Greetings from AEHAP’s Interim Executive Director - Chuck Treser - Principle Lecturer Emeritus, University of Washington

Winter Greetings AEHAP Members and Friends. I recently received one of those wonderful surprises in my email box that elicit smiles, memories and make my years of teaching and carrying the environmental health (EH) torch worthwhile. So, I wanted to share this story with you.

Environmental health careers come in all shapes and sizes and occur on their own time schedule it appears. However, as exemplified by the following story from a former student, a firm foundation in Environmental Health Science, as provided by EHAC accredited EH programs, is sound preparation for an EH career any time in your life.

Hi Chuck,

It has been a year or 24 since I last saw you and I am serious when I say, except for the pure silver facial hair, you look the same.

You probably do not remember me, I finished the EH program in 1992. Environmental Health just did not pan out for me in the beginning. I saw dollar signs in the real estate market in the Greater Seattle area at the time so I made hay while the sun was shining during the crazy 90s. In 2001 My Wife retired, we cashed in our chips and moved to NE Georgia where we developed a multi-faceted agro-business. In order to get the deal done the money people wanted one of us to have a “Public” job. I thought “what the heck” I’ll go put in an application at the local Health Department as an entry level EH.

Darned if they didn’t hire me. That was nearly 16 years ago. I have been the EH County Manager for a very rural Georgia county for 10 years now (a job I had planned to keep for no more than a year to satisfy the banks). I never really thought I would use that degree for the program it was awarded for. Just shows once again, never say never.

The bottom line is I am glad I pursued the degree and you played a large role in keeping me on the right path and seeing it through to the end.

Being an Environmental Health Manager in Georgia and in a rural County means I wear many hats. We enforce the On-Site Sewage, Food Service, Tourist Accommodation, public pools and spas, Rabies and Well Water drinking Codes plus various and sundry monitoring programs such as West Nile and General Vector nuisance issues, solid waste etc.

Well Chuck I saw your name come up in the UW Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences news letter online announcing your quasi-retirement so I just wanted to drop you a line and say Thank You. You were truly and inspiration not just to me but to decades of young (and not so young) people with a dream to make a difference.

Louis Korff
Environmental Health Manager
Franklin County, GA

As AEHAP continues its transition to a lean, project based organization focused primarily on supporting current accredited programs and recruiting new programs; stories like these, which provide evidence for the high caliber, capable and workforce ready graduates that EHAC programs produce, are increasingly important.
Message from AEHAP President Jason Marion
Assistant Professor, Eastern Kentucky University

Dear AEHAP Members and Friends,

Please try to attend the National Environmental Health Association’s Annual Education Conference (AEC) that will occur in Grand Rapids, Michigan from July 10 – 13. There are three important reasons for you to be there:

1) We will have an important annual AEHAP meeting at the AEC and will need as many AEHAP members to be present as we chart a path for a leaner AEHAP organization. We will also strive to gain consensus on future directions for AEHAP and how to best promote environmental health education at our nation’s colleges and universities.

2) NEHA as an organization has made great strides these last two years under Dr. Dyjack’s leadership for being more inclusive of our student attendees and student presenters. Among partner organizations in the environmental health and public health communities this last year, NEHA has been our strongest friend, and in turn, they appreciate your support.

3) The AEHAP Student Research Competition and the NSF Internship winners greatly appreciate your presence and support at their presentations.

An Important Opportunity on AEHAP’s Horizon:

On an important related matter, major changes in the public health education landscape are occurring that may impact all of our accredited programs. Significant changes/events have uniquely placed our Association in a position to collectively advocate and codify the importance of science-based environmental health education at America’s universities.

In early November at the American Public Health Association’s (APHA) annual meeting, a session including leaders from America’s schools and programs of public health reported that only 17% of the public health workforce has a public health-related degree. It was later stated in that session that many public health graduates lack the academic requirements of various state statutes to sit for important public health credentialing examinations (such as the RS/REHS). Our graduates from EHAC-accredited programs do not have this problem because of our curriculum and our arrangements with NEHA.

Public health schools are now responding, and long-awaited revisions to the CEPH accreditation criteria have arrived. These revisions permit added flexibility for schools and programs of public health to tailor their curricula to support environmental health students so they may get all the science-based requirements needed to sit for many state RS exams. Furthermore, NEHA is likely (or currently) receiving pressure from public health programs to offer credentialing exams to their students. Some of these programs can theoretically meet both their current accreditation criteria as well as EHAC criteria should they choose to structure their programs according to EHAC guidelines.

The public health degree is one of the fastest growing degree programs in America, and we have an opportunity to enhance public health protection by encouraging the public health degree programs with EH options to have robust science-based standards that meet EHAC criteria. Regardless of whether the degree is a BS in environmental health, occupational health, or public health, we can welcome these folks into AEHAP provided they desire to obtain EHAC accreditation.

AEHAP NEEDS YOUR HELP in encouraging these programs to use their newly given flexibility to seek EHAC accreditation. As an organization, we will be stronger with more programs that meet our practice-based academic standards. As an organization, we are only as strong as our membership.

I look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids and as always I welcome feedback on how we can strengthen and grow the Association.

Jason W. Marion
Environmental Health Major at University of Wisconsin - Osh Kosh: Growing and Busy by Dr. Colleen McDermott

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Environmental Health major has seen substantial growth over the last year. We had over 20 students seeking summer internships this last year, with most successful finding a meaningful real world experience in the area of their choosing. These students come from more than ten different WI counties and hope to be able to serve their communities in Environmental, Occupational, and Public Health positions upon graduation.

Our students are engaging in many different internship experiences in 2016. We have students conducting drinking water well inspections, helping with restaurant and hotel inspections, monitoring water quality at beaches, using molecular diagnostics to identify pathogens in the laboratory, and analyzing data and creating instructional media for health departments and our campus.

One UW Oshkosh EH major, Chelsea Smies, was an AHEC CHIP intern at the Fond du Lac County Health Department and learned a great deal about working in a county health department. During her internship she was able to produce several instructional videos, brochures, and signage promoting public health and safety that will be used by the county. First, Chelsea engaged in “hands-on” learning about water quality monitoring, inspections of recreational camps, hotels, swimming pools, and retail stores. She was then able to create an instructional video and an information sheet with still photos for home owners, teaching how to properly collect a well water sample from a pressure tank. In addition, she created an informational brochure for mobile and temporary food stand operators detailing safe food … continued on page 6…….

Updates from Fort Valley State University by Dr. Oreta Samples

Graduate student Vishal Singh was recently inducted as a 2016 HBCU Allstar of the White House Initiative with induction on 10-24-2016 in Washington DC during the HBCU White House Initiative conference. Mr. Singh was nominated by Dr. O. Samples based on his essay addressing ways to communicate with HBCU students on the importance of paying back student loans and the best way to accomplish this. Mr. Singh also recently won 1st place in the poster contest at the Georgia Environmental Health Association yearly conference for his poster on the Historical Significance of the Woolfolk Chemical Superfund Site in Fort Valley, GA. He was awarded $50.00 in prize monies. Lastly Mr. Singh was featured on AEHAP’s website as Graduate Student of the Month!

Dr. Oreta Samples, Program Coordinator of MPH Program at FVSU recently received the Bronze Chancellors Excellence in Service award on 10-25-2016. The award was given based on the work that Dr. Samples has done in revitalizing the MPH program when it was moved to the College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology at FVSU in 2013. Over the past three years, she has increased enrollment from 20 to 130 students and was successful in receiving accreditation of the program by EHAC.

Fort Valley’s MPH Program recently received a 5-year NIFA Station-Project Grant to study the water, soil and plants in the Woolfolk Chemical Site in regards to detection of lead and arsenic. The grant was written by Dr. J. Surrency and Dr. O. Samples. At this time there are 5 students signed on to the project for Thesis Research and 2 more that are signed on to complete their Field Experience work on the project.

Congratulations to these students and faculty on their accomplishments!!!
NEHA's National Environmental Public Health Internship Program (NEHIP) - Application Deadline: Mid - February 2017

The purpose of NEHIP is to encourage environmental health students to consider careers at local, state, or tribal environmental public health departments following graduation. Through this internship program, students will be exposed to the exciting career opportunities, benefits, and challenges of working with environmental public health agencies throughout the U.S.

**Students who apply must be from National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC) accredited environmental health academic programs.** Selected students will receive a stipend of up to $4,000 ($400 per week) for an 8 to 10 week internship to cover expenses. An additional stipend is available to cover the costs if the student relocates for the internship.

For more information on this opportunity and how to apply please visit the internship page here: [http://neha.org/internships](http://neha.org/internships).

---

2017 National Sanitation Foundation Scholar Application Deadline: January 16, 2017

Students attending EHAC accredited schools can apply to win a $3,500 award for research and up to $1,000 in travel expenses to attend NEHA’s Annual Education Conference in Grand Rapids, MI - July 10-13, 2017

The winning student will conduct a research project from March through May 2017 with guidance from a mentor. The student will also present a 20 minute summary of their research and attend a poster session at NEHA’s Education Conference.

Applications must be submitted by Jan. 16, 2017 to: info@aehap.org

2017 Student Research Competition Application Deadline: February 28, 2017

Students attending EHAC accredited schools can win a $1,000 award and more than $1,000 in travel expenses to attend NEHA’s Annual Education Conference in Grand Rapids, MI - July 10-13, 2017

Winning students will conduct original research that they will present during a 20-minute platform summary and a poster session at NEHA’s Education Conference.

Applications must be submitted by Feb. 28, 2017 to: info@aehap.org

More Information at aehap.org

Find More Scholarship and Internship Information on AEHAP’s Website: go to www.aehap.org and click on “Student Resources” at the Top of the Page
Throughout the year, AEHAP recognizes a deserving undergraduate and graduate who is attending an EHAC accredited program as **Student of the Month**. These students are recommended by their professors based upon academic and research excellence, individual initiative and a passion for environmental health. Each of these students described a deep desire to play a major role in protecting the public by achieving a career in environmental health. Below are Students of the Month featured during 2016.

**Professors! Please email Leslie at info@aehap.org with recommendations from your student body.**

### 2016 AEHAP Students of the Month

#### Undergraduate Students
- **Savannah Parker**
  - East Carolina University
  - Greenville, North Carolina
- **Lisa Curtis**
  - University of Findlay
  - Findlay, Ohio
- **Ethan Fuhrman**
  - University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
  - Eau Claire, Wisconsin
- **Brittany Case**
  - East Carolina University
  - Greenville, North Carolina
- **Jackson Runte**
  - Colorado State University
  - Fort Collins, Colorado

#### Graduate Students
- **Isaaq Drumgoole**
  - Fort Valley State University
  - Fort Valley, Georgia
- **Vishal Singh**
  - Fort Valley State University
  - Fort Valley, Georgia
- **Lisa Curtis**
  - University of Findlay
  - Findlay, Ohio
- **Brittany Case**
  - East Carolina University
  - Greenville, North Carolina
- **Cassie Lord**
  - University of Georgia
  - Athens, Georgia
- **Isaaq Drumgoole**
  - Fort Valley State University
  - Fort Valley, Georgia
SAVE the DATES!

- July 8-9, 2017: EHAC Annual Meeting at the 2017 NEHA AEC in Grand Rapids, Michigan

- July 9-10, 2017: AEHAP Annual Meeting at the 2017 NEHA-AEC in

Contd. From pg. 3… handling procedures, and a video promoting the Fond du Lac Loop Walking/Biking Trail, as a means to healthy living.

The county was able to utilize her social media knowledge by asking Chelsea to create Facebook posts about current events and topics of interest to public health. She also used her quantitative skills learned in the classroom to analyze and present data on underage tobacco usage in a five county area and on inspections done by health department staff. Chelsea is now completing her final year of course work at UW Oshkosh and is taking the on-line RS Exam Prep Course (Offered by UW Oshkosh Division of Life Long Learning and Community Engagement) in preparation for taking the exam shortly after graduation.

All EH majors at UW Oshkosh and students in other majors will have the opportunity to take a Special Topics Course on Emergency Planning in Spring 2017. The course will discuss natural disasters and severe weather, terrorism, biological threats, chemical and radiation emergencies, active shooter scenarios, and a variety of other important topics for community planning. Students will work with local health departments, Red Cross, FEMA, CDC, and university police materials to develop emergency

AEHAP members! Please send news about your student’s and program’s accomplishments to info@aehap.org.