My time at TOLMAR was one the most inspiring experiences of my educational journey. Each member of the Environmental Health and Safety team took on the role of mentoring me in their own way, and my benefit was substantial. The range of activities I performed was broad and I got a much more detailed understanding of so many different things that I have been learning in classes for the last few years. In addition to working with experienced Environmental Health and Safety professionals, I had the opportunity to collaborate with people in other fields as well. I spent time on projects involving hazardous waste, nonhazardous waste, construction production and maintenance safety, and more. There were a few projects I was a part of that were highlights of my time at TOLMAR.

First, I spent time throughout the entire summer with a team that was working on formulation and process development for a new drug. Because the process was continually changing the team needed a lot of monitoring to keep track of and assess their exposure to Methylene Chloride, a solvent used in the process. I planned, performed, recorded, and reported on all air monitoring for this team throughout the summer. I also created specific training for them on the chemical they were working with and performed job hazard assessments to help them stay as safe as possible.

Because TOLMAR is a growing company a few of the newer facilities are under construction. Over the summer I was lucky to be a part of this. I was allowed to walk the construction sites and observe everything that goes into ensuring the safety of those on site while also keeping on schedule. The most exciting part of this was the many crane picks we needed to put different units on the roof of the building. I got to learn about how a crane works, how permitting for the activity is put into place, and what each person on the team involved is responsible for. It opened my eyes to a whole new side of safety that I hadn’t experienced much of before.

Toward the end of the summer I collaborated on a guardrail project with one of TOLMAR’s engineers. I worked with him to make sure that the proposed design adhered to all OSHA standards. I believe some of my ideas for gates and ladders actually ended up getting incorporated into the final product.

Overall my time at TOLMAR was well spent and I feel so grateful that is where I found myself over the summer. It led me to a passion for safety that I didn’t know I had, and gave me some direction for where I want my career to lead me after graduation.