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**Department of Environmental Health & Safety****Office: BSB D.111****Phone: 710-2900****Fax: 710-2405****One Bear Place #97046****Waco, TX 76798****The New Look of EH&S at Baylor**

Over the last several months, a department of Environmental Health and Safety has been quietly taking shape on campus. Operating under the Office of the Executive Vice-President and Provost, the purpose of the department is to promote a healthy and safe environment for the university community that will allow for the vigorous pursuit of teaching, research, and service objectives.

You may already be familiar with the staff of the department, since all of them were previously employed by other departments before having the opportunity to move to EH&S.

The Director of EH&S is Dr. James Karban, who has been employed at Baylor for over 30 years and who has vast experience in the areas of health and safety.

Dr. Karban's staff currently consists of 3 people. Cody Rogers serves as the Hazardous Materials and Lab Safety Specialist and has worked at Baylor for over 3 years. Alan Stover serves as the Director of Environmental Compliance and has worked at Baylor for 7 years. Dr. Karen Humphrey is

the Chemical Hygiene Officer and has worked at Baylor for over 10 years.

The umbrella of the department extends well beyond the science labs and encompasses the entirety of the university community. Areas of concern that may not immediately come to mind include such things as hearing protection, ergonomics, and the proper discharge of water from a car wash. The department is an integral part of the smooth workings of the university, even if the work is behind the scenes a good part of the time.

The staff of the department is focused and committed to a proactive and service-oriented approach to safety. Education and prevention are their primary focuses, with regular safety trainings being offered and with availability for consultations about any areas of interest.

The department will be continuing to take shape in the months to come. Among the plans are to hire more personnel for the department and to move the department to a more centralized location on campus. Stay tuned.

**EH&S PERSONNEL AT A GLANCE:**

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*“The purpose...is to make it easy for the user to navigate to exactly what they need without having to wade through an ocean of paper.”*

## What a Web We're Weaving

Every department needs its own website, and this is especially true of Environmental Health & Safety. Countless hours have been spent in constructing a website that will house the massive amounts of information that deal with health and safety on campus. Staff has gone positively cross-eyed in writing, formatting, coding, editing, and re-editing the material that we wish to make readily available to our campus community in a useful format.

The purpose of constructing such a clearinghouse of information is to make it easy for the user to navigate to exactly what they need without having to wade through an ocean of paper. We've all had the experience of being handed large manuals of information and having to search for the bits that are relevant to our work. We here in EH&S want the flow of information to be smoother and more user-friendly, and a website is much better for that.

And to that end, we're weaving our website. We still have information to migrate over from the BSB (Baylor Science Building) website, links to add, and probably typos to fix, but we're well on our way.

Look for the release of the website, and much more information, in upcoming issues of this newsletter.



BAYLOR

Environmental Health & Safety

About EHS

Responsibility for Safety

MSDS Explanation

Baylor > Environmental Health & Safety

LOGOUT

### The Department of Environmental, Health and Safety

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) serves Baylor University by providing technical support, information and training, consultation and periodic audits of environmental, health and safety practices and regulatory compliance.

## The Shared Responsibility of Safety

The responsibility for the health and safety of the university community is shared by everyone involved, from the university President all the way to the undergraduate student. Baylor university takes this shared responsibility very seriously. So seriously, in fact, that university administrators such as the Deans, the Provost, and even Judge Starr himself have been making regular visits to classes and labs and will continue to do so in coming

semesters.

Visiting administrators will always be accompanied by someone from EH&S. There may or may not be advanced notice of their visit. When they come to a space, they will always observe the rules of that space, such as wearing personal protective equipment. Their presence is meant to be unobtrusive, and to observe the class or lab in session.

Specific items that are being observed in their visits include the overall condition of the space, the

observance of applicable rules by the people in the space, the presence of necessary documentation, and the general safety of the students and instructors.

The purpose of these visits is to highlight the communal responsibility for safety. The administration has a great interest in the workings of our classes and labs and in helping to ensure that these classes and labs can proceed in a way that is academically vigorous while at the same time maintaining safe practices.

*“The administration has a great interest in...helping to ensure that these classes and labs can proceed in a way that is academically vigorous while at the same time maintaining safe practices.”*

## Why Cast a Safety Net?

You may be wondering why this newsletter is sitting in your inbox, among all the other myriad messages. Is it useful, or just more junk?

Hopefully, it will prove useful. The idea behind “The Safety Net” is simple: if EH&S doesn’t tell you, how will you know? Regulations and policies have a habit of changing, which generally means that right about the time you get everything figured out, you have

to turn around and start all over again. And sometimes it seems to come out of nowhere, right?

But with a newsletter, we can keep you in the loop during the process and help ease the transition. It’s a good means of communication about what’s going on in health and safety at Baylor.

A secondary benefit of this newsletter is transparency. This is your front-row seat as we continue to

develop an active culture of safety throughout our campus. It’s our invitation to you to take part in the development alongside us. Safety really is a shared responsibility, and it’s our hope that communication will flow in both directions—and that “The Safety Net” will be the beginning of an on-going conversation.

We hope you will both enjoy the newsletter and find it useful. Feedback will always be welcome.

*“[I]f EH&S doesn’t  
tell you, how will you  
know?”*



Have you heard of the Globally Harmonized System? If not, you will soon. OSHA has revised its Hazard Communication Standard and the way we label our chemical substances is about to change a bit. But don’t worry, we’ll tell you all about it here in “The Safety Net” and will help you get ready for the switch-over when the new regulation takes full effect.

The university is in the process of implementing something known as an Environmental Management System (EMS). The purpose of this system is to ensure that all parts of the campus are both in compliance with applicable regulations and are acting as responsible environmental stewards in all activities taking place on campus. More information to come as the process unfolds.

We’re overhauling our safety training program and making it more relevant to our different audiences by offering different levels of training. Some will be available online and some will be live classroom training. This is a work in progress and watch for it to roll out over the summer with an expected full implementation just in time for the 2013-2014 academic year.

For the current  
training schedule, go

to:

[http://  
www.baylor.edu/  
BSB/index.php?  
id=31630](http://www.baylor.edu/BSB/index.php?id=31630)

“The Safety Net” is a monthly electronic newsletter published by the Department of Environmental Health & Safety and intended to share information with the Baylor community, promote transparency within the university’s safety program, and encourage the continued development of a culture of safety among university employees and students.

Comments, questions, and ideas for future stories are welcomed. Email: [Karalyn\\_Humphrey@baylor.edu](mailto:Karalyn_Humphrey@baylor.edu)