

NEHA brought its 73rd Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition to Atlanta, Georgia, this past June. What an event it was!

Judging by the high marks that were given by conference attendees on their evaluations, this AEC & Exhibition proved to be yet another stimulating and rich experience for the 1,000-plus people who attended it.

This year's conference was particularly noteworthy given the special relationship that NEHA enjoys with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In fact, one of the major reasons that NEHA brought its conference to Atlanta was so that NEHA could incorporate many CDC features into the event, including tours of CDC's campuses and visits with CDC officials. NEHA deeply thanks the CDC for its support and involvement.

NEHA will return to Atlanta later this year (in October) as a co-sponsor of the hugely important CDC NCEH/ATSDR National Public Health Conference. NEHA encourages its membership to seriously consider attending this event as well, as it will further enhance the continuing education experience that environmental health practitioners need to have. Highlights from this year's conference are summarized as follows.

Keynote Presentation

"Sustainability: A Crucial New Role in the Ever Evolving Practice of Environmental Health"

This year, NEHA was honored to have as its conference keynote speaker Dr. Howard Frumkin, MD, MPH, DrPH. Dr. Frumkin is the director of CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Dr. Frumkin gave a stirring keynote address that made a compelling case for why environmental health needs to be involved in issues related to global warming, sustainability, and the built environment.

Through the use of numerous examples, Dr. Frumkin explained how the design of our communities translates into various health consequences. He urged professionals in environmental health to tune into these issues and to become more involved in the facets of community design in their respective jurisdictions.

A particularly interesting side piece within his presentation dealt with the sensitive topic of risk communication. He pointed out that if environmental health professionals present-



ed their work with dire warnings and threats, it would be unlikely that many people would hear the message. Without sacrificing the point of the message, he implored professionals to be careful about how they present information. He emphasized that if we succeed in getting a person to hear us, we have a much better chance at implementing change than if our audiences tune us out.

The measure of a successful keynote tends to be the extent to which people use the keynote presentation as a reference point for conversations afterward. In this case, attendees were heard referring to Dr. Frumkin's speech for the remainder of the conference. Clearly, he had hit the mark with NEHA members. Now we'll see how many have returned home to stake out meaningful roles for environmental health in the sustainability, global warming, and built environment issue!

Association Business

At the AEC & Exhibition, important business meetings of all kinds take place. Two of the most important for NEHA are the board of directors meeting and the General Assembly. The summaries below present highlights from both of these meetings.

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The NEHA board of directors meets four times a year. One of these meetings is always held at the association's annual conference. Highlights from this year's board meeting include the following.

1. A special Certificate of Merit Award was authorized for Captain Craig Shepherd on the occasion of his retirement from active duty following a 30-year career in the Public Health Service.
2. The board engaged in a discussion with the executive director of the Association of Environmental Health Accredited Programs, Yalonda Sindé. She reported that enrollment in accredited environmental

health programs was increasing as was the population of minorities entering such programs.

3. NEHA Executive Director Nelson Fabian reported that NEHA was offering association management services to several related organizations. Though no contracts had yet been signed, he was hopeful that NEHA would have this opportunity to be of service in the near future.
4. The board authorized that staff look into NEHA sponsoring more excellence in environmental health awards. Interest was expressed in recognizing excellence for more of the special topics within environmental health (such as onsite wastewater, indoor air quality, and preparedness, for example). Currently, NEHA recognizes excellence in the topic areas of local food safety programs (through its participation in the Crumbine Award) and sustainability.
5. Fabian also reported that despite a slightly smaller conference attendance, NEHA was not liable for any hotel attrition charges.
6. Fabian also reported that several papers on presentations that were being made at the conference would be composed and offered (for a price) to professionals who were unable to attend the AEC.
7. Because of exceptionally low room rates, the board added Las Vegas to its list of candidate cities for the NEHA 2012 AEC & Exhibition (which already includes Denver, Austin, Sacramento, Reno, San Diego, and Anaheim).
8. The board recognized with special resolutions the following:
 - a. North Carolina Public Health Association (NCPHA) on the occasion of its 100th anniversary;
 - b. The Environmental Health section of NCPHA on the occasion of its 70th anniversary.



The presentation of colors by the 9th Airlift Wing Dobbins Base Honor Guard at the opening ceremony.



The Honorable Mayor Shirley Franklin welcomed everyone to Atlanta.



Dr. Howard Frumkin delivered a powerful keynote address.

9. The board affirmed its support of Senator Kennedy's Affordable Health Choices Act and urged that subsequent drafts of the proposed legislation include specific attention to environmental health as a key component of the extensive amount of prevention work that was called for.
10. The board began its review of a proposed NEHA position paper on third-party auditors.
11. The board also approved formalizing its recommendations for a project that involved defining environmental health competencies for rural health care providers.
12. The board agreed to create a new strategic thinking committee on the topic of food safety. This committee would guide much of NEHA's policy and position-taking work in this topic area.
13. The board adopted a series of criteria that would justify NEHA's participation in any co-branding arrangement with another entity.
14. The board also spent a considerable amount of time reviewing proposed new criteria for granting CE credit for the REHS/RS credential.
15. The board agreed to further study a new proposal that would enable NEHA to enter into relations with environmental health associations from other countries. The arrangement being proposed called for establishing international partner organizations.

General Assembly

At every AEC, NEHA makes the effort to offer an event where any member can show up to express opinions on any issue that could be of interest or concern to NEHA. The attendance of the entire board of directors and the executive director is mandatory. NEHA

wants its entire leadership to be aware of any concern that any member has.

This year, there were very few issues that were brought up for discussion. One issue that did arise, however, had to do with the length of the AEC. In the general discussion that followed, it was agreed that NEHA's conference design easily allows for a person to attend either three or four days. The concern had been that perhaps NEHA's AEC ran too long.

Other NEHA members stood to express appreciation for various NEHA programs.

In addition to listening to the views of the membership, the General Assembly allows for each second vice president candidate to share some of their thoughts and visions for the association with the membership. This year, both of NEHA's second vice president candidates (Alicia Enriquez and Michèle Samarya-Timm) took this opportunity to present well-thought-out visions of their platforms and ambitions for NEHA.

NEHA President Dick Pantages also gave a thorough state of the association summary of all that had happened during the previous year.

As this was not a particularly well-attended meeting, NEHA hopes that more conference attendees will take advantage of this opportunity to dialogue with the association's leadership in the future.

Conclusion

A thank-you goes to all of the 2009 AEC & Exhibition attendees—including speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers—for their dedication and commitment to the environmental and public health professions. We hope to see you next year at NEHA's AEC & Exhibition in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 6–9!

Grants, Partners, and Sponsors

Grants

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Partners

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- The Association of Pool and Spa Professionals
- Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association
- American Academy of Sanitarians

Sponsors

- Decade Software Company, LLC
- Garrison Enterprises
- Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
- NSF International
- MindLeaders
- HealthSpace
- Georgia State University

AWARDS & HONORS

Once again, NEHA kicked off its annual conference with its awards and honors ceremony. Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin opened the conference by giving a stirring conference welcome. The following awards and honors were bestowed at the ceremony.

Walter S. Mangold Award

Col. Anthony C. Aiken

NEHA's highest honor, the Walter S. Mangold Award—given for outstanding contributions to the advancement of the environmental health profession—was bestowed this year upon the very deserving Col. Anthony C. Aiken. Please see the accompanying story on page 46, which details Col. Aiken's contributions to the profession.

Certificates of Merit

Certificates of Merit are awarded to affiliate members who make exemplary contributions to the profession of environmental health. Each affiliate sets its own criteria for recognition, so recipients do not need to be NEHA members. For 2009, the following winners were announced.

- Alabama—*Stanford Miller*,
- Colorado—*Brian Scheffee*,
- Connecticut—*Vicky M. Carrier, PE, RS, MBA*,
- Georgia—*Dr. Harold Barnhart*,
- Florida—*Richard J. French Jr., RS*,
- Hawaii—*Jerry Haruno*,
- Illinois—*Wil Hayes, LEHP*,
- Kansas—*Jerry C. McNamar, MPH, RS*,
- Kentucky—*Mark Sears*,
- Massachusetts—*Jennifer Murphy, MPH*,
- Minnesota—*Henry S. Schreifels, REHS*,
- Mississippi—*Gene Paez, RS, MPH*,
- Missouri—*John N. McMullen*,
- National Capital Area—*Jessica Tapp*,
- Nebraska—*Leslie Theisen*,
- Nevada—*Carol Culbert*,
- New Jersey—*James Brownlee*,
- North Dakota—*Jim Heckman, RS*,
- Ohio—*Laura Kramer Kuns, RS*,
- Oklahoma—*Debbie C. Watts*,
- Saudi Arabia—*Brian F. Nelson*,
- South Carolina—*Mildred Lee Tanner*,
- Texas—*Tommy Wheeler, RS*,
- Uniformed Services—*LTC (ret.) Welford C. Roberts, PhD*,
- Virginia—*Jim English*,
- Washington—*Ned Therlen*,
- Wisconsin—*Chris Hinz, RS*,
- West Virginia—*Phillip R. Jones, and*
- Wyoming—*Becce Birdsley*.

A. Harry Bliss Editor's Award

Robert Harrington

Dr. A. Harry Bliss was editor of the *Journal* in 1969, the year this award was first presented. When he retired, the award was named after him to honor his 40 years of involvement in *Journal* production. NEHA often gives this annual award to outstanding writers and columnists, but the award may also go to individuals who, through other significant contributions made to the *Journal of Environmental Health*, advance the cause and interests of both the association and the profession.

This year, NEHA is delighted to announce that the 2009 recipient of the Harry Bliss Award is Robert E. (Bob) Harrington, director of the City of Casper—Natrona County Health Department in Wyoming. For years, Bob has been making behind-the-scenes contributions, serving not only as a peer reviewer, but also as an expert resource for *Journal* staff. In presenting him with this award, NEHA expresses its respect for and appreciation of his reliability, his counsel, and his passion for the profession.

Bob served for 12 years as vice president of Technical Services, Public Health and Safety, for the National Restaurant Association, and before that at Amtrak as manager of quality assurance for the western region. He has BS and MS degrees in zoology from Colorado State University, and he began his career as a sanitarian in the El Paso City—County Health Department in Colorado.

Staff writer Rebecca Berg said, "Bob is one of the first sources I turn to when researching an article. His comments are always frank and well thought out, presented with startling clarity, and reflective of an understanding of the issues that is both grounded in the real world and conceptually sophisticated." As NEHA President Dick Pantages said in presenting the award, "Through his peer review work, his willingness to be interviewed on and off the record, and his steady stream of always constructive input into the Denver office, he has given us the kind of deep insights that have enabled this association to better represent its members and to more successfully navigate our way into a very uncertain future."

NEHA/AAS Scholarship Awards

NEHA supports students in many ways. One way involves financial tuition support through a special scholarship program that

is cosponsored by NEHA and the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS). This year, NEHA scholarship committee chair and Past President James Balsamo presented the following scholarships on behalf of the scholarship committee:

- \$2,000 Graduate Scholarship to Jodi Sutter from the University of Iowa, who is majoring in occupational environmental health,
- \$1,000 Undergraduate Scholarship to Kofi Amoako from Texas Southern University, who is majoring in environmental health, and
- \$1,000 Undergraduate Scholarship to Rachel Jordan from Eastern Kentucky University, who is majoring in environmental health science.

Walter F. Snyder Award

Terry Gratton

NSF International and NEHA honored Terry Gratton with the 2009 Walter F. Snyder Award. The award is given in honor of NSF's cofounder and first executive director, and it recognizes outstanding contributions to public health and the environment. Please see the accompanying story on page 47, which details Dr. Gratton's contributions to the profession.

Sabbatical Exchange Award

Marcy A. Barnett, REHS, REA

NEHA offers a wide-ranging opportunity for professional growth and the exchange of valuable information on the international level through its longtime Sabbatical Exchange Program. The recipient of this award may go either to England, in cooperation with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, or to Canada, in cooperation with the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. Underwriters Laboratories (UL) currently sponsors the sabbatical.

The award jury this year decided that the sabbatical award should be given to Marcy A. Barnett, REHS, REA, emergency preparedness liaison for the California Department of Public Health, Center for Environmental Health. Marcy will be conducting her sabbatical in England and will be studying how emergency preparedness is organized and managed in that nation. She intends to incorporate lessons learned from this year's AEC & Exhibition into her emergency preparedness work in the U.S.



Past President Dick Pantages presented this year's awards.



Columbus Public Health was presented with the Samuel J. Crumblin Consumer Protection Award.



Dr. Dale Stephenson and CAPT Michael Herring pose with Student Research Presentation winners.

APSP Neil Lowry Award

Plano Health Department

This year, NEHA had the honor of hosting the presentation of the APSP Neil Lowry Award, an honor bestowed by the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals. It is an award that goes to a public health official or department to recognize their contributions to the healthy and safe use of recreational water. The \$5,000 award is given to support continuing educational, technical, and operational activities of public health officials. Geoff Brown, chair of APSP Recreational Water Quality Committee, presented this year's award to Plano Health Department in recognition of significant achievements of the department to equip its inspectors with improved pool testing tools, which greatly increased the accuracy of chlorine and pH measurements. As a result, the inspectors are now able to provide guidance to the operators with greater objectivity. Pool safety program lead health specialist Tom Vyles indicated the award stipend will be used to create Manufacturer Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) in Spanish to offset gaps in pool safety information that are not currently available.

Excellence in Sustainability Award

Hernando County School District

For its second year, this award, which reflects NEHA's commitment to the promotion and practice of sustainability, was presented to the Hernando County School District in Brooksville, Florida, for its outstanding efforts to make their school district more sustainable. NEHA Sustainability Committee Chair and Sustainability Technical Section

Chair Tom Gonzales and Gus Schaefer from the Corporate Social Responsibility branch of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) presented the award to Sean Arnold, director of maintenance for the Hernando County school board. UL generously sponsored a glass award and a \$500 honorarium.

Student Research Presentations

Every year, the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP) and CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) sponsor and financially support undergraduate and graduate student research presentations. Thanks to a generous donation from NCEH, nine students and their faculty mentors had the opportunity to present their research at the AEC & Exhibition.

Presenting the student research awards were Captain Michael Herring of the U.S. Public Health Service/CDC/NCEH and Dr. Dale Stephenson of Boise State University. Each student participant listed below received a \$500 award, a plaque, and a stipend of up to \$1,000 to cover travel and research expenses.

Evaluation of a Synthetic Estrogen as an Indicator of Human Fecal Contamination

Simon Roberts, Senior, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN

Faculty Mentor: Kurt Maier, PhD

Identification of Adult Female Container-Inhabiting Aedes Mosquitoes in La Crosse Virus Endemic Areas

Michael Singleton, Junior, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

Faculty Mentor: Brian Byrd, PhD, MSPH

Container-Inhabiting Aedes Mosquitoes on Western Carolina University's Campus

James Alan Goggins, Junior, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

Faculty Mentor: Brian D. Byrd, PhD, MSPH

Bed Bugs in the Human Environment: Behind the Nuisance

Lea Duffin, Junior, Boise State University, Boise, ID

Faculty and Internship Mentor: Dale Stephenson, PhD and Leslie Tenglesen, PhD

Graduate Presentations

Characterization of Bioaerosols and Bacterial Surface Contamination at a Large Washington Dairy Operation

Christina M. Rohlik, Graduate Student, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Faculty Mentor: Scott Meschke, PhD

Endotoxin Collection and Electrochemical Detection Method for Use in Bioaerosol Personal Sampling Device

Lauren Dunbar, Graduate Student, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Faculty Mentor: Scott Meschke, PhD

The poster presenters listed below received a plaque and a stipend of \$300 to cover travel expenses.

A Sangamon County, Illinois Case Study: Understanding the Relationship between Abandoned Coal Mine Sites and Radon Gas Densities

Ajay Myneni, Graduate Student, University of Illinois at Springfield, Springfield, IL

Faculty Mentor: Sharron La Follette, PhD

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AWARDS & HONORS



2009 Walter S. Mangold Award Recipient

Anthony C. Aiken

NEHA is proud to present the 2009 Walter S. Mangold Award, its highest honor, to Colonel Anthony C. Aiken (ret.), of the United States Army.

Aiken began his extensive career in the field of environmental health after acquiring a BS degree in biology and chemistry in 1972 and an MS degree in environmental sciences in 1974 from Tuskegee University. It was during this time, while serving as a member of the army Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC), that Aiken was recognized as a Distinguished Military Student for "displaying outstanding qualities of leadership, high moral character, noteworthy academic achievement, and exceptional aptitude for the military service."

Aiken was provided with vast experiences in both domestic and international environmental health issues. His career history with the military began in Fort McPherson, Georgia, where Aiken served as an industrial hygienist and environmental science officer. Aiken then spent four years in Frankfurt, Germany, where he administered an environmental health and sanitation program that included the supervision of enlisted preventive medicine technicians in support of a large hospital and associated garrison activities. He returned to Georgia in 1982 and served as an environmental science officer at Fort Benning. In 1986, Aiken served as the executive officer (second in command) of a multidisciplinary unit that provided preventive medicine services to U.S. forces and military units throughout the Republic of South Korea. He returned to Maryland in 1988, where he served as senior project officer of the U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency's Health Hazard Assessment Office. In this position, Aiken evaluated new and innovative medical systems and weapons technology to be used by U.S. military personnel worldwide.

As deputy of the technical support division of the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Material Agency, Aiken was directly responsible for the development and management of a \$26 million annual research and technology budget for army pollution prevention efforts. He then served as commander for the U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Activity-West in Aurora, Colorado, and was responsible for providing a variety of environmental and occupational health support to more than 200 organizations covering a 23-state region.

In 1995, Aiken was deployed to Zagreb, Croatia. During the seven-month deployment, he supported Operation Joint Endeavor as chief of the Medical and Veterinary Services. He returned to Aurora and served for two years as senior environmental science officer of the U.S. Army Garrison's Base Realignment and Closure Office. In 1998, Colonel Aiken successfully managed an environmental health and industrial hygiene program for a 10-state region while serving as senior

environmental science officer of the Walter Reed Health Care System in Washington, D.C. In recognition of his exceptional military service, the U.S. Army presented Colonel Aiken with many awards and honors, including the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal, and other awards of great prestige.

Colonel Aiken now serves as president and CEO of Aiken Global Group, LLC, a consulting firm that specializes in ensuring that its corporate, civic, and government clients are able to maintain hazard-free work environments, offer environmentally responsible products and services, and operate in compliance with local and national anti-pollution laws and regulations.

Aiken's service and support to NEHA have been both remarkable and long-standing. He is currently a member of the Past Presidents Affiliate, which followed his tenure as NEHA's president from 2000 to 2001. During his presidency, Aiken commissioned a committee of NEHA members to support an initiative from the Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. Environmental and Public Health Council (UL). This NEHA/UL committee successfully developed a methodology to establish standards to improve the overall quality of indoor air. He is also a past president of NEHA's Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association (USEHA) Affiliate; he served from 1992 to 1994.

Robert Blake, MPH, REHS, writes, "Colonel Aiken is a highly dynamic individual who motivates those he comes into contact with to do their very best."

Richard Collins, MSEH, RS/REHS, DAAS, CAPT, USPHS, writes, "Tony Aiken has had an exemplary career in environmental health thus far and he is not finished yet. He continues the practice of environmental health, while at the same time remains committed to giving back to the profession for which he maintains a passion."

Mary Vaeth, MD, writes, "Colonel Aiken is a consummate environmental health professional who has excelled in every project and has earned the respect and admiration of all with whom he has been associated."

Thus, it is a privilege and an honor for NEHA to present this award to Colonel Anthony C. Aiken, a man who exemplifies the philosophy, ethics, and dedication expressed through the life of the late Walter S. Mangold.



2009 Walter F. Snyder Award Recipient

Terrance B. Gratton

NSF International and NEHA recently announced that Terrance B. Gratton, DrPH, DAAS, RS, is the recipient of the 2009 Walter F. Snyder Award. Dr. Gratton was presented the award at NEHA's 73rd AEC & Exhibition in Atlanta.

This award, given in honor of NSF's cofounder and first executive director, is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of environment health. Dr. Gratton was recognized for his 40-year career within the San Antonio, Texas Metropolitan Health Department; the U.S. Public Health Service; and the University of North Texas School of Public Health.

"Dr. Gratton's contributions to the environmental health profession have left a lasting positive impact in areas such as education, training, and sanitation," said Kevan P. Lawlor, NSF president and CEO. "It is his outstanding leadership and dedication to environmental health that resonate with the principles of Walter F. Snyder, and what make him an ideal recipient of the 2009 Walter F. Snyder Award."

Early in his career, Dr. Gratton was employed as a sanitarian with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health Department (SAMHD), where he worked to improve and implement food establishment inspections in the lower-income areas of the city. He was then promoted to the engineering section of SAMHD, where his primary responsibility was the inspection of daycare facilities, institutions, and nursing homes. He later became the chief trainer of new sanitarians, where he taught food codes and San Antonio Metropolitan Health ordinances, improving the overall education and quality of sanitarians' work with environmental health issues. He joined the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service in 1977. During his career with the U.S. Public Health Service, Dr. Gratton spent 18 years with the Indian Health Service in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arizona, and five years with the Bureau of Prisons in Fort Worth, Texas.

Throughout his tenure with the Indian Health Service, Dr. Gratton's leadership and determination led him to organize and implement several environmental improvement projects that provided quality-of-life improvements to tribes in his jurisdiction. Dr. Gratton is also a

long-time member of Texas Environmental Health Association and a member of the Texas Sanitarian Advisory Committee.

"Dr. Gratton has long been involved in environmental health activities at the local, state, and national levels and always with great devotion to the people whose lives were being affected by poor environmental quality," said Nelson Fabian, NEHA executive director. "His dedication to IHS over the last 18 years improved the lives of thousands of families living on the reservations. It is because of contributions like this and his outstanding leadership that Dr. Gratton is receiving the 2009 Walter F. Snyder Award."

Many of Dr. Gratton's contributions to environmental health have been demonstrated through his dedication to education and research. After retiring from the U.S. Public Health Service in 2000, Dr. Gratton turned his attention to educating the next generation of public health service leaders. As a full-time faculty member in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of North Texas Health and Science Center School of Public Health, Dr. Gratton teaches the environmental health core courses for the Master of Public Health program and the environmental determinants core courses for the PhD program.

"Terry is a strong leader, a talented educator, and a role model for young sanitarians in Texas and across the U.S. Terry is generous with praise and never lacking for words of support," said Steve Claybrook, REHS, RS, past president of the Texas Environmental Health Association.

Dr. Gratton serves on several institutional and academic committees and is Chair of the Health Science Center Safety Committee. He is a founding member of the Alpha Sigma Chapter of Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society and has received the Public Health Student Association Award for outstanding contributions for service and events. He has also received an Outstanding Teaching Award from the University of North Texas School Of Public Health.

AWARDS & HONORS



Past President Affiliate CAPT Rick Collins presented this year's Past Presidents Award.



Sandra Long is all smiles as she accepts a Regional Vice Presidents Award.

George Nakamura proudly displays his David Calvin Wagner Award.



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Is Western Carolina University's New Smoking Policy Effective?

Annalise Lysen, Junior, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

Jessica Stevenson, Junior, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

Faculty Mentor: Tracy Zontek, PhD

Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award

Columbus, Ohio, Public Health

The Samuel J. Crumbine Award is a prestigious national award given annually to a local food protection agency that demonstrates excellence and continual improvement in a food protection program. The award is named in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine, a sanitarian, physician, and public health pioneer who was renowned for his innovative methods of improving public health protection. It is supported by the Conference for Food Protection in cooperation with American Academy of Sanitarians; the American Public Health Association; the Association of Food & Drug Officials; the Foodservice & Packaging Institute, Inc.; the International Association for Food Protection; the International Food Safety Council; the National Association of County and City Health Officials; NEHA; NSF; and UL.

As noted by one of the jury members, "Columbus Public Health described a visionary, innovative, collaborative and practical food safety system with multiple partnerships and strengths. The program has already received international, national and local recognition and is deserving of the prestigious Crumbine Award." The award winning submission can be found at www.fpi.org. Accepting the plaque was Keith Krinn, environmental health director of Columbus Public Health.

Past Presidents Award

Doug Clark and Gary Hague

Each year, the Past Presidents group, comprised of former NEHA presidents, recognizes a NEHA member for outstanding achievement. Past President Affiliate Captain Rick Collins and President Dick Pantages presented this year's award to Doug Clark from Nebraska and Gary Hague from Colorado.

Regional Vice Presidents Award

Regional Vice Presidents are elected officers who serve on the NEHA board. NEHA has divided the country into 10 regions. The NEHA members in each region elect these people to represent them. The following winners are deserving of recognition this year.

Region 1 – *Dave Riggs* from Oregon

Region 2 – *Alicia Enriquez* from California

Region 3 – *Roy Kroeger* from Wyoming

Region 4 – *Bette Packer* from Wisconsin

Region 5 – *Sandra Long* from Texas

Region 6 – *Jim Dingman* from Illinois

Region 7 – *Tom Ward* from North Carolina

Region 8 – *Bob Custard* from Virginia

Region 9 – *Ed Briggs* from Connecticut

Region 10 – *John Steward* from Georgia

Presidential Citations

A Presidential Citation is a special award given to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to NEHA during the president's term of office. President Dick Pantages presented presidential citations to Robert E. Casey, Joe E. Beck, Bob Custard, Tom Gonzales, Peter Wright, Roy Costa, Roy Kroeger, Brian Collins, Alicia Enriquez, Bob Vincent, and Mike Allred.

Davis Calvin Wagner Award

George Nakamura

The Davis Calvin Wagner Award represents the highest honor the American Academy of Sanitarians bestows upon a Diplomate.

2007 California Environmental Health Association President George M. Nakamura was awarded the prestigious Davis Calvin Wagner Award at the AEC & Exhibition in Atlanta. He was honored as the Academy's 2009 National Environmental Health Sanitarian of the year for outstanding professional commitment, outstanding leadership ability, dedication to the profession, and accomplishments in advancing environmental and public health programs over the past 42 years. George was cited for demonstration of professionalism, administrative and technical skills, and competence in applying such skills to raise the level of environmental health throughout the nation. The Wagner Award recognized his excellence in promoting and advancing food safety and public health protection by involvement as the chair or member of numerous organizations and groups including NEHA Food Safety Technical Section, Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response, NEHA Epi-Ready, Underwriters Laboratories Environmental and Public Health Council, NSF Joint Committee on Food Equipment Standards, National Automatic Merchandising Association Industry, and Public Health Advisory Council. George is a long-time resident of Sunnyvale, California, where he served as chair of the Planning Commission and is currently chair of the Solid Waste Independent Hearing Panel for the city of San Jose.

NETWORKING & SOCIAL EVENTS



The Atlanta Aquarium is the largest in the world, containing 8 million gallons of water! A special thanks to Underwriter Laboratories for sponsoring this event.



A whale of a good time! Relaxing at the UL event.



At your service – NEHA Staff. From left to right: Vanessa DeArman, Christl Tate, Denise Devotta, Christine Hollenbeck, and Heidi Shaw.



Nelson Fabian and guests enjoying their evening.



Watch your fingers! Attendees had a chance to play with sting-rays in an interactive tank.



Enjoying the scenery at the Atlanta Aquarium.

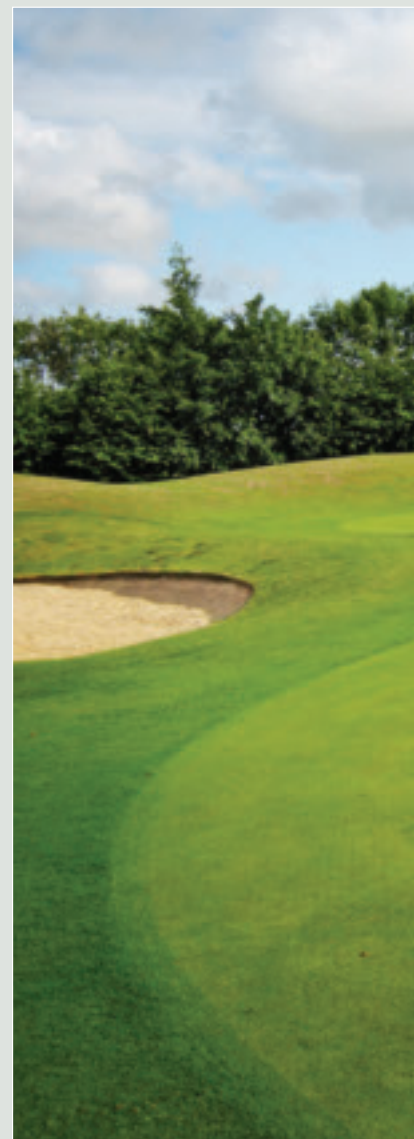


Special thanks to Steven Lipton (pictured) and Andy Timm for contributing this year's photos.

Golf Tournament Highlights

Congratulations to these environmental health golfing stars!

- **Winning team**
Kevin Williams, Chirag Bhatt, and Ben Bridwell
- **Longest drive:**
Doris Rittenmeyer, CP-FS
- **Closest to the pin contest:**
Webb Young

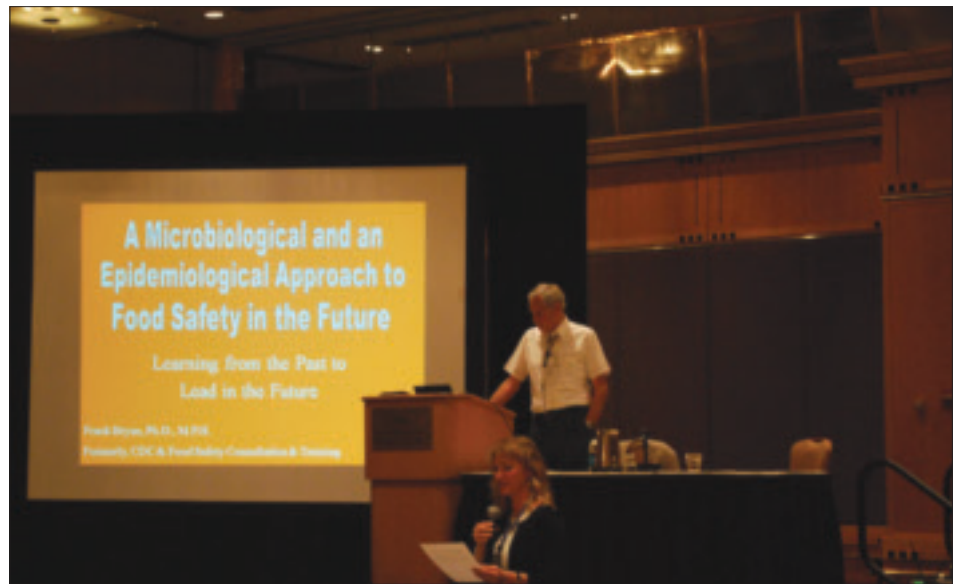


EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Over 200 educational sessions in two learning formats covering 23 areas of environmental health, five off-site educational tours, five preconference workshops, and three professional credentialing courses—all this occurred in less than a week. Where else is so much educational content on environmental health offered in such a short span of time? As one attendee stated, “Nowhere else will you get so much for so little. The wealth of knowledge exchange and the opportunity to savor new and renewed friendships are unparalleled. It was worth every penny in these very lean and trying times.”

In addition to the interactive Learning Laboratory sessions introduced last year, this year’s AEC & Exhibition included a suite of new features that attendees took full advantage of. In novel H1N1 Influenza Outbreak sessions, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) experts and professionals from health departments and private organizations explored the science behind H1N1, challenged policy issues involved with it, and shared with attendees strategies used to deal with the outbreak. Another first at this year’s conference was the Food Safety Summit, in which regulatory and industry representatives involved in food safety explored integrated approaches to the topic. The Food Safety Summit session room was standing room only for four hours straight, as attendees listened to and engaged with regulatory and industry professionals on salient issues such as exploring sustainability in food safety, global food safety, and collaboration between inspectors and retail operators.

Given the unprecedented changes in the economy this year, NEHA could not ignore providing education to attendees on how they can best get through and succeed during these hard times. The new Government Structure sessions addressed issues such as how to work with state legislators, how to manage unlimited demands with limited budgets, and where environmental health will be in the future. Also, given the current drive to ramp up one’s own set of skills to be less expendable in the workplace, NEHA specially developed and designated 25 sessions throughout the conference as “professional development” sessions, where, regardless of the attendee’s specialization, practical tools and knowledge could be learned and directly applied in the workplace. Examples of such professional



Dr. Frank Bryan’s session, “Microbiological & Epidemiological Approach for Food Safety,” was this year’s highest-attended educational session.

development sessions included alternative outreach methods and how environmental health professionals can effectively use social media tools in the workplace.

NEHA was honored to have extensive CDC involvement in this year’s conference educational program. In addition to the distinguished keynote speaker, Dr. Howard Frumkin, CDC provided several other experts to present on pertinent topics ranging from home-based environmental interventions in improving asthma morbidity to public health considerations for drought. To top it off, on the last day of the conference CDC opened its campuses to NEHA conference attendees. Three CDC tours were arranged free of charge, where attendees obtained a unique inside look into the workings and research of the world-renowned Emergency Operations Center; Geospatial, Metals, and Pesticides laboratories; and Public Odyssey Museum. Elizabeth York, CDC’s chief sustainability officer, also spent one-one-one time with four participants discussing her role in leading CDC’s sustainable business practices efforts. She explained how CDC plans to focus on the link between sustainability and health and to develop materials for use by health departments to implement sustainable practices within their own organizations and communities.

The Lecture Hall and Learning Laboratory sessions continued to be the backbone of the educational program at this year’s con-

ference. In the Lecture Hall sessions, attendance was very high where subject experts presented on topics such as Halal from the environmental health perspective, integrating homeland security target capabilities into environmental health programs, bed bugs and green buildings, and indoor air quality and health.

In the more interactive Learning Laboratory sessions, attendees packed the room at the sustainability sessions that explored both sides of the climate change debate and presented an inside look into what CDC is doing to prepare the nation for climate change. Examples of some other popular Learning Laboratory sessions included a mock deposition of a restaurant inspector, learning how to help raise the visibility of environmental public health by developing good educational materials, lessons from the field, and techniques for assessing and managing mold after a flood. One attendee commented that “In my experience, NEHA as an organization and as a provider of educational material and courses for the environmental professional is the most valuable resource available in the industry.”

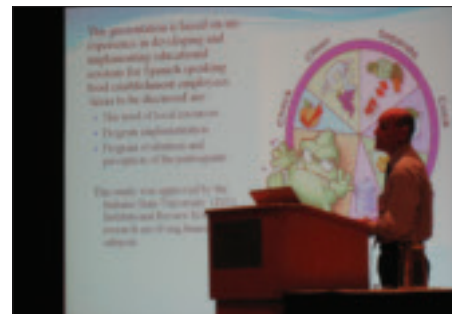
The five preconference workshops offered before and during the start of the conference covered timely topics such as better communication techniques for trainers, NSF Plan Review, guidance on moisture and mold for environmental health professionals and health practitioners, environmental



The highly-anticipated Food Safety Summit brought attendees hours of exciting discussion forums featuring a fusion of industry and regulatory agencies.



Attendees engage in educational sessions and absorb a wealth of useful materials.



On Sunday, Dr. Eliezer Bermúdez presented "Transcending Language Barriers to Food Safety: Practical Tools and Strategies for the Food Industry."

health training in emergency response, and the newly introduced Environmental Public Health Tracking! A solid array of NEHA credentialing courses and exams were also held, including Certified Professional of Food Safety (CP-FS), Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS), and the newly introduced Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) manager training.

Other organizations that NEHA was honored to have provide educational sessions at the conference included the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS), the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP), the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP), NSF International, State Onsite Regulators Association (SORA), and the Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association (USEHA).

NEHA's 74th AEC & Exhibition is June 6–9, 2010, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mark your calendars! As one attendee aptly put it, "If you're not in Albuquerque, you'll be a turkey."

Educational Topics

- ambient air quality,
- children's environmental health,
- drinking-water quality,
- emerging pathogens,
- environmental health leadership development,
- environmental health research,
- environmental health tracking and informatics,
- food safety and protection,
- general environmental health,
- H1N1 influenza,
- hazardous materials and toxic substances,
- indoor air quality,
- injury prevention/occupational health,

- institutions and schools environmental health,
- new government structure
- onsite wastewater systems,
- solid waste,
- sustainability,
- swimming pools/recreational waters,
- terrorism and all-hazards preparedness,
- uniformed services,
- vector control and zoonotic diseases, and
- water pollution.

NEHA's Technical Section Chairs

NEHA extends a special thank-you to the 2008–2009 technical section chairs, who were instrumental in the development of the educational sessions at the AEC & Exhibition:

- Air/Land—Terry Beebe, EHS;
- Children's Environmental Health—Don Herrington, RS, and M.L. Tanner, HHS;
- Drinking Water Quality/Water Pollution—Robert Vincent, RS, MPA;
- Emerging Pathogens/Vector Control and Zoonotic Diseases—Mike Lester, RS, MPA;
- Environmental Health Leadership Development—Ken Sharp, REHS;
- Environmental Health Research—R. Steven Konkel, PhD, AICP, FRIPH;
- Environmental Health Tracking and Informatics—Greg Kearney, MPH, DrPH, RS;
- Food Safety and Protection—Michèle Samarya-Timm, MA, REHS, CHES, DAAS, HO, and Steven Lipton, Med, LEHP, CP-FS, MSJS;
- General Environmental Health—Tracynda Davis, MPH, and Christopher Hinz, RS;
- Hazardous Materials and Toxic Substances—Priscilla Oliver, PhD, and Sheila Pressley, MS, REHS, DAAS;
- Injury Prevention/Occupational Health—CDR Donald B. Williams, REHS, MPH, DAAS;

- Institutions and Schools Environmental Health—Terrance B. Gratton, DrPH, DAAS, RS, and Milton Morris, REHS, DAAS, CP-FS, (ABD)PhD;
- Onsite Wastewater Systems—Craig Gilbertson, RS, and Brent Reagor, RS;
- Sustainability—Thomas R. Gonzales, MPH, REHS; and
- Terrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness—Mike Allred, PhD, and Martin Kalis, MA.

Not Able to Attend the 2009 AEC & Exhibition?

You have several options if you could not attend the conference and need continuing education. You can purchase the conference CD online at www.neha.org. The CD contains almost 50 presentations from the conference, plus session abstracts and attendee, speaker, and exhibitor lists. Also, several sessions presented at the conference were taped and can be accessed in the near future for free, online via the NEHA e-Learning site at www.neha.org. Continuing education credit can be earned for viewing both products.

2010

SAVE THE DATE!

NEHA AEC & EXHIBITION

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

JUNE 6–9, 2010

EXHIBITION

This year's conference focused on taking a revealing look at the environmental health profession, and on June 21st and 22nd, attendees took a revealing look at what exhibitors had to offer to enhance the practice of environmental health. Attendees responding to the conference survey shared their thoughts about the exhibition:

- *There were so many interesting ones (exhibits) because of the variation.*
- *The highlight of the conference for me was the Exhibition Grand Opening. It gave me a great chance to find and talk to specific exhibitors.*
- *I really enjoyed the exhibits. It is always interesting talking to the exhibitors and attendees.*

Monday, June 22, 2009, was proclaimed Environmental Health Day in the state of Georgia by Governor Sonny Perdue and fittingly coordinated with the second day of the NEHA conference. Krissa Jones, president of the Georgia Environmental Health Association (GEHA), was present when the governor signed the proclamation. Ms. Jones presented the proclamation to the large crowd of environmental health professionals in attendance at the exhibition. Appropriately, the crowd burst into applause at the recognition of the profession by the state of Georgia. The GEHA booth also proudly displayed the proclamation throughout the exhibition.

Movies and music provided the theme for this year's door prizes. Britt Menchhofer from the Van Wert County Health Department is all set to watch movies on the road, as she won a Toshiba Portable DVD player, a \$100 gift card to Best Buy, and movie-watching candy. Patty Eamich of Costco Wholesale is now armed to be a filmmaker, since she won a Panasonic video camera. Melissa Harrison, Macon County Public Health Center, gets to rock out with a new Squeezebox Boom sound system from Logitech. These amazing door prize drawings were again made possible due to the gracious donations of our door prize sponsors.

Silent Auction

This year's Silent Auction was truly a success! Seventy-five items made their way to the tables via mail or hand delivery by our very generous NEHA members, affiliates, exhibitors, and sponsors. The \$3,599.50 that was raised from this event will go to NEHA's speaker fund for the 2010 AEC.

- A sampling of this year's items includes:
- Tanzanite and diamond necklace;



Information gathering, connecting with vendor partners, and networking with peers are all activities taking place during the conference exhibition.



At the Garrison exhibit booth, attendees had plenty of opportunities to have some fun, too!

- Portable GPS auto navigation system;
- MP3 player;
- Wyoming Environmental Health Association t-shirt, "You Know You're a Health Inspector When...";
- Driver golf club and two Arnold Palmer Peerless Lob wedge golf clubs;
- Canadian Olympic coin;
- Several coffee table books: *200 Greatest Destinations; Lighthouses; Ship: The Epic Story of Maritime Adventure; Flight: 100 Years of Aviation; 500 Best-Ever Recipes: Chocolate; Hall of Fame Players: Cooperstown;*
- Texas Rangers jersey;
- Dallas Cowboys jersey;
- Indoor Air Quality gift basket with tons of resources: eight books, materials from U.S. EPA, pins, magnets, etc.;
- Coach pink/orange striped backpack purse with matching umbrella;
- Handcrafted pen made from wood that was taken from a World War II war ship;
- Hand washing contest kit gift bag;
- Leather wine carrier with two bottles of wine;
- Pottery snack set;
- Bamboo kitchen utensils;



Monday, June 22, was Environmental Health day in Georgia. Krissa Jones (left, pictured with Jill Cruickshank), President of the Georgia Environmental Health Association, shares the proclamation from the Governor of the state with conference attendees.



The official Uniformed Services coins and plaque.

- And last but not least, two plastic Portable Sanitation Association International Portopotty coin banks!!

Perhaps the most popular silent auction item was the Official Uniformed Services Coins and Plaque, handmade and mounted on a swivel-based walnut plaque, from the Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association. Built by CAPT Craig Shepherd, chief environmental health officer for the Public Health Service, the plaque contains the official coins for all seven Uniformed Services of the U.S. surrounding the new USEHA coin just recently developed by the organization (see photo above). Originally priced at \$150, this item ended up selling for \$800!

Eleven pieces of fashion jewelry were also donated by NEHA for the silent auction during a fundraiser at the office on May 1. NEHA received the 11 pieces free when staff purchased jewelry from a catalog as a fundraiser for the silent auction. The total amount received at the silent auction for the jewelry was \$287.

NEHA thanks the generous donors and attendees who helped to make this year's silent auction a success!

EXHIBITORS

Aero-Tech

Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce
www.ahcnm.org

American Academy of Sanitarians

Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs
www.aehap.org

Association of Food and Drug Officials
www.afdo.org

Association of Professional Piercers
www.safepiercing.org

Ayres Associates
www.ayresassociates.com

BeeSafe Systems, Inc.
www.beesafesystems.com

Bio-Microbics
www.biomicrobics.com

Bord na Mona
www.bnm-us.com

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

Center for Domestic Preparedness
<http://cdp.dhs.gov>

Center for Environmental Research & Technology, Inc.
<http://certi.us>

ChemWatch USA
www.chemwatchna.com

Chicopee: A PGI Company
www.chixproducts.com

Clearstream Wastewater
www.clearstreamsystems.com

Columbia Southern University
www.columbiasouthern.edu

Cooper-Atkins Corporation
www.cooper-atkins.com

CSA International
www.csa-international.org

Custom Data Processing, Inc. (CDP)
www.cdpehs.com

Decade Software
www.envisionconnect.com

e-Bridge Solutions
www.ebridge-solutions.com

Elements
www.healthspace.com/elements

Eljen Corporation
www.eljen.com

Environmental Health Testing
www.nrfsp.com

Environmental Public Health Trading Partners

FDA, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)
www.cfsan.fda.gov

FoodHandler
www.foodhandler.com

Forensic Analytical Laboratories
www.forensica.com

Garrison Enterprises
www.garrisonenterprises.com

Georgia Environmental Health Association

HealthSpace USA
www.healthspace.ca

Hoot Systems
www.hootsystems.com

Hybrivet Systems Inc.
www.leadcheck.com

Infiltrator Systems Inc.
www.infiltratorsystems.com

Intertek
www.intertek-etlsemko.com

Jet Inc.
www.jetincorp.com

Kairak
www.kairak.com

Lamotte Company
www.lamotte.com

MARS Air Doors
www.marsair.com

Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness
<http://practice.sph.umich.edu/micphp/index.php>

MindLeaders
www.mindleaders.com

NALBOH
www.nalboh.org

National Center for Healthy Housing
www.nchh.org

National Environmental Health Association
www.neha.org

National Environmental Services Center
<http://nesc.wvu.edu>

National Library of Medicine
<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov>

National Swimming Pool Foundation
www.nspf.org

NCEH/ATSDR
<http://www.cdc.gov/NCEH/>

New Water Solutions, Inc.
www.drainsafe.com

NSF
www.nsf.org

Orkin
www.orkincommercial.com

Palintest
www.palintestusa.com

Panasonic
www.panasonic.com/toughbook

Paster Training
www.pastertraining.com

Pest West Environmental
www.pestwest.com

Prometric
www.prometric.com

Same Day Distributing, Inc.
www.same-day.com

San Jamar
www.sanjamar.com

Schools of Public Health Application Service
www.asph.org

Shat-R-Shield, Inc.
www.shatshield.com

SneezeGuard Solutions, Inc.
www.sneeze-guard-solutions.com

Springer
www.springer.com

Stingl Products, LLC

The University of Findlay
<http://www.findlay.edu/default.htm>

Tundra Specialties
www.etundra.com

Underwriters Laboratories
www.ul.com

United States Public Health Service
www.usphs.gov

U.S. EPA
www.epa.gov

U.S. EPA Indoor Environments Division
www.epa.gov/IAQ

U.S. EPA Lead Program

U.S. EPA Memorandum of Understanding

U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management
www.epa.gov/owm/onsite

U.S. Navy Recruiting
www.navy.com

USDA Food Safety Inspection Service
www.fsis.gov

Vac-Alert
www.vac-alert.com

Vivid Learning Systems
www.learnatvivid.com

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To exhibit at the 2010 Albuquerque AEC & Exhibition, please contact Jill Cruickshank at 303.756.9090, ext. 342, or at jcruickshank@neha.org.