! Get yours today!

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

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**SAFETY MATTERS TO ME...**





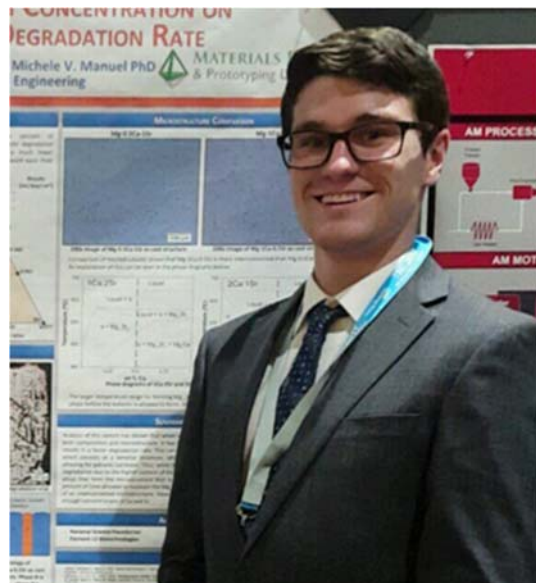
“Nurturing an environment of lab safety matters to me – by promoting accountability, we can foster mutual respect, commitment, collaboration and open dialogue among students and faculty of all levels. We hope to create a culture where our students don’t think about safety as a compliance issue or a set of guidelines, but as a fundamental value embedded in everything they do. Providing a safe and secure environment for our students continues to be a top priority for the biomedical engineering department every day.”

Christine Schmidt, Ph.D.  
Pruitt Family Professor and Chair  
J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of  
Biomedical Engineering

## LAB SAFETY LEADERS



Steven Nystrom has overseen the Student Safety Council (SSC) for the Chemical Engineering department for the last 2 years and has taken on multiple new initiatives. The most recent has been getting the department approval for a safety website. Steven leads monthly lab safety manager meetings to discuss new safety program implementation or any issues that labs are having—it is a great sounding board to identify hazards across different labs and hear different perspectives on how to handle them. Steven is a Ph.D. candidate and the Lab Safety Manager for the Hibbitts lab.



David Christianson is a PhD candidate and the Lab Safety manager for the Manuel lab in Materials Science and Engineering. His research focuses on the development of new light-weight magnesium-lithium alloys for automotive and aerospace applications. David participates in the MSE student safety council meetings to help develop a culture of safety within the department.

Both Steven and David, as well as other HWCOE faculty, staff and students visited ExxonMobil this summer in conjunction with the Partnership in Academic Laboratory Safety (PALS) program which is aimed at bridging the gap between industrial safety practices and academic ones.

<https://twitter.com/ExxonMobilBTA/status/1004784997981704192>

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## *EHS UPDATE*



UF EH&S has hired Florian Buhlman as the Laser Safety Coordinator. Florian is a UF graduate who received his bachelors degree in nuclear engineering in 2016.

His goal is to work together with laser users across the campus to create a safer environment for research and development.

Have Laser Questions? Email Florian:

[fbuhlman@ehs.ufl.edu](mailto:fbuhlman@ehs.ufl.edu)

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Look for a boot camp near you this spring! HWCOE Safety is partnering with Departmental Student Safety Council Leaders to bring you **department specific** Lab Safety Manager training starting in January.

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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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