As I finish my summer internship at Analogic, I know that there is a lot of valuable information I can take away from the experience. In an all-too-short three months, I have learned a great deal about a number of environmental and safety issues, each issue and related tasks completely different from the last. In terms of my three expectations (see my first blog) I believe that they were fully realized over the course of my internship. I was able to learn a tremendous amount about the Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) aspect of a company, the wide scope of responsibilities that fall under its jurisdiction, and the role it plays in the company’s business plan. I also gained experience on the administrative side of business, specifically through data management and analysis and organizing meetings for such information to be presented and discussed. Finally, I met a number of staff members, each with unique experiences, in various departments within the company. Although I hope to transition from working in an EHS department to a healthcare management position in a hospital setting, I believe that these connections will form the basis of a strong network to drive my career in healthcare forward. Looking back, I think these expectations were a solid foundation upon which to build my overall internship experience.

Since I began my internship in May, I have constantly been learning new things about the EHS department and the role it plays in such a thriving company as Analogic. One of the biggest lessons I learned while at Analogic was the connection between workplace injuries and the culture of employees not reporting injuries, unless necessary, in order to keep working. This unique perspective will help give me a strong ability to recognize any issues in the work-place environment and better understand how to amend and improve the culture of safety and employees’ health. Despite the fact that this perspective may seem unrelated to my career aspirations of working in healthcare management, it is particularly germane because it gives me
the necessary experience to recognize when employee safety and health is compromised for increased productivity. This issue can exist in any workplace, from a manufacturing plant to a hospital, where safety and employee well-being is a top priority to ensure that everyone can perform their duties and responsibilities to the best of their abilities. As for what else I would have liked to learn, I’m struggling to come up with anything I didn’t learn within the scope of my responsibilities. I was constantly being given new and interesting jobs and had the opportunity to help run an occupational health assessment, all of which provided me with a great experience.

Some of the information I have learned concerning environmental, as well as health and safety issues, could be extremely helpful to me in my academic and professional path. In terms of academics, I believe that my experiences will offer me a unique perspective on healthcare and policy issues, specifically as they pertain to occupational health. This information can help me to be well-versed in the areas of worker safety and occupational health. As for my professional trajectory, I feel that this internship has given me a great deal of knowledge to carry into the healthcare management field, such as improving workplace safety and handling any environmental concerns. It also gave me great experience on the administrative side of healthcare, handling meetings, data logging and analysis, and inspections of areas, such as chemical audits. I have learned a lot in the past three months, the majority of which will be useful later in my career in healthcare.

The impact of this internship on my academic and professional trajectory remains to be seen. I firmly believe that you never really know what experiences and information you have learned along the way will prove useful later in life. With that being said, I am leaving this internship with the same mindset, in terms of my future career aspirations, that I had when I
began at Analogic back in May. In terms of my academics, I plan to take more operations and management business classes to give myself a better understanding of the key concepts of the administrative side of business. I also plan to take HSSP classes more focused on healthcare management to tie the management knowledge and experiences back to healthcare. Although this plan has not changed during my internship, I feel that it helped to solidify my path at Brandeis and reinforced my academic trajectory. In terms of my professional trajectory, my internship opened my eyes to how broad and expansive the field of healthcare management truly is. However, my career goals and aspirations remain the same: to work in hospital administration and eventually run a hospital. I now plan to pursue an internship in such a field either during the school year or next summer in order to gain first-hand experience as a hospital administrator.

For any HSSP majors interested in this type of internship or this field, I would say both are very much learn-on-the-fly in nature. It will take some time to adjust to the work environment and the scope and intensity of the work you will be doing. For me this is exactly what made this internship and this field interesting to work in and, ultimately, I think that is the most vital part of any internship. Internships should be used and designed to teach students a wide scope of tasks and responsibilities within a given field, thereby giving them a clearer picture of what working in such an industry would be like, rather than having to simply log data all day.