Welcome to Lehigh

Join us in welcoming Brittney O’Connor to Lehigh University as the Lab Safety Specialist in Environmental Health and Safety.

Brittney completed her undergraduate studies at East Stroudsburg University, earning degrees in Biology and Environmental Studies. She has extensive experience in both field and laboratory environments.

At Lehigh, she will focus on building a safety culture and community, developing and training safety plans, assessing workplace hazards, and managing hazardous waste.

Currently, Brittney also sits on the Environmental Advisory Council of Emmaus. She enjoys hiking, gardening, and spending time with her husband, Kyle, and their family in her free time.
Lehigh University would like to thank Elaine Kuchera and Randy Shebby for their combined 57 years of service to the University’s promotion of safety in research.

During Elaine’s 30 years at Lehigh, her responsibility has been the management of the environmental programs for campus. Those responsibilities included collecting and arranging for the disposal of laboratory waste, guidance during an emergency situation, drafting of policies and programs and sewer testing in coordination with LU Facilities and the City of Bethlehem. Elaine was also appointed as Radiation Safety Officer during 2023. Her commitment to safety and assisting PIs, staff and graduate students working in labs has been a contribution to Lehigh’s research community.

Elaine retires from EH&S will fond memories and experiences. “I am very pleased with the work I have done, the students I have been privileged to work with and the staff/faculty I have served. I will truly miss being a part of the EH&S team.”

In retirement, Elaine plans on spending more time with her grandchildren, both here and in Germany. She also plans to travel extensively and relax as much as possible in this new chapter of her life.
Throughout his 27-year Lehigh career, the health and safety of faculty, students and staff was Randy’s priority. His commitment to PIs, staff and graduate students working in labs has been clearly demonstrated by his efforts. He approached all tasks enthusiastically, including researching projects, equipment, lab renovations, guidelines and OSHA standards to keep personnel, laboratories and the buildings that house the labs safe.

Randy served as Biosafety Officer, Laser Safety Officer, Construction Safety Officer and Chemical Hygiene Officer. He also served as Interim Director of EH&S in 2023. Two of his numerous achievements are the student safety poster program, and development of the EH&S online safety training program.

In retirement, Randy plans to search for a new purpose. He will enjoy time with his family at his Mom’s house where he grew up on Lake Winola. Travel and learn more about Pennsylvania and maybe discover some “wild place” to spend his later years. As every retiree has on their list, his list also includes the never ending home improvement projects.

Environmental Health and Safety would like to wish Elaine Kuchera and Randy Shebby many years of health, laughter and adventure in their upcoming retirement.