

Yale *Environmental Health & Safety*

Summer Internship Program Report

September 25, 2025

From Kevin Charbonneau, EHS Executive Director



When looking back at the 2025 EHS Summer Internship Program, we must first celebrate the record number of applicants we received this year, just shy of 50 across all recruiting pools. Once again, we supported our out-of-state interns with room and board scholarships with funding support from the Provost's Office, which also allowed us to expand to three students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (part of the Yale ACSEND schools). We offer our thanks to Provost's Office, notably Dr. Lakia Scott for her support.

Our central goal growing the summer internship program was to provide an introduction and awareness of our profession. EHS plans on continuing this theme as it is a way to expand knowledge of EHS as a potential career option, which should help address the departure of seasoned EHS professionals across the country to retirement. Raising awareness of the EHS profession to students from science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs is integral in expanding the recruitment base for our future workers.

The learning opportunities that EHS has provided also helped address critical needs in some of our program areas and firmed up the development of new initiatives. Some internship successes included:

- *getting chemical safety Levels assigned to all accessible laboratories in the Medical School.*
- *cleaning up our inventory records in our Controlled Substances Inventory Program and with our Clean Air Device Program.*
- *development of a laboratory biosecurity campaign for research labs to raise awareness of the importance of protecting valuable biological materials.*
- *completion of the annual updates of the Exposure Control Plan and related biosafety manuals.*
- *validation testing of a new internal dosimetry calculator tool for IRB/HRPP human subjects research at the Yale PET Center.*
- *the completion of a comprehensive review of all radioactive material sealed source paperwork at Yale.*
- *the addition/subtraction of more-than 100 high-hazard tools within the shop inventory of tools in the EHS Integrator database. This includes approximately 40 tools removed from the original listing, and the addition of approximately 90 New tools.*
- *the preparation a draft initial Environmental Justice Public Participation Plan.*

EHS is quite proud of the program and these achievements. More importantly, it helps provide increased awareness and opportunities for young STEM students regarding potential careers in EHS. We look forward to increasing the impact of our summer internship program in 2026.

Yale 2025 EHS Summer Internship Program Overview

EHS hosted 12 summer interns across eight different EHS disciplines 2025. The department hosted four additional interns from the New Haven Academy at the end of their spring semester for a three-week immersion into the health and safety profession. These internships have been created to empower and inspire the next generation of talent by offering hands-on experience and exposure to a diverse range of viable professions. These interns were able to work with staff mentors in the following disciplines:

- Lab Biosecurity
- Industrial Hygiene
- Health Physics/Radiation Safety
- Infection Prevention
- Environmental Affairs
- Research Safety
- Instructional Technology
- Physical Safety



By the Numbers

12

total summer interns

8

new interns

4

returning or extended interns

3

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) ASCEND Program interns

4

out-of-state dorm resident interns

4

New Haven Promise interns

Yale 2025 EHS Summer Internship Program Overview

The 2025 EHS summer internship program consisted of three separate pathways for student interns. The first was a continuation of utilizing the summer internships as a solid introduction to the environmental health & safety profession for students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs. EHS internships offered educational and hands-on experiences in specific EHS disciplines. Summer interns were also provided lectures on a wide array of EHS disciplines throughout their time at Yale. During these discipline overview presentation sessions, interns were provided with ample time to ask questions about the EHS professional's career path, educational programs, professional certifications, why they chose their profession, and learn about a typical day working at Yale EHS. This category essentially covered all 12 of the 2025 EHS summer interns.

The second pathway was associated with Yale EHS continuing to pursue early career professionals already enrolled in an environmental or occupational health and safety education program. In 2025, EHS continued its very successful internship program with the University of Alabama-Birmingham Health Physics program. This partnership delivered another Master of Science level graduate student to our Radiation Safety Program. Yale Radiation Safety has hosted over a half dozen professional students since they initiated this summer internship program. Building on the success of the EHS Radiation Safety program, the Yale EHS Occupational Health and Safety program invited two professional students to work on summer projects related to industrial hygiene and chemical safety. Three EHS summer interns were enrolled or just completed a degree in an EHS discipline.

These professional student internships have provided a significant, direct hands-on immersive work experience that has proved mutually beneficial for the student and EHS since their inception. The students gain invaluable real-life work experience and are mentored by multiple EHS professionals while EHS gets an opportunity to get work that requires a higher level of experience completed, which also helps to reduce the workload within that department. Both the professional student intern and EHS gain an opportunity to review the experience with a focus on future job opportunities or openings if they arise in the future. Yale EHS has had success utilizing this pathway to identify potential applicants for entry level job roles in the past and has hired past interns into full-time or casual positions.

The last pathway of 2025 involved a pool of interns who came back to Yale EHS for a second summer internship, and those who were non-summer program interns who extended their time at Yale EHS through the summer internship program. EHS was pleased to have four interns in this category in 2025, and each paid significant dividends for our office.

HBCU ASCEND Internship Program

In 2025, Yale EHS completed its second year of groundbreaking Environmental Health and Safety internships for students from HBCUs. EHS Executive Director Kevin Charbonneau launched this program to expand awareness of environmental and occupational health programs to the next generation of students attending HBCUs. Not only does this help promote the discipline of EHS to a younger generation, but it also provides this awareness to groups that are underrepresented in these professions.

Building on the success of the inaugural 2024 HBCU EHS student internships, and in partnership with the Yale Alliance for Scholarship, Collaboration, Engagement, Networking, and Development (ASCEND) Program, Yale EHS expanded the program to three HBCU summer interns in 2025. This expansion could not be possible without funding from the Yale ASCEND program and EHS wishes to thank Dr. Lokia Scott, assistant provost for faculty development, for her acceptance of Yale EHS as a summer internship program affiliated with the ASCEND program and its initiative of expanding pathways for HBCU students through the HBCU partnerships established with Yale. Additional information on the ASCEND program can be found at <https://faculty.yale.edu/diversity/ascend-initiative>.

In 2025, EHS welcomed summer interns with backgrounds in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), from three of the Yale ASCEND partner HBCU institutions (<https://faculty.yale.edu/diversity/ascend-initiative/hbcu-partner-institutions>).



Nicholas Brown
*Morehouse College
Industrial Hygiene*



Kiera Payne
*Morgan State
University
Laboratory Biosecurity*



Destiny Taylor
*North Carolina A&T
State University
Laboratory Biosecurity*

EHS 2025 Summer Interns

Ahmed Abdulghany

EHS Integrator Software Intern

Mentor: Stephanie Perry



Ahmed Abdulghany (he/him) is a computer science engineer currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in computer science at UCONN. In his free time, Ahmed enjoys outdoor activities with friends, playing basketball, or going to the gym. His lifelong dream is to start his own business and use his innovative approach to grow it.

During his internship, he used EHS Integrator to track incoming professional students and assign respiratory fit testing, training, and medical clearance requirements. He developed monthly chemical packaging data for West Campus, providing total chemical purchases and deliveries. The data is used to demonstrate compliance with Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection emission limits for volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants. Ahmed is also digitizing historical radiation safety officer section files, which will save physical filing space and make searching easier.

Stephanie Perry, Technology and Outreach Manager

Ahmed learned about EHS Integrator modules including principal profile, registration, survey, inventory, and waste. He learned about and assisted in data cleanup of buildings and other data points. Ahmed learned about and assisted in customer technical support issues. He created customer support tickets using Service Now. Ahmed updated the Environmental Affairs chemical packaging report. He updated multiple principal profiles for incoming respiratory protection participants. He met with ITS to learn about identity access management. Ahmed participated in Integrator developer scrum meetings. Ahmed worked well independently and had progress to show at each daily check-in. He was a pleasure to work with.

Ahmed's Experience

It is often said that it's not where you start but where you end up that matters, and my summer experience exemplifies this truth. Initially, I was searching for a summer job, but soon I found the perfect opportunity in my inbox. This email led to an interview and eventually to my first internship at an Ivy League school. This internship has been one of the most enriching experiences of my career thus far. Working under the guidance of Stephanie Perry, who has quickly become my favorite manager, and using the EHS Integrator to complete various tasks has been incredibly rewarding. Overall, this internship has been exceptional. I have enjoyed observing dedicated professionals who are passionate about their work. This experience has not only provided clarity about my career path but has also given me a clearer idea of what I want to pursue in the future. I am immensely grateful for this opportunity.

Nicholas Brown

Industrial Hygiene Intern

Mentor: Ryan Cirillo



Nicholas Brown (he/him) is junior chemistry major from Charlotte, NC. He enjoys playing basketball, reading books, driving, and listening to music in his free time. He is not completely sure of the career he wishes to pursue, but he is open minded to many and all careers regarding STEM. Fun fact about him, this is his very first internship since he started college.

Nick spent the summer evaluating chemicals in the Medical School labs to assign chemical safety levels. After assigning a safety level, the lab's door sign was updated. This helped with emergency response and understanding material risks. Nick also assisted with negative exposure monitoring for formaldehyde and performed noise dosimetry for trades at the Medical School.

Ryan Cirillo, Safety Advisor-Industrial Hygiene

Nicholas excelled while working on his key project of performing chemical safety level assessments for laboratories at Yale's School of Medicine. Nicholas is currently majoring in chemistry at Morehouse College, making this project a great fit not only to gain professional experience understanding chemical properties and classes, but also to incorporate safety into a field that is primarily research-based. He also learned about exposure monitoring for formaldehyde, PPE audits in laboratories, and conducting noise assessments—for personal exposures (full shift dosimetry) and sound level surveys. Nicholas demonstrated exceptional independence in managing his responsibilities. His ability to work autonomously coupled with his proactive approach greatly contributed to the success of various EHS initiatives. Nicholas's dedication and professionalism made a significant impact on our program, setting a high standard for future interns.

Nicholas's Experience

I'm deeply grateful for this amazing and eye-opening internship experience. The best word I can use to describe my first internship experience is refreshing. Though I initially put pressure on myself to perform perfectly, I was met with acceptance and support that helped me grow personally and professionally. Working in the labs and learning to use various tools to analyze air, sound, and liquids made me feel proud and excited about my future. I have never felt so confident in a future I have never been able to see-my own. This internship with Yale EHS gave me the confidence and tools to enter the workforce with clarity and purpose. Thank you to God, Yale EHS, and my peers for this unforgettable journey.

Gabriela Duarte

Environmental Affairs Intern

Mentors: Dan Schott, Dave Krochko, Iain Kinsella



Gabriela Duarte Garcia (she/her) is originally from Bogotá, Colombia, and moved to New Haven in 2018. She is currently a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering with a concentration in aerospace at the University of Connecticut. Gabriela is passionate about using engineering to create innovative solutions that support and protect the environment. Outside of academics, she plays water polo with the UConn team, underwater rugby and enjoys running. She loves trying new coffee shops as well as spending time outdoors with friends and family.

Over the summer, she worked on a comprehensive assessment of Yale-owned properties, which delineates contiguous impervious surfaces throughout the university, identifies stormwater outfall locations, and quantifies the acreage of each impervious area. She was also involved in projects that assist the Environmental Affairs Section with its numerous water discharge and air compliance programs.

Dan Schott, Assistant Environmental Affairs Officer

Gabriela Duarte worked on multiple projects to support Yale's compliance with complex environmental regulatory programs. Gabi performed a comprehensive assessment of Yale owned properties, which will be used to determine applicability and develop a compliance plan for the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Commercial Activity Permit (Commercial Stormwater General Permit). Gabi also completed an index of Underground Storage Tank (UST) site and CTDEEP State identifications that will streamline Yale's recordkeeping and reporting processes. Gabi is a supremely quick learner and her energy and enthusiasm were a true bright spot around the office this summer.

Gabriela's Experience

This summer has been an amazing experience filled with learning, growth, and great memories. I had the opportunity to work with the Environmental Affairs team at Yale EHS, where everyone was incredibly welcoming, supportive, and always willing to teach me about the important work they do. I am especially thankful to my mentors, David Krochko and Daniel Schott, for their guidance, patience, and for always taking the time to explain things and involve me in meaningful projects. A special thank you as well to the best boss, Iain Kinsella, for creating such a positive work environment. Through this internship, I was able to explore different areas of environmental work and discover what I enjoy most. I gained valuable knowledge about environmental compliance and how state and federal regulations are implemented. I also learned important life skills, like financial planning. One of the best parts was bonding with the other interns and spending time together. I'm grateful for this opportunity and for everyone who made it such a rewarding and unforgettable summer.

Kabe Fetner

Industrial Hygiene Intern

Mentor: Ryan Cirillo



Kabe Fetner (he/him) is originally from Valley, Alabama, and attends the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is currently pursuing a Master of Science in public health with a focus on industrial hygiene. Kabe is passionate about occupational safety and community health through research on chemical exposures and environmental hazards. Outside of academics, he enjoys exploring the city, playing a game of chess, and watching HBO Max with friends.

Kabe conducted negative exposure monitoring for formaldehyde during various processes in the Medical School labs. This monitoring profiles lower-risk activities that typically do not require exposure monitoring under Yale's Formaldehyde Program. Additionally, Kabe helped assign chemical safety levels to labs and performed noise dosimetry for trades at the Medical School.

Ryan Cirillo, Safety Advisor-Industrial Hygiene

Kabe was deeply engaged in a variety of hands-on projects, with a primary focus on exposure monitoring for different processes involving formaldehyde. He gained additional practical experience with noise assessments, conducting both full shift dosimetry for many of the trades staff and sound level measurements in a variety of spaces. He also assessed chemical safety levels and audited PPE compliance in laboratories. Currently enrolled in University of Alabama at Birmingham in the MSPH Program with a concentration in Industrial Hygiene, Kabe was a perfect fit for the IH Internship and he consistently applied knowledge learned in his studies to a professional work environment. He also demonstrated technical proficiency with data entry tools and an impressive ability to collaborate effectively within teams. Overall, the internship provided substantial professional growth, mentorship, and valuable networking opportunities, contributing significantly to the EHS initiatives at Yale.

Kabe's Experience

This summer has been full of exploring, learning, and growing-from crawling through mechanical rooms with a noise dosimeter to hunting down the best pizza in New Haven. As an industrial hygiene intern, I gained meaningful, hands-on experience that deepened my understanding of occupational health and safety. The Yale EHS team was incredibly supportive, providing mentorship and real-world training that made every project feel impactful. I'm wrapping up this internship feeling like I contributed to something important, and that's exactly what I was hoping for.

Ekta Kumar

Physical Safety Intern

Mentor: Frank Pekarski



Ekta Kumar (she/her) is a recent graduate of Cape Breton University with a strong academic foundation and practical experience in occupational health and safety. She recently completed an internship at Yale University, where she served as a physical safety intern, gaining hands-on experience in institutional safety practices and protocols. Ekta is passionate about fostering safe environments and is committed to applying her skills in real-world settings to promote well-being and organizational resilience.

Ekta updated the inventory of medium-risk (Risk Group 3) and high-risk (Risk Group 4) tools within Student Access Shops. This is necessary to accurately classify the amount of risk present in campus shops. She also assisted with shop safety inspections and helped to update our chemical inventory.

Frank Pekarski, Safety Specialist

Ekta was a valuable asset to the EHS Physical Safety Team, with her exemplary diligence, reliability, and can-do attitude. Although she learns very quickly, even more valuable than this was her insistence on helping and participating with the myriad additional tasks that arose on any given workday, because she is truly a team-player. Ekta's existing professional knowledge also added to our team's combined knowledge. For example, her input shared while developing the training day presentation for Hospitality is what led us to include an interactive "Case Study" within the training presentation. Ekta also helped with inspections, training activities, and even some incident investigations, as an observant, helpful, and insightful member of the team.

Ekta's Experience

During my time as a Physical Safety Intern at Yale EHS, I gained valuable hands-on experience in supporting compliance programs, conducting workplace safety inspections, and assisting with risk assessments to promote a culture of safety across campus. This opportunity allowed me to strengthen my knowledge of regulatory standards, hazard identification, and incident prevention strategies, while also enhancing my communication and teamwork skills through collaboration with diverse departments. I am eager to apply these experiences as I move forward in my professional career, continuing to advance workplace health, safety, and environmental stewardship.

Sofia LaFalce

Infection Control/Infection Prevention Intern

Mentor: Emily Bludnicki, Maren Schniederberend



Sofia LaFalce (she/her) is from Fairfield, Connecticut. She is entering her senior year at the University of Rochester and is majoring in health, behavior, and society (public health) with a minor in psychology while simultaneously completing her Masters in public health at the University of Rochester. Athletics have been a large part of her life in Connecticut, and she plays field hockey at Rochester. Sofia likes to spend her free time with family/friends, working out, cooking/baking, and being outside as much as possible.

Sofia coordinated and performed site assessments where she collected data from particular clinics and research facilities to ensure they were safe and meeting requirements and followed up in cases of non-compliance or if someone needed assistance. She also updated the Exposure Control Plan, Infection Control Manual, Bloodborne Pathogen Training Manual, Clinic Design Guidelines, and EHS's Incident Response Protocol.

Maren Schniederberend, Biosafety Supervisor/Safety Advisor Co-Manager

This summer, Sofia returned to deepen her knowledge and apply the skills she acquired during her internship at Yale EHS in 2024. During her time with EHS, Sofia participated in infection control committee meetings and took the lead on clinic audits. She successfully completed 13 clinic surveys, including follow-ups, and diligently entered the surveys into the EHS Integrator. She also created a Sharps Safety Device Form and meticulously maintained the Sharps Injury OSHA 300 Log. Everything Sofia worked on this summer will undoubtedly have a long-lasting impact at Yale University and will be utilized for years to come. It was a sincere pleasure to work with Sofia, and we foresee a very bright future for her.

Sofia's Experience

The main part of my internship was coordinating and performing site assessments where I would collect data from particular clinics and research facilities to ensure they are safe and meeting requirements. I also edited and updated various EHS documents including the exposure control plan, infection control manual, bloodborne pathogen training manual, clinic design guidelines, and the incident response cards. Additionally, I created a sharps safety device evaluation form/editable PDF and created a sharps injury log (OSHA 300 log). Outside of clinic related work and my personal projects, I have had the privilege of attending various meetings. It is very interesting to witness the behind-the-scenes of the office and how everyone works together. Throughout my experiences this summer, I have solidified and built onto my knowledge of infection control as well as EHS. Everyone in the office was so welcoming and it was clear that there is an emphasis on teamwork. Overall, this summer has been an amazing experience and I hope that infection control/EHS will be a future career of mine.

Cameron Liggitt

Health Physics Intern

Mentor: Josh Armstrong, Neil Whiteside



Cameron Liggitt (he/him) is currently enrolled in the Master of Health Physics program with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, having received his undergraduate degree in astrophysics from Arizona State University. Cameron spent two years working for the Arizona Bureau of Radiation Control as a health physicist. He spends his free time at the gym, reading, attempting trivia, and playing Smash Bros Ultimate.

Cameron's top priority in assisting the radiation safety officer was the validation testing of a new internal dosimetry calculator to support Yale Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) submissions to the RDRC/RIDC committees. He also worked to enhance the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) sealed source program by addressing gaps identified during an internal audit and recent US NRC inspection while he worked on a project to review the radiation decommissioning process and associated files.

Neil Whiteside, Radiation Safety Officer

Cameron was not the average Health Physics intern. He came to Yale as a previous agreement state inspector with years of regulatory experience and quickly integrated himself with the EHS Radiation Safety staff while orientating with the many aspects of a broad scope research and development organization. Cameron was assigned several high impact projects as well as establishing goals to participate in all aspects of the Yale Radiation Safety Program. His primary project was to perform validation testing of a new internal dosimetry calculator to support the HRPP ancillary committee review process and demonstrate Yale's compliance with US NRC and US Food and Drug Administration requirements. Additionally, Cameron made significant program enhancements to the EHS sealed source, occupational dosimetry and internal lab decommissioning programs. Cameron's contributions to the EHS Radiation Safety Program will be felt for years to come.

Cameron's Experience

Yale University was not somewhere I ever expected to work, nor was I supposed to, but I am so thankful I was able to and am better for it. The expertise shared with me this summer from the radiation safety group was both impactful and delivered at an appropriate level. My time was split between assigned projects with the freedom to complete my deliverables as I saw fit and being exposed to new areas of health physics. I was even provided with time and guidance to attend two Health Physics Society conferences where I introduced my thesis. Ultimately, this summer has proven to me that Yale University Environmental Health and Safety produces exemplary members of the health and safety community, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be one of those members.

Kiera Payne

Laboratory Biosecurity Intern

Mentors: Maren Schniederberend, Julia Kontos



Kiera Payne (she/her) is a senior biology major at Morgan State University from New Haven with career aspirations of becoming a forensic biologist/DNA analyst. She is spending her summer at Yale EHS as a biosecurity intern. Some things she enjoys in her free time involve crocheting and sewing.

Kiera coordinated the planning and execution of the annual select agent biosecurity drill and developed several key resources to strengthen laboratory biosecurity, including creating a lab self-inspection checklist. She also constructed researcher identification posters for authorized users of each BSL-3 suite and authored a web summary of biosecurity resources to support continued lab education. In addition, Kiera engaged in laboratory walkthroughs to assess access control compliance.

Julia Kontos, Assistant Biosafety Officer

As a biosecurity intern, Kiera played a key role in supporting and enhancing laboratory biosecurity initiatives. She assisted in the planning of the annual select agent biosecurity drill and developed several important resources to strengthen the university's biosecurity framework. Notably, she created a laboratory self-inspection checklist and designed researcher identification posters for authorized users and trainees in each BSL-3 suite, which are tools that are essential for verifying access and reinforcing secure entry protocols. Kiera's impactful contributions will continue to support and strengthen Yale's culture of biosecurity long after the conclusion of her internship, as these materials will be utilized for years to come.

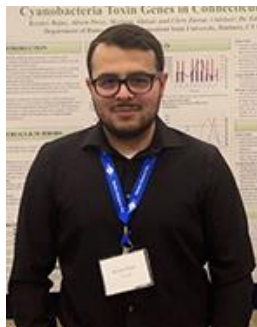
Kiera's Experience

This summer in Yale Environmental Health & Safety has been extraordinary. From the moment I accepted this internship to my last week in the office, my experience has been nothing short of wonderful. As a biosecurity intern, my main project was to collect data from the Medical School and West Campus on door and sticker compliance addressing the "Stop the Prop" campaign. Through my internship, I have gained insight into working in a full-time position, how to manage multiple tasks in a day, adjusting to unexpected changes in the day's schedule, and I learned about emergency response and safe lab practices that I can carry when I return to school. I'm forever grateful to have spent my summer at Yale EHS, and thankful for every mentor I have spoken to, worked with, and shadowed, as well as my mentor Julia Kontos who has helped guide me through my time in the office.

Keyner Rojas

Research Safety Intern

Mentor: Jame's D'Addio



Keyner Rojas (he/him) is a second year MPH student at the Yale School of Public Health. He has been working with the EHS office as the Controlled Substances Program Assistant since October of 2024, and this summer is working as the Research Safety Intern.

Keyner worked on the Clean Air Device inventory reconciliation project and assisted with the Controlled Substances Program inventory user database. In addition, he supported the training coordinator by assisting with training record data input

Jame's D'Addio, Research Safety Supervisor

Keyner has made significant contributions to several key projects. In the Clean Air Device inventory reconciliation project, he ensured the records were accurate and up to date, which improved efficiency and reduced errors. His work on the Controlled Substances Program inventory user database involved organizing and updating the system, resulting in better data integrity and easier access to information for authorized users. Additionally, Keyner assisted the training coordinator by accurately inputting training records. This improved the reliability of the training database, ensuring staff qualifications and compliance were correctly tracked. Overall, Keyner's contributions have significantly positively impacted these areas, enhancing data management accuracy, efficiency, and reliability. His hard work, attention to detail, and technical skills have been greatly appreciated, and his efforts have led to noticeable improvements in the projects and programs he has supported.

Keyner's Experience

Over the course of my time working with the Yale Office of Environmental Health and Safety, I have been exposed to various disciplines within the field. I have had the opportunity to work on the regulatory side of EHS, by assisting with records of controlled substance licenses for labs across campus and inspect labs alongside state and federal agencies. In addition, I have also worked on the research safety side of EHS where I assisted with records review for the biosafety cabinets across campus, and got to tour the BSL-3 lab at the Yale School of Public Health. Overall, I had some incredible opportunities and worked with an incredible team at Yale EHS, which I am thankful for.

Lily Sutton

Environmental Affairs Intern

Mentors: Dan Schott, Dave Krochko, Iain Kinsella



Lily Sutton (she/her) is a rising sophomore at Connecticut College, majoring in environmental studies. Lily is focused on the social sciences along with social justice to help the planet and the living beings on it. On campus, she works as a barista and is involved with the Fashion magazine and the school's Oceanna club. She was born and raised in New Haven. Besides nature, her passions include animals, spending time with her friends, and all forms of creativity-art, dance, fashion, thrifting/mending, and junk journaling.

Lily worked on drafting a template for an Environmental Assessment Public Participation Plan (EJ Plan), which will be a component of certain new and/or modified environmental permits required at Yale in the future. She also worked on various projects that assisted the Environmental Affairs Section with its numerous water discharge and air compliance programs.

Dan Schott, Assistant Environmental Affairs Officer

Dave Krochko, Air Pollution Compliance Engineer

Lily worked on a comprehensive assessment of Yale owned properties which delineated contiguous impervious surfaces throughout the university, identified stormwater outfall locations, and quantified the acreage of each impervious area. This study will be used to determine applicability and develop a compliance plan for the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Commercial Activity Permit (Commercial Stormwater General Permit), which will be issued by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) in the near future. Lily also prepared a relational index of Underground Storage Tank (UST) site locations and CTDEEP State identifications that will streamline Yale's internal tracking and external reporting. In addition to compliance activities, Lily's endless positivity and eagerness to learn were a delight to have as part of the EAS Team this summer.

Lily's Experience

As an environmental Studies major who is interested in our earth, its natural processes, and human impacts, this was my top choice as an internship and I feel honored to have been picked. I had an incredible boss, Iain Kinsella and two amazing mentors, Daniel Schott and David Krochko. This was one of the best work environments I have ever been in, filled with understanding and silliness, yet a drive for teaching us everything we needed to know with a passion for what they do. I have learned new skills like how to test water, gather generator data and strengthened my understanding of Excel with digitizing our Underground Storage Tank files among other things. I never felt that my mentors judged me for not knowing something, they simply showed me how without criticism, which led to productive learning opportunities.

Destiny Taylor

Laboratory Biosecurity Intern

Mentors: Maren Schniederberend, Julia Kontos, Melissa James



Destiny Taylor (she/her) is a rising senior from Charleston, South Carolina, studying biology at North Carolina A&T State University. While she has long aspired to become a physician, her passion for the environmental side of biology has grown. After taking a microbiology course, she discovered a strong interest in lab safety, protection, and how human health connects to the environment. Outside of academics, Destiny finds joy in cooking, reading, and spending time with her family and friends.

Destiny was involved in planning and executing the annual select agent biosecurity drill. In addition, she conducted walkthroughs during business hours to assess laboratory access control compliance and evaluated the effectiveness of the “Stop the Prop” campaign. Destiny also developed several resources to support a strengthened culture of biosecurity, including a Lessons Learned article on past incidents and an interactive Microsoft Sway tool designed to educate lab staff on key biosecurity principles.

Julia Kontos, Assistant Biosafety Officer

Destiny played a vital role in advancing laboratory biosecurity initiatives. She contributed to the planning and execution of the annual select agent biosecurity drill, a preparedness exercise designed to test emergency response procedures and evaluate facility readiness. Destiny also developed several resources to strengthen our culture of biosecurity. These included authoring a series of Lessons Learned articles, highlighting past security-related incidents, as well as creating an interactive Microsoft Sway tool designed to engage and educate lab personnel on core biosecurity principles. Destiny’s high-impact contributions have made a lasting impression and will continue to support Yale’s biosecurity efforts well beyond the duration of her internship. We are sincerely grateful for her dedication and professionalism she brought to her work.

Destiny’s Experience

This summer, I had the incredible privilege of serving as a biosecurity intern at Yale Environmental Health and Safety, where I worked on projects that deepened my understanding of lab safety, public health, and the critical role of biosecurity in protecting research and people. I also authored “Lessons Learned” case articles based on real incidents, reinforcing the importance of transparency and proactive learning in research environments. Participating in walkthroughs and co-leading a tabletop drill taught me that even small actions can have powerful ripple effects, something I’ll carry with me throughout my career. I am incredibly grateful to have been selected for this opportunity out of many talented applicants. Being at Yale for my first internship beyond my home institution was a surreal experience and a truly meaningful way to begin this chapter of my journey. While I’m saddened that my time here has come to a close, I leave inspired, empowered, and ready for what’s next.

Helen Warner

Chemical Safety Intern

Mentor: Ryan Cirillo



Helen Werner (she/her) is originally from Trumbull, Connecticut, and earned her B.S. in occupational health & safety sciences from Keene State College in 2022, with minors in marketing and construction safety. After gaining experience working for a large general contractor in Washington, D.C., she has returned with a strong interest in deepening her knowledge of industrial hygiene and pursuing further studies in the field. Outside of work, Helen enjoys hiking, visiting farmers markets, and spending time with friends.

Helen assessed sound levels for mechanical rooms in the Medical School by taking direct readings with a sound level meter to determine if any areas within a mechanical room (or the entire mechanical room) exceed 85 dBA. Signage was posted in areas that were 85 dBA or higher to inform mechanics and other entrants to wear the appropriate hearing protection. Helen also assisted with negative exposure monitoring for formaldehyde and assigned chemical safety levels to labs.

Ryan Cirillo, Safety Advisor-Industrial Hygiene

Helen worked diligently on her primary project to complete PPE audits throughout Yale's three campuses. The data collection and organization in Excel was invaluable to EHS, as this data is presented to the Laboratory Safety Committee. Helen worked on other projects throughout her internship, including completing noise dosimetry for trades personnel, noise evaluations in mechanical spaces and at the School of Art, and making chemical safety level determinations for laboratories in the School of Medicine. Helen has a background in construction safety and a bachelor's degree from Keene State College in Occupational Health and Applied Safety Sciences. Her education and experience helped her understand the technical aspects of this internship, and she was able to adapt seamlessly to changing project priorities.

Helen's Experience

My time as an industrial hygiene intern at Yale was invaluable to my growth as a safety professional. Coming from a background that dealt primarily around physical safety hazards, the day-to-day elements that went on behind the scenes of a university to ensure operations run smoothly were different, but exciting. There were many times I was provided hands-on experience (e.g. chemical inventory checks, PPE surveys, noise monitoring, fit testing, etc.) and entering the labs, clinics, campuses, art studios, the power plant, and secure facilities felt entirely unique to Yale. The EHS staff are incredibly knowledgeable, delivered great training, and were always willing to extend their help to me when I needed it. I'd add that despite joining the program late and as a commuter, the team welcomed me with no hesitation. Overall, my summer with Yale's internship program was purpose-built, fun, and I'm forever grateful for the opportunity.