The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is shining a spotlight on the people within our membership through this new feature in the Journal. This month we are pleased to introduce you to Vincentiu Anghel, an independent environmental consultant and realtor who works at Wardley Real Estate in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Anghel attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and earned a science degree in environmental studies. He has been in the environmental health profession for 8 years. He started out in the profession as an intern at the Clark County Water Reclamation District, then spent the bulk of his public sector career at the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD). While working in the solid waste enforcement section of SNHD, he developed an interest in real estate.

His background as a registered environmental health specialist is instrumental in helping his clients. Anghel uses his experience to educate clients on potential environmental issues related to a property so they can make informed decisions. In addition to real estate, he recently became an environmental consultant and provides guidance to local businesses around Las Vegas to improve their compliance with local environmental health regulations.

Why did you join NEHA and what aspects of membership have you found most valuable to your career?
I joined NEHA for the training opportunities and the most valuable is the Annual Educational Conference (AEC). I attended the 2019 AEC in Nashville and it was an experience I will never forget. NEHA did a wonderful job of bringing together like-minded public health individuals. I enjoyed not only spending time with my colleagues but also meeting other people in the industry from all over the U.S. and the world.

Why did you choose the environmental health field?
I grew up between city and rural life in my home country of Romania, and later in Las Vegas. From my days as a kid, I loved spending time outdoors. Environmental health was the best fit for me as I enjoy venturing into the field versus being stuck in an office all day.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?
I am proud of publishing my first book, Deput Y8: The Vegas Health Patrol, to honor the environmental health profession through the comical situations I came across during my career. V8 was my nickname while working at SNHD and I decided to permanently preserve that nickname along with the memories from my time in the public sector. The book is available on Amazon.

Who do you look up to and why?
I look up to my ancestors—both my direct family and historical figures—because you can never grow a strong tree without the power of the roots. My roots started in Romania, a resilient country that has survived plagues and wars. My forebearers survived a communist regime and without their effort and sacrifice, I would not exist. I am also grateful for my parents who never gave up on the dream to bring us to the U.S. After 10 years of rejection on the visa lottery application, we finally made it to the U.S. in 2005. The opportunity to come to this country was a key turning point in my life.

Is there a resource that you use frequently for your work that you would recommend for other environmental health professionals?
The NEHA website is my top recommendation. The monthly E-Journal is excellent in keeping up with current environmental health trends. And if you need continuing education units, watch the recorded AEC sessions online. They cover every environmental health topic you can think of from previous AECs.

What was the best professional advice given to you?
The best professional advice I ever received was to never stop evolving because complacency kills the soul. I simplified this advice as it was a repeated message to me from various perspectives by all the inspiring professionals, teachers, coaches, and countless others who have impacted me across my life journey. In today’s world, I noticed people have distanced themselves from the creative sides that we all have. In my case, I read daily and write down multiple ideas each day for how I can improve my business or literary works. Most of the ideas are trash—cordially known as solid waste—but occasionally one idea works out. The key is to never stop applying yourself in pursuing your passions because one day you will realize you are doing the very activities you dreamed about in the past.

We thank Vincentiu Anghel for sharing with us! You can read a full version of this spotlight at www.neha.org/membership/spotlights.