My internship with Boeing was an exciting, fulfilling, and learning experience. I was exposed to multiple disciplines in EHS including safety, industrial hygiene, ergonomics, and emergency preparedness. I was able to gain experience working in a number of different areas, which helped me decide which direction I would like to go in the future. At the beginning, I was given multiple projects that were to be completed by the time my internship was over. Being able to create a time management strategy was imperative to be successful.

I had two mentors for my internship, one focused in Industrial Hygiene and the other in Safety. Their input provided me with a good overview of what it is like to work in each field, and each gave me projects in their discipline. For my time here, I was stationed at one of Boeing’s distribution centers in SeaTac, Washington. Here they do a lot of rework for in-use Boeing aircraft. If there is a commercial Boeing plane in need of a part, AOG (Airplane on Ground) is announced over the intercom and designated employees have four hours to prepare and depart to go fix the problem. This includes any plane in service, so if a plane is stranded in Singapore, the employees must fly there at a moment’s notice to correct the issue.

I did a good amount of air, wipe, and noise sampling for IH at the Distribution Center. It is important to monitor here because the employees are exposed to a larger number of health and safety hazards. The hazards include dangerous primers and paints used on aircraft parts and being surrounded by machinery that can produce noise levels over the TWA threshold. I had to collaborate with employees to make sure I was monitoring during “worst case scenarios”. I also had to build good relationships with the floor managers because monitoring all three shifts at Boeing can be a challenge, and I needed their help to run the equipment during the late shifts (1\textsuperscript{st} shift – 6:00am-2:30pm, 2\textsuperscript{nd} shift – 2:30pm to 10:00pm, 3\textsuperscript{rd} shift – 10:00pm to 6:00am).

For safety, I focused on compliance with Boeing’s “Go for Zero,” regulations and helped validate audit protocols, job safety analyses, and hazardous communication information sheets. I got to work directly with my mentor and the senior managers during monthly safety walks. I was also able to serve as a part of the ergonomics team where I would go out on the floor and get first-hand exposure to incident investigations.

Despite all of projects I was given, my internship at Boeing was not all work. Boeing puts together a very good internship program which includes tours, classes, social events, and report outs. I had the opportunity to see a lot of things that are internal to Boeing including applied physics, structural dynamics,
and noise labs, the 737 moving line, and multiple production warehouses. I got up close and personal with all of the wide-body aircraft, including the newest 787 Dreamliners, in the largest building (by volume) on the planet. If anybody is taking a vacation to Seattle, this tour is open to the public and is well worth your time.

I would definitely recommend this opportunity to anyone who is willing to relocate to Washington for the summer. Boeing provides its interns with proper training, hands-on experience, and the feeling of working in the “real” world, with a lot of fun along the way.

Picture references: