



## Lawrence R. Birkner and Ruth K. McIntyre-Birkner Memorial Scholarship



1949 – 2004

1948 - 2004

The Lawrence R. Birkner and Ruth K. McIntyre-Birkner Memorial Scholarship was endowed in 2007 through donations from family, friends and colleagues.

All students meeting the AIHF general scholarship criteria are eligible for this scholarship. However, preference is given to students enrolled at University of California, Los Angeles.

### Introducing the Birkners

Lawrence (Larry) R. Birkner and Ruth McIntyre-Birkner,

considered by many to be the perfect couple, were well-known in the occupational health and safety community. Both were passionate educators who worked tirelessly to advance the field of industrial hygiene. Their shared commitment to the profession and life is evident through their many accomplishments.

Much of Larry's industrial hygiene and safety career was at ARCO, where he managed the corporate-wide industry hygiene and safety. Larry was a certified industrial hygienist and safety professional.

Ruth successfully built and managed adult learning departments for the University of Minnesota Medical School, St. Paul-Ramsey Hospital, the Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety, the University of Southern California and the University of California–Los Angeles. Later, Ruth started her own training business that evolved into the successful consulting firm, McIntyre Birkner & Associates, which was run by the couple.

Larry and Ruth met at an American Industrial Hygiene Foundation Fun Run and later married.

The overall impact the couple made to the profession is incalculable. A few tangible contributions include co-writing the White Book chapter, "Advancing and Evaluating Trends Influencing Occupational Hygiene." They also co-authored several articles on management systems, communication and business practices for the monthly publication, *Occupational Hazards* magazine, where Larry was a member of the magazine's editorial advisory board, and Ruth was a contributing editor.

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1 June 2007



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*(Continued)*

Larry served as president of the Academy of Industrial Hygiene, director on the board of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) and secretary of the American Industrial Hygiene Foundation (AIHF). Both Larry and Ruth were active in their AIHA local section, as they both served in the role of president of the Southern California section.

As well as being generous with their time and energy, the Birkners were financially generous. They honored Dr. Mort Lippman, a New York University (NYU) professor, by endowing a scholarship in his name through the AIHF. This act paid tribute to the professor for being an influential force in the careers of both Larry and his brother, Jeff Birkner.

Larry and Ruth were also very active members of the Sedona, Arizona community in which they lived. They were members of the Jewish Community of Sedona and the Verde Valley and played a large financial role in the completion of the community's new synagogue.

At the time of their untimely deaths, Larry was a candidate for AIHA vice president.

As a testament to the wonderful legacy Larry and Ruth left behind, each year, a number of scholarships and other symbols of excellence are awarded in their names across the country. This scholarship is one of those awards.

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