



**N**EHHA held its 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition in the environmentally aware location of Albuquerque, New Mexico, during the first week of June. Once more, the event was very successful, judging by the 93% of survey respondents who said it either met or exceeded their expectations!

As a matter of culture, NEHA constantly looks for ways to be innovative, competitive, and contemporary. NEHA also strives to make its conferences valuable for conference attendees. In just the past two years, the NEHA AEC & Exhibition implemented new and novel programs. One program has succeeded in substantially greening the conference. Another succeeded in transforming the educational program into a much more interactive experience.

This year, NEHA introduced two additional innovations to the AEC & Exhibition. First, the conference was built within ROI principles—thereby insuring that attendees truly received their money's worth in the education and tools that they took away to implement on the job. Second, the conference this year featured, for the first time ever, a virtual component—thereby enabling those who could not attend the conference in Albuquerque the opportunity to access the education and even networking that the conference offered.

Conference attendees often need to justify their time, travel, and expense to attend a conference. By incorporating ROI principles into the conference design, NEHA allowed attendees to do just that! Survey responses indicated that over 50% of attendees felt that the AEC & Exhibition justified the cost of their attendance, while 85% of survey respondents believed the conference was relevant to their jobs!

It should be noted that the virtual conference event remains available to anyone. It can be accessed through NEHA's Web site.

## Keynote

NEHA is very grateful that such a prominent individual as Dr. Christopher T. Jones, superintendent, Center for Domestic Preparedness, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, was able to step in and give the keynote presentation at the last minute. NEHA invited Administrator Lisa Jackson of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to deliver the conference keynote address, but developments associated with the response to the BP oil spill prevented her attendance. She did provide an inspiring message on video, which is available on the NEHA Web site. Dr. Jones provided a clear and visually impactful message on complicated issues of disaster response and terrorism. His presentation underscored the complexity of these issues along with the vital role that the environmental health community must play in these concerns.

## General Assembly

Attendance at the General Assembly meeting was the best ever. NEHA President Welford Roberts gave a report on the status of our association, which highlighted the impressive turnaround by NEHA in difficult economic times. In addition, two individuals submitted their nomination materials for Second Vice President for next year's election: Carolyn Harvey and Michèle Samarya-Timm. Managing Director Larry Marcum gave a presentation of the status of NEHA's grants and governmental affairs programs. The grants that NEHA receives are the largest ever in NEHA's history and our governmental affairs program is involved in more policy issues than ever.



*The Los Primos Trio provided authentic Latin and Mexican entertainment during the opening ceremony.*



*U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson provided an inspiring message to conference attendees.*



*Dr. Christopher T. Jones's keynote speech addressed the complex issues surrounding disaster response and terrorism.*



ACVB, MarbleStreetStudio.com

## Grants, Partners, & 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

#### Tier II

- Decade Software Company, LLC
- Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

#### Tier III

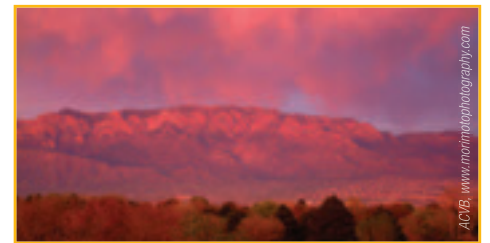
- FDA Food Defense Oversight Team
- MindLeaders
- NSF International
- Prometric
- SCA Tissue

#### Tier V

- Delta Ultraviolet
- ESRI
- Giant Microbes
- HealthSpace USA, Inc.

### Honorable Mention

- American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS)
- Center for Environmental Research and Technology Institute (CERTI)
- Whole Foods



## Catch the 2010 AEC & Exhibition ONLINE

**Missed the 2010 NEHA AEC & Exhibition?** Catch it online instead: access archives of over 30 educational sessions; download over 60 speaker presentations and other materials; view a list of attendees and network with them, plus speakers and exhibitors; and earn continuing education credits.

For information on how to access the virtual conference, visit [www.neha.org/2010aec/Registration/VirtualConferenceInformation.aspx](http://www.neha.org/2010aec/Registration/VirtualConferenceInformation.aspx).

*Note: in an effort to further "green" the NEHA AEC & Exhibition, a conference CD was not produced. The information typically provided on a CD is now available in the virtual conference.*



# AWARDS & HONORS



Nasandra Wright (pictured, center) shakes hands with President-Elect Keith Krinn (pictured with President Welford Roberts) after being awarded a graduate scholarship, cosponsored by NEHA and the American Academy of Sanitarians.



Dr. Welford C. Roberts (second from left) presents Presidential Citations to (left to right) Colonel Donald White, Ramsey Taweel, and Calvin Griner, as thanks for their support during his tenure as NEHA President. Dr. Roberts's responsibilities during this period required an extensive national and international travel schedule that was made possible by the cooperation of the U.S. Air Force and Planned Systems International.



Student Research Presentation winners proudly pose with their plaques.

## Walter S. Mangold Award

### Gary Coleman, RS, MSEH, DAAS

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 Mr. Gary Coleman. Please see the accompanying story on page 45, which details Mr. Coleman'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 2010, the following winners were announced:

- Alabama—*Timothy Hatch, MPA, REHS,*
- Colorado—*Jim Devore,*
- Florida—*Robert Kallote,*
- Georgia—*Rob Blake, MPS, REHS,*
- Illinois—*Kyle M. Clemens,*
- Iowa—*Pamela J. Mollenhauer,*
- Massachusetts—*Jared Orsini, MS,*
- Minnesota—*Debra Anderson, RS,*
- Nebraska—*Ryan King,*
- Nevada—*Mary Hahn,*
- North Dakota—*Keith Johnson,*
- Oklahoma—*Douglas Dear,*
- South Carolina—*Kim Crouse,*
- Tennessee—*Mark H. Houser,*
- Uniformed Services—*CAPT Michael E. Herring, REHS, MPH,*
- Virginia—*Dr. H. Anna C. Jeng,*
- Washington, DC—*Michael David Lawrence,*
- Wyoming—*Jennifer Escobedo.*

## A. Harry Bliss Editor's Award

### Peter D. Thornton, MPH, RS

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 2010 recipient of the Harry Bliss Award is Peter Thornton. Mr. Thornton has given untold hours to the *Journal* through his extremely detailed editorial evaluations, as well as the numerous times he has volunteered to help foreign and domestic authors improve their manuscripts. He has always been prompt in his evaluations and has volunteered his services numerous times even though he was working full-time as the environmental health director in Volusia County, Florida. He was also quick to respond to the call of duty and served as technical editor when the *JEH* department needed him.

The *Journal's* former technical editor, John Barry, who has worked closely with Mr. Thornton, said, "His insight and comments into ways to improve the *Journal* have been welcomed and have led to numerous changes for the better." He is truly an asset to the *Journal* department and to the profession as a whole. We are very fortunate to have him in our corner as we continue to navigate the *Journal of Environmental Health* through an ever-changing set of expectations.

## 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 Nasandra Wright from Florida International University, who is majoring in environmental health science, and
- \$1,000 undergraduate scholarship to Elizabeth Rink from Lake Superior State University, who is majoring in environmental health.

## Walter F. Snyder Award

### James J. Balsamo, Jr., MS, MPH, MHA, RS, CSP, DLAAS

NSF International and NEHA honored James Balsamo, Jr., with the 2010 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 Mr. Balsamo's contributions to the profession.



## 2010 Walter S. Mangold Award Recipient Gary Coleman, RS, MSEH, DAAS

NEHA is proud to present the 2010 Walter S. Mangold Award, its highest honor, to Gary Coleman, RS, MS, MSEH, DAAS.

Mr. Coleman has an impressive record spanning over 40 years in local, state, national, and international environmental health. A graduate of Pikeville College, he earned a master of science in community development from the University of Louisville in 1971 and a master of science in environmental health from East Tennessee State University in 1973. These degrees were earned while serving as senior county sanitarian at the Pike County (Kentucky) Health Department. During his tenure at the Pike County Health Department, Coleman partnered with the medical director and public health nurses to impact the health of the county residents through interventions to improve the sanitation of their environments, as well as provide preventive health treatment. As state food inspector for the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources (1973–1977), Coleman provided consultation to local health department programs and served as a state hearing officer. He also conducted FDA-state contract inspections of food processing establishments. He developed and implemented an orientation training course for retail food establishment inspectors, as well as an assessment and inspection program for distilleries, which became the model for state and federal use.

In 1976, Coleman returned to the Pike County Health Department as environmental health director where he served until his “retirement” in 1994. In this position, he administered a comprehensive array of environmental health programs. As an innovator, he advocated to the board of health and Pike County became the first rural county in Kentucky to mandate both manager certification and food handler training. Also, under his direction, Pike County was named a training site for onsite sewage system installers and operators and mandated certification of pool managers. His was the first jurisdiction to file criminal charges resulting in a restaurant owner’s arrest for failure to comply with a closure order.

Coleman’s dedication to the profession was felt across the state. He was a familiar face to state legislators, advocating for laws to improve the delivery of environmental health programs. He held many leadership positions, serving on the boards of the Kentucky Association of Milk, Food, and Environmental Sanitarians (KAMFES) and the Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA). He chaired the Kentucky Registered Sanitarian Examining Committee and the Kentucky Environmental Health Director Association. He was awarded Sanitarian of the Year by KAMFES and Environmentalist of the Year by KPHA.

Upon “retirement,” Coleman was employed by the University of Kentucky’s biosystems and agricultural engineering department as a cooperative extension associate from 1994 to 1998. As radon and indoor air quality coordinator for the university, he successfully collaborated with U.S. EPA, the Kentucky Department for Health Services, and NEHA to provide local radon and IAQ educational programs throughout Kentucky. During this time, he was also a private consultant, providing food safety training and HACCP consultations for restaurants, college food services, cruise ships, and riverboats.

Coleman’s reach has gone far beyond the mountain town where he began his career. He served a six-month assignment in Thailand with the

International Rescue Committee, where he was chief sanitarian in Thai refugee camps. While there, he developed a training program for volunteer Thai sanitarians and a food safety training for camp food service workers, designed crematoriums, drinking water, and waste water treatment systems, and provided epidemiological investigations. His interest in international service encouraged him to apply for the NEHA/IEHA/NSF Sabbatical Exchange Award, which he was awarded. He spent a month visiting England’s environmental health officers, researching their educational preparation and professional development. He also traveled to Ecuador with a military assessment team, providing disaster assessment and response training for the Ecuadorian officials.

Coleman’s service to NEHA has been quite remarkable. During his five years as an officer of the board, he delivered the NEHA message to over 20 state and regional associations and sister organizations, created more opportunities to interact with FDA, and brought more accord to NEHA’s relationship with students and academia. He served as president of NEHA in 1999–2000, during which he made a presentation to the Jamaican Institute at their annual conference to influence their affiliation with NEHA. Coleman is also a former Davis Calvin Wagner award recipient and currently is the chairman of the American Academy of Sanitarians.

Coleman’s interest in mentoring, training, and bringing students into the environmental health profession throughout his career is evidenced by the many Eastern Kentucky University students who served as interns while he was at the Pike County Health Department, and his willingness to present environmental health topics for classes at ECU, East Carolina University, and Western Carolina University. He recently became affiliated with North Carolina Central University, teaching an introductory environmental health class. He was also an active member of the Environmental Health Accreditation Council for six years.

Coleman joined Underwriter Laboratories, Inc., in 1998, where he serves as global manager of food safety services for the life and health sciences business unit in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. His specific role is to identify gaps and create solutions for unmet food safety needs of the food industry and health authorities. The scope of these services is global and includes providing technical support and liaison to health authorities, academia, and industry. He represents UL on a variety of national boards, committees, and task forces related to food safety.

Robert Powitz, MPH, PhD, RS, DLAAS, writes, “Gary stands as a worthy (award) recipient and his career path serves as a role model to young professionals in our industry.”

Dr. D.B. Barnett, RS, DAAS, writes, “When evaluated inward I found Gary Coleman to be an individual of kindness who holds concern for the betterment of his fellow workers and the profession in general.”

Admiral Webster Young, Jr., writes, “Gary has given exemplary quality and long service to environmental health in his work in the food industry and leadership positions, displaying a deep integrity and a vision for where we are headed in the profession.”

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

# AWARDS & HONORS

## Sabbatical Exchange Award



**Douglas Farquhar, JD**

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, Inc. (UL) currently sponsors the sabbatical.

The award jury this year decided that the sabbatical award should be given to Douglas Farquhar, JD, director of environmental health for the National Conference for State Legislators (NCSL). Doug will conduct his sabbatical in England and will study how the legal system in that country regarding environmental health issues differs from that in the United States. He intends to incorporate these insights into the work that he does for NCSL and even for advancing the environmental health profession with state legislators from around the nation.

## Excellence in Sustainability Award



**The City of Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

Though only in its third year, the Excellence in Sustainability Award, which reflects

NEHA's commitment to the promotion and practice of sustainability, is drawing an outstanding list of applicants from across the country. This year, the sustainability committee chose an exemplary program that "shows the way" for communities across the country.

The city of Sioux Falls received this year's award because its sustainability program succeeded in obtaining buy-in from multiple facets of the community. The mayor's Leading Green Initiative and the Public Works Sustainability Program, established in 2008, focused on four quality areas, including reducing energy consumption while improving air quality, managing land use, increasing recycling, and conserving water. Sioux Falls has shown dramatic results in all four areas and developed a framework for

progressing towards sustainability that is realistically replicable in other communities.

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) generously sponsored a glass award and a \$500 honorarium to the winners of this year's award.

## 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, five 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.

### MRSA Control Methods on University Campuses

*Jonathan K. Sloan*  
Undergraduate Student  
East Tennessee Kentucky University  
Richmond, KY

*Faculty Mentor: Sheila D. Pressley, MS, REHS*

### Hand Sanitizer Usage on Campus at Missouri Southern State University

*Kimberly Heidlage*  
Undergraduate Student  
Missouri Southern State University  
Joplin, MO

*Faculty Mentors: Mike Fletcher, PhD, and Mike Kennedy*

### Functionality Testing on Community Carbon Monoxide Detectors

*Katherine J. Stone*  
Undergraduate Student  
Ohio University  
Little Hocking, OH  
*Faculty Mentor: Timothy Ryan, PhD*

### Comparison of Life Cycle Energy Demand Between Mowing and Herbicide Application Along the Highway Right-of-Way

*Tarak Shrestha*  
Graduate Student  
The University of Findlay  
Findlay, OH  
*Faculty Mentor: Mary O'Reilly, PhD*

### The Use of Magnetic Purification in the Development of a Novel Detection Method for Infectious HEV-B Species in Environmental Samples

*Kelly Jones*  
Graduate Student  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA  
*Faculty Mentor: Scott Meschke, PhD*

## Past Presidents Award



**John Marcello**

Each year, the Past Presidents group, comprised of former NEHA presidents, recognizes a NEHA member for outstanding achievement.

The past presidents try to find a deserving person who does not normally receive much attention for their good work. This year, they decided to give this special award to John Marcello from FDA. John has had a long history of helping the causes of both environmental health and food safety.

## 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 Welford Roberts presented presidential citations to the following individuals:

- Martin Kalis, NCEH/CDC,
- Dr. Priscilla Oliver, U.S. EPA,
- Col. Tony Aiken, Aiken Global Group, LLC,
- Sarah Henry, NEHA staff,
- Calvin Griner, Planned Systems International,
- Taweel Ramsey, Planned Systems International, and
- Col. Donald J. White, United States Air Force.



## 2010 Walter F. Snyder Award Recipient

**James J. Balsamo, Jr., MS, MPH, MHA, RS, CSP, DLAAS**

NSF International and NEHA presented the prestigious Walter F. Snyder Award to James J. Balsamo, Jr., at NEHA's 74th Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition in Albuquerque. This award, given in honor of NSF International's co-founder and first executive director Walter F. Snyder, is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of environmental health.

Mr. Balsamo was honored for over 40 years of environmental health service to the city of New Orleans Health Department (NOHD) and Tulane University. During that time, Balsamo filled the role of teacher, mentor, scientist, and leader in environmental health. While working as a sanitarian for NOHD, Balsamo established the first comprehensive institutional environmental health program. He also served as senior medical corpsman with the U.S. Army Reserves at a commercial plasma center, helping to oversee the donor centers' procedures.

As the assistant environmental health and safety officer at Tulane University, Balsamo

organized the first hospital environmental health and safety program at Tulane University Hospital. He also served as the first chair of the hospital safety committee and was later appointed to his current position as director of the Tulane University office of environmental health and safety. In his 30 years as director, he has effectively expanded programs to address federal, state, and local environmental health mandates. After the September 11th attacks and the subsequent anthrax mail incidents, Balsamo trained the Tulane University mail center staff on precautionary measures. In 2004–2005, he assisted with the clean-up efforts needed to restore operation to the hurricane-ravaged areas of Louisiana.

Balsamo participated in several training cycles for the Peace Corps, teaching the volunteers basic sanitation and preparing them for their new tasks in underdeveloped countries. He also served eight years on the NSF Council of Public Health Consultants (CPHC), an advisory group that oversees and provides public health ratification of NSF International public health standards.

Kevan P. Lawlor, NSF International president and CEO, said, "Jim Balsamo has ca-

reer achievements that mirror the principles of Walter F. Snyder and the public health mission of NSF International. His encouragement to young environmental professionals, his Tulane University staff, his longtime chairmanship of the NEHA scholarship committee, and his dedication to the CPHC demonstrate his exceptional commitment to promoting environmental health at all levels. These accomplishments make him a very worthy recipient of the Walter F. Snyder Award."

Balsamo also served as NEHA's technical chair for the institutions and schools section, encouraging students and young professionals to learn more about the field of environmental health. He was NEHA president in 2004–2005.

"Over all the years I have known Jim, his passion for environmental health has been unequalled," said NEHA Executive Director Nelson Fabian. "It is appropriate we present the 2010 Walter F. Snyder Award to James J. Balsamo, Jr., a longtime NEHA member and past president."

## FDA Scholarship Recipients

NEHA received funding from FDA to provide 35 full conference registration scholarships and seven student scholarships to attend the 2010 AEC & Exhibition. A special thanks to FDA and congratulations to the scholarship recipients listed below. For more information on this program, please contact Vanessa DeArman at 303-756-9090, ext. 311, or at [vdearman@neha.org](mailto:vdearman@neha.org).

Melissa J. Adams	Jonathan E. Catlin	Christine Hughes	Heather Maio	Hal W. Senke
Theresa M. Alling	John Peter Conricode	Jennifer A. Ickes	Tina L. Mauk	Jonathan Slone
Kofi O. Amoako	Solon "Jay" Cousins	Sheryll James	Matthew Maurer	Susan Spring
Olivia Andrade de Sanchez	Lori Devlin	Jeffrey L. Jones	Nikitas Meleounis	Lorie Stoller
Joe F. Anguiano	Kavita Thiruvengadam	Cathy Kekeocha	Bryan A. Montoya	Jeremy Stutler
David Armatiss	Dorai	Amy Kennedy	Maureen O'Dea	Sara Vining Cardozo
Richie Bast	Stephanie Fletcher	Deborah A. Ketchen	Armando Paz	Diana Wilson
Elizabeth A. Bugden	Michele Girard	Jia Li	Erin Riebe	Karlynn Wilson
	Douglas J. Hamernik	Mary Sue Liss	Rachel Robinson	

## Decade Scholarship Winners

As part of an initiative to give back to the environmental health community and to broaden the reach of NEHA's AEC & Exhibition during a time of shrinking budgets, Decade Software Company offered scholarships to 15 deserving recipients. After diligent evaluation of the essay submissions by the selection committee, President Welford Roberts, President-elect Keith Krinn, and Decade's sales and marketing team, the following recipients were notified of their \$700 scholarship award, which included conference registration fees and contribution to travel and per diem costs:

Michael Broussard	Jeremy Eschliman	Andrea Jordan	Marc Marquis	Chad Weston
Amanda Cole	Sherleen Espinosa	Rebecca Kimpflein	Carey Panier	Christina Wilson
Allison Dietze	Adam Harris	Patrick Maloney	Robert Rivoli	Nasandra Wright

# EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The educational lineup at this year's conference was exceptional both in terms of quantity and quality. Quantity-wise, 149 educational sessions covering 24 different areas of environmental health, four credential courses and exams, five preconference workshops, and two off-site field trips were offered. Quality-wise, cutting-edge infrastructure including a virtual conference incorporating return on investment (ROI) principles and new educational tracks were integrated into the overall structure of the conference. With so much information packed into less than one week, as one attendee stated, "The NEHA conference expands your vision for EH field and community involvement. I love attending as I am never the same person afterwards."

For the first time, NEHA's 2010 AEC & Exhibition implemented ROI principles into conference education and structure. ROI principles work to ensure that attendees can return to their workplaces with the ability to more than pay for their trip to the conference by using what they learned at the event. NEHA's AEC & Exhibition planning committee and section chairs from three educational tracks (Food Safety and Protection, Sustainability, and Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness) identified objectives that the 2010 AEC & Exhibition aimed to meet. Examples of these objectives included providing education that was relevant to attendees' jobs and ensuring attendees met at least five new contacts in environmental health to call for professional suggestions and/or sharing of best practices. For a complete listing of all the ROI objectives the 2010 AEC & Exhibition was designed to meet, please visit [www.neha.org/2010aec/ROI.aspx](http://www.neha.org/2010aec/ROI.aspx). NEHA has followed up with 2010 AEC & Exhibition attendees since the conference to evaluate how well the ROI objectives have been achieved.

In order to showcase the specialist expertise of the unique part of the country where the AEC & Exhibition took place and address breaking developments relevant to the field, three new tracks were showcased this year. The Indian Health Service (IHS) track highlighted the history, challenges, and innovative solutions the IHS has developed while carrying out its mission to safeguard all aspects of the health of the country's American Indians and Alaska Natives. The H1N1 Response Case Studies track presented sessions that illustrated valuable lessons environmental health professionals have learned within the past year about which approaches to the pandemic worked and which didn't. NEHA was also hon-



Lecture Hall presentations, particularly those on the nation's food safety system, bed bugs, and drinking water quality, drew large numbers of attendees.

ored to have Dr. Toby Merlin present on the lessons the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) learned, responding as a nation, to H1N1. Dr. Merlin is deputy director of the influenza coordination unit, which oversees and coordinates domestic and international influenza preparedness activities at CDC. The Earthquake Response track gave attendees invaluable insight into emergency response measures taken by CDC, nongovernmental organizations, and other agencies in the wake of the devastating loss of human life and services experienced in Haiti shortly after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit in January 2010.

Lecture Hall and the more interactive Learning Laboratory sessions constituted the main structure of educational activities at the conference. Outstanding speakers from a vast array of disciplines in environmental health presented on pertinent emerging topics. In the Lecture Hall sessions, presentations on the nation's food safety system, bed bugs, and drinking water quality drew large numbers of attendees. Likewise, explorations of the influence of soil type on wastewater treatment, the role of sustainability in the environmental health field, and healthy homes issues also proved popular. Using roundtable discussion and hands-on activities, attendees gained communication skills on gaining compliance "in the first 90s" and responding to the media and public during an emergency from the Learning Laboratory sessions. Other Learning Laboratory favorites included environmental assessment of foodborne illness outbreaks and building a social media strategy. One attendee commented that "the Learning Labs are very beneficial versus the regular lectures. They offer a learning format that is very interactive and is a format that helps me learn and remember the materials being presented."

Other organizations that worked synergistically with NEHA to produce stellar educational content for the conference include the



Several conference attendees had the opportunity to tour the water treatment facility in Albuquerque.

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).

The four preconference workshops equipped attendees with valuable training in guidance on moisture and mold issues, NSF plan review, how to become a certified pool operator, and foodborne illness response strategies. Some of NEHA's well-reputed credentialing courses and exams, including Certified Professional of Food Safety (CP-FS) and Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS), were also offered.

NEHA's 75th AEC & Exhibition is June 18–20, 2011, in Columbus, Ohio. One attendee mentioned, "I learned more about being an environmental health specialist in three days than I did in my entire first year as an MPH (master of public health) student," so be sure to save the dates!

## Educational Topics

- Air quality,
- children's environmental health,
- drinking water quality,
- earthquake response,
- emerging pathogens,
- emerging environmental health leadership challenges,
- environmental health leadership development,
- environmental health research,
- environmental health tracking and informatics,
- food safety and protection,
- general environmental health,
- H1N1 influenza,
- healthy homes,
- hazardous materials and toxic substances,
- injury prevention/occupational health,

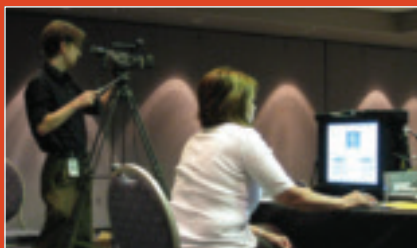
- institutions and schools environmental health,
- onsite wastewater systems,
- solid waste,
- sustainability,
- swimming pools/recreational waters,
- terrorism and all-hazards preparedness,
- uniformed services,
- vector control and zoonotic diseases, and
- water pollution.

## NEHA's Technical Section Chairs

NEHA extends a special thank-you to the 2009–2010 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;
- Drinking Water Quality/Water Pollution—Robert Vincent, RS, MPA;
- Emerging Pathogens/Vector Control and Zoonotic Diseases—Zia Siddiqi, PhD, BCE, and Timothy McGonegal, MS;
- Environmental Health Leadership Development—Thomas Crow, RS, MSEH, and COL Wendell Moore, MS, RS/REHS, DAAS;
- Environmental Health Research—R. Steven Konkol, PhD, AICP, FRIPH;
- Environmental Health Tracking and Informatics—Greg Kearney, RS, MPH, DrPH;
- 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 A. Hinz, BS, RS;
- Hazardous Materials and Toxic Substances—Priscilla Oliver, PhD, and Sheila D. Pressley, MS, REHS, DAAS;
- Injury Prevention/Occupational Health—CDR Donald B. Williams, REHS, MPH, DAAS;
- Institutions and Schools Environmental Health—Milton Morris, REHS, DAAS, CP-FS, PhD;
- Onsite Wastewater Systems—Craig Gilbertson, RS, and Brent L. Reagor, RS;
- Sustainability—Thomas R. Gonzales, MPH, REHS, and Mark McMillan, MS; and
- Terrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness—Mike Allred, PhD, and Lois Maisel, RN, EHS, CP-FS.

## NEHA Introduces a *Virtual Conference*



*And...action! Cameras rolled to produce NEHA's first ever virtual conference.*



*Conference attendees also had access to the virtual conference from Albuquerque.*

**For the first time ever, NEHA brought the AEC & Exhibition online (<https://neha2010aec.zerista.com>)! Given advances in technology and acknowledgement of the restrictions on travel for environmental health professionals, NEHA produced a virtual conference to compliment the one held in person in Albuquerque.**

For those who could not attend the AEC & Exhibition in Albuquerque, the virtual conference was the next best thing. While the in-person conference was taking place, over 30 sessions were recorded and streamed live to those attending the conference online. These sessions were carefully selected to ensure they captured the most relevant and burgeoning topics in environmental health. Examples of some streamed sessions include “Using Building Codes to Promote Healthy Housing”; “Sustainability, Climate Change, and Public Health Impacts”; and “Increasing Food Safety with Decreasing Resources.” Virtual attendees were able to participate in sessions almost as if they were actually sitting in the rooms! By simply using a chat feature, virtual attendees were able to pose questions to the speakers and live audiences without even leaving their office or home! Additionally, virtual attendees were able to connect with all conference attendees, speakers, and exhibitors through networking tools available on the virtual conference platform.

Those who attended the conference in Albuquerque also had access to the virtual conference. The virtual conference was included free of charge as an additional benefit of registering to attend in person, and it allowed these attendees to start their conference before arriving in

Albuquerque! In-person attendees were able to build a personalized schedule of sessions and events they wanted to attend; set in-person meetings; and network online with other attendees, speakers, and exhibitors!

By launching the virtual conference, the 2010 AEC & Exhibition also continues to live on! In essence, the conference hasn't ended because all attendees can still continue learning and networking with speakers, exhibitors, and each other! The online version of the AEC & Exhibition has the following features:

- archives of the over 30 educational sessions that were recorded live (continuing education credits can be earned for viewing these presentations);
- downloadable speaker presentations and other materials;
- networking tools for attendees, speakers, and exhibitors to continue interacting and discussing environmental health topics; and
- photos of activities and events that took place at the in-person conference.

If you have yet to take part in the 2010 AEC & Exhibition, the great news is that you still can! Simply visit [www.neha.org/2010aec/Registration/VirtualConferenceInformation.aspx](http://www.neha.org/2010aec/Registration/VirtualConferenceInformation.aspx) to register for access to this content.



# EXHIBITION

Armed with tools to help environmental health professionals do their jobs, over 80 exhibitors were present at this year's exhibition featuring their programs, products, and services. The exhibit hall was a flurry of activity as attendees explored the exhibit booths, participated in the silent auction, listened to poster presentations, and enjoyed yummy food and beverages. Attendees have indicated in the postconference survey that they enjoyed viewing the products on display and discussing with vendors their specific needs and problems in an effort to find an immediate solution.

This year NEHA again partnered with the State Onsite Regulators Alliance to deliver educational content on the wastewater industry. One aisle in the exhibit hall was dubbed the "Onsite/Decentralized Wastewater Alley" where industry representatives featured their products and services and were able to connect with wastewater regulators.

With much anticipation, attendees gathered around the NEHA booth in the exhibit hall to see if they were to be the recipients of this year's fantastic door prizes: a Wii™ and \$50 Best Buy gift card, a Sony® Reader Digital Book and carrying case, and an iPod Touch. Congratulations to Rachael Lewis, Rob Carper, and Chris Card, the lucky winners of these door prizes, and thanks again to our eight gracious door prize sponsors that contributed the funds to make it all possible!

## Silent Auction

This year's Silent Auction was another success! Seventy-four items made their way to the tables via mail or hand delivery by our very generous NEHA members, affiliates, exhibitors, and sponsors. The \$3,316.00 that was raised from this event will go to NEHA's speaker fund for the 2011 AEC & Exhibition.

A sampling of this year's items includes:

- 2 GPS auto navigation systems
- Stuffed microbes—Salmonella, *E. coli*, and "Stomach Ache" (*Shigella dysenteriae*)
- New Mexico Piñon coffee
- Sterling silver necklaces
- Framed original drawing of an Islamic flower
- Swarovski crystalline pen
- Nintendo Wii and sports game
- "Don't Eat Poop" t-shirt



*Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. and Decade Software Company, LLC helped to sponsor and exhibited at this year's AEC & Exhibition.*



*Attendees had the opportunity to browse more than 80 exhibits and poster presentations this year.*



*This year's most popular Silent Auction item.*

- U.S. Open Pebble Beach golf set
- Mt. Saint Helen's commemorative anniversary emerald-like necklace and earrings (made from ash)
- U.S. flag flown over U.S. Capitol building
- Weaved turquoise leather Concho belt
- Hand-carved wooden statue of Saint Francis
- Realrawmilkfacts.com t-shirt
- HACCP kit
- Gift cards for Olive Garden, Chili's, Cabela's, and the Heart of Iowa Market Place (online store)
- Gift baskets from Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Kansas, and Oklahoma
- Bottles of wine from Colorado, Illinois, and Texas

Perhaps the most popular silent auction item was the United Kingdom police helmet and Union Jack "Where There is Tea There is Hope" cushion from Peter Wright, NEHA member and Chartered Institute of Environmental Health member. The UK police hel-

met cannot be purchased at any store and caught the attention of everyone who walked by. The winning bid for the set was \$75. What a deal! (See photo above).

Several items for the silent auction were donated by NEHA including four NEHA mugs, two NEHA shirts, two NEHA flash drives, and a 2011 AEC & Exhibition registration and hotel package. In addition, 16 pieces of fashion jewelry were donated by NEHA during another silent auction fundraiser at the office on April 16. NEHA received several free pieces when staff purchased jewelry from a catalog, and as a bonus, NEHA's board of directors contributed to the orders as well as donated money to purchase additional jewelry. Thanks again to NEHA's board! The total amount received for the jewelry was \$472.

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

# EXHIBITORS

**Advanced Instruments**  
www.aicompanies.com

**Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry**  
www.atsdr.cdc.gov

**American Academy of Sanitarians**  
www.sanitarians.org

**American Public Health Association**  
apha.org

**Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs**  
www.aehap.org

**Association of Professional Piercers**  
www.safepiercing.org

**BeeSafe Systems**  
www.beesafesystems.com

**Big Fish Environmental, LLC**  
www.bigfishenvironmental.com

**Bio-Microbics**  
www.biomicrobics.com

**Blue Hills AV Production**  
www.bluehillsavproduction.com

**Bord na Mona**  
www.bnm-us.com

**CDC Environmental Public Health Tracking**  
www.cdc.gov/ephracking

**CDC Radiation Studies Branch**  
www.cdc.gov

**CDP, Inc.**  
www.cdpehs.com

**CFSAN Food Defense Oversight Team**  
www.fda.gov/fooddefense

**Consolidated Treatment Systems**  
www.consolidatedtreatmentsystems.com

**Cooper-Atkins Corporation**  
www.cooper-atkins.com

**Cromaglass Corporation**  
www.cromaglass.com

**Decade Software Company, LLC**  
www.decadesoftware.com

**DEL OZONE**  
www.delozone.com

**Delta Environmental**

**Delta Ultraviolet**  
www.deltauv.com

**Deltatrack, Inc.**  
www.deltatrack.com

**Elements**  
www.elementshealthspace.com

**Eliminite**  
www.eliminite.com

**Eljen Corporation**  
www.eljen.com

**Environmental Health Testing**  
www.nrfsp.com

**ESRI**  
www.esri.com

**FDA/Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition**

**Food Safety News**  
www.foodsafetynews.com

**FoodHandler**  
www.foodhandler.com

**Forensic Analytical Laboratories, Inc.**  
www.forensica.com

**Fridge Freeze**  
www.fridgefreeze.com

**F.R. Mahony & Associates, Inc.**  
www.frmahony.com

**Garrison Enterprises**  
www.garrisonenterprises.com

**Glo Germ Company**  
www.glogerm.com

**HealthSpace**  
www.healthspace.com

**HUD Office of Health Homes and Lead Hazard Control**  
www.hud.gov

**Input Systems, Inc.**  
www.sweepsoftware.com

**International Food Protection Training Institute**  
www.ifpti.org

**Intertek**  
www.intertek.com

**Jet Inc.**  
www.jetincorp.com

**LaMotte Company**  
www.lamotte.com

**Mars Air Systems**  
www.marsair.com

**Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness**  
www.mipreparedness.org

**MindLeaders**  
www.mindleaders.com

**NALBOH**  
www.nalboh.org

**National Environmental Services Center**  
http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/

**National Library of Medicine**  
sis.nlm.nih.gov

**National Restaurant Association**  
www.restaurant.org

**National Swimming Pool Foundation**  
www.nspf.org

**NCEH/ATSDR**  
www.cdc.gov

**NSF**  
www.nsf.org

**Orkin Commercial Services**  
www.orkincommercial.com

**Ozark River Hygienic Hand-Wash Station**  
www.ozarkriver.com

**Palintest**  
www.palintest.com

**Paster Training, Inc.**  
www.pastertraining.com

**Percolation Technologies, Inc.**  
www.percolationtechnologies.com

**PestWest Environmental**  
www.pestwest.com

**Polylok**  
www.polylok.com

**Presby Environmental, Inc.**  
www.presbyenvironmental.com

**Prometric**  
www.prometric.com

**RMSYS, Inc.**

**Salcor**

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

**San Jamar**  
www.sanjamar.com

**Sani Sink**  
www.sanisink.com

**SCA Tissue**  
www.torkusa.com

**Schools of Public Health**  
www.asph.org

**StateFoodSafety.com**  
www.statefoodsafety.com

**Sure Aqua Corporation**  
www.aquasafestraw.com

**The Beef Checkoff**

**The University of Findlay**  
www.findlay.edu

**TrackAssist—Online**  
www.yaharasoftware.com

**Tundra Specialties**  
www.etundra.com

**Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.**  
www.ul.com

**United States Public Health Service**  
www.usphs.gov

**USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)**  
www.fsis.usda.gov

**U.S. EPA Indoor Environments Division**  
www.epa.gov/iaq

**U.S. EPA Lead Paint Program**  
epa.gov/getleadsafe

**U.S. EPA MOU**

**U.S. EPA Office of Children's Health Protection**  
www.cdc.gov

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

**U.S. Navy Recruiting Command**  
www.navy.com

**Water Systems Council**  
www.watersystemscouncil.org

**NEHA's 75<sup>th</sup>  
AEC & Exhibition**

## Get Your Company in Front of Environmental Health Professionals

Exhibit, sponsor, and/or advertise your company at the 2011 NEHA AEC & Exhibition. To get your company in front of environmental health professionals, contact Rosie Shahlari at 303-756-9090, ext. 340 or at rshahlari@neha.org.

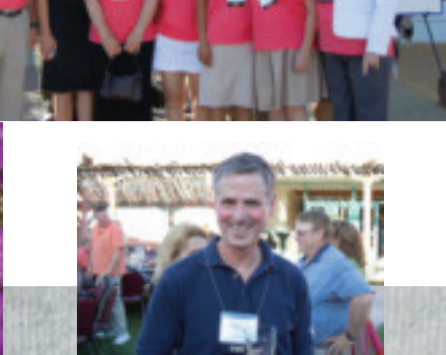
# NETWORKING & SOCIAL EVENTS



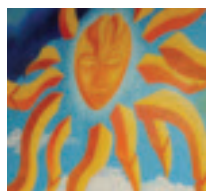
*President's Banquet: Keith Krinn assumes the Board of Directors' leadership role of President from Dr. Welford Roberts.*



*Attendees at the 74th AEC & Exhibition had ample networking opportunities — from the opening ice breaker to the networking luncheon to the President's Banquet.*



The UL Event was a perfect combination of culture, food, networking, and fun! At right, the Los Primos Trio played Spanish music to welcome attendees to the Opening Keynote and Awards Ceremony.



The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center was the site of the UL Event, allowing attendees to gain a better understanding of Native American culture.



## Golf Tournament Highlights

ACVB, John Johnson

Sixteen golfers braved the 100-plus degree weather in Albuquerque to take part in the 24<sup>th</sup> NEHA annual golf tournament.

**Steve Tackitt** won the closest to the pin contest.

The winning team in the tournament was **Steve Tackitt, Martin Gushwa, and Adam Harris.**

*Congratulations to all for just surviving the event!*

# SAVE THE DATE!

## 2011

### Celebrate

NEHA's 75<sup>th</sup> Annual AEC & Exhibition

Columbus, Ohio  
June 18-20, 2011

NEHA 2010 AEC & Exhibition photos by Terry Osner, Roy Kroeger, Bob Vincent, and Keith Krinn. Albuquerque photos courtesy of Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB), as indicated. Eagle photo by ACVB, Dick Thompson.