Each morning when I arrive at Analogic, I know that the day will be completely different from the last with new tasks and challenges. I begin the day by checking my email, which can include anything from information about a safety product our department hopes to purchase to data I need to log and analyze. Then my day can go in any direction my supervisor deems important. Since the Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) department is one person, not including me, each day we face new challenges. I may spend one day checking the compliance of manufacturing parts and logging the data and the next checking all the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) monitors in the facility and replacing the pads for each monitor.

Generally, my responsibilities are to assist my supervisor in her day-to-day work as well as run an ongoing occupational health assessment. My day-to-day activities can vary greatly on any given day, which allows me to be constantly introduced to new tasks and issues and thereby gain a broader scope of knowledge for administrative and EHS type work. The occupational health evaluation is the most exciting part of my job thus far. It allows me to combine the knowledge I have obtained on the administrative side of healthcare with my desire to address the need for better quality of care in order to improve the health and safety of the employees. Through this evaluation, we can be more informed about the physical requirements of the work, thereby putting us in a better position to manage the health and safety of the employees.

Thus far, I would say my main accomplishment is running my own meeting with the occupational health therapist from Sports Medicine North, an orthopedic practice that also specializes in occupational health and is helping us with the assessment. I want to single out this meeting as an accomplishment because this occupational health project has been one of my main jobs over the course of the internship. After an initial meeting with Sports Medicine North, I was able to do a good deal of research on the issue of occupational health and workplace safety,
specifically as the two pertain to physical requirements written within an employee’s job description and how they are communicated to and understood by the employee. From this, I was able to coordinate an assessment, which is still ongoing, to be done by an occupational health therapist. It is our hope that, once the evaluation is complete, we will have a better understanding of the physical requirements needed for a specific job and be better able to address any issues that arise. I consider this to be an accomplishment because, after the initial introductory meeting, I felt I took ownership of the project. I was now the one scheduling meetings and reaching out to other people in the company to learn more about the equipment and the jobs themselves.

When working on group projects in the past few semesters, I have often occupied, by necessity as well as by choice, the role of project coordinator. The skills I have acquired, such as project management and data research and analysis were nurtured through my group projects in my HSSP and Business classes, as well as in my experiential learning class, Leadership in Health and Medicine, as a part of the Leader Scholar Community. With the leadership and team management skills I have gained, I felt confident in my abilities to take hold of the project and achieve a positive outcome. This internship is developing a wide range of new skills, particularly concerning administrative tasks. Through these administrative skills and knowledge I have begun to attain, I hope to be able to put my experiences to use as I continue into new jobs in the healthcare industry. This internship has developed new knowledge in terms of the environmental and occupational safety issues of a work place, which I feel will be essential in my professional career.

In terms of my three expectations for the internship, I believe I have made solid progress – possibly exceeding my initial expectations. I have learned a great deal about the responsibilities of an EHS department, especially in the areas of occupational health and
prevention of work-related injuries. I have also gained valuable experience handling administrative tasks, such as performing comparative analyses on documents and helping to write various procedures and programs. I believe that these skills as well as others I have acquired and improved upon will translate well in my career and provide the necessary knowledge to excel in healthcare administration. As for my final expectation – making connections and building a solid network – I feel I can do more to help myself by speaking with more people in the company about the healthcare technology field.

As I near the end of my second month at Analogic, I know that I have learned a lot and gained a great deal of experience pertaining to the health and safety sector of healthcare technology. I hope that this last month of my internship brings the same level of challenges and opportunities for growth.