I was born and raised in Pullman, WA. As a kid I always loved traveling and being outdoors so I joined the Boy Scouts of America. In the scouts I learned how to fly fish, canoe, kayak and climb. Throughout my time in the scouts I volunteered for various community service events and eventually did my own Eagle Scout Project.

During high school and the earlier part of college, I worked in a lab at WSU’s Pharmacy Department studying the role of specific neurotransmitters during periods of anxiety in the brain and my work ended up getting published.

After high school I attended Washington State University and majored in Genetics and Cell Biology. During my time at WSU I worked in the information and technology department and for WSU’s Plant Pathology Department USDA-ARS extension. My research in Plant Pathology won best undergraduate poster award at the Integrated Molecular Plant Sciences Retreat in 2008.

After college I started working for EcoAnalysts, a private company that identified aquatic macro invertebrates. The job involved bench work and traveling around the western United States. It was a great experience, but the bench work grew too repetitive for me. I started looking for jobs that I could use what I had learned to improve communities instead of only making more money. I saw the ad for the Environmental Health Specialist position with Whitman County and applied.

Since I started working for Whitman County, I’ve enjoyed the freedom I’ve had to develop the programs I work with and that I get to work with a variety of programs on a daily basis.

Continued on page 6 - “10 Questions with Phil Hagihara...”
The Washington State Environmental Health Association Newsletter is the official publication of WSEHA. Membership in WSEHA includes a subscription to the newsletter. Manuscripts for publication must be type-written and submitted via e-mail to kerri@wseha.org, or on a computer disk mailed to WSEHA at the address above. Membership in WSEHA is not required for acceptance of articles in the newsletter.

Opinions expressed in articles published in the WSEHA newsletter should not be accepted necessarily as statements of policy or opinions of WSEHA.
President’s Message

By Geoffrey Crofoot
WSEHA President

Recently, I had the distinct honor to award two worthy Environmental Health professionals with awards representing their excellent work in the field. You’ll read about one recipient in this installment of the Washington State Environmental Health Association (WSEHA) newsletter. In our Spring newsletter, you’ll read about another recipient. I’ll be a little vague about this second person as they have not officially received the award due to a number of scheduling conflicts compounded by vacation and snow.

As the President of WSEHA, I’m always very happy to know that Environmental Health folks are out there doing really good work. Further, I’m happy that each recipient has peers who thought enough of their work to nominate them for an award. That’s right; the WSEHA Board doesn’t just spontaneously award folks with plaques and honors. Rather, each potential recipient is nominated by their peers, and then selected from a pool of candidates.

This year’s awards were a little more interesting in that one, the Rookie of the Year Award, represents a great beginning of a career and the second award, the John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian, represents a full career of excellent service.

I like the idea of being able to see the full spectrum of service from a person who is just beginning with vigor and energy and then a person who has figured out how to negotiate decades of service with a sustained energy level and ever growing confidence. As a result of these two individuals and their examples, I am inspired to carry on with the best work that I can possibly manage.

I am reminded by the awards and what they represent that Environmental Health is all around us and the people we serve. People count on safe food, clean water and reliable solid waste disposal. Environmental Health professionals work daily to help prevent negative impacts to food, water, and the soils that we need to live.

In this new year of 2012, I’m looking forward to hearing about more examples of your excellent service in the form of award nominations. If you know of an Environmental Health co-worker or peer who is working hard and deserves recognition, please check out our awards section and start the nomination process early. Click here to link to our nominations page.

As always, thanks for your membership.

“Environmental Health professionals work daily to help prevent negative impact to food, water, and the soils that we need to live.”
Congratulations, Barry Jenkins!
Submitted by Brent Stenson, Adams County

Barry Jenkins has finally called it quits after 36 years in the Public Health field. Having worked with Barry at the Walla Walla County Health Department for five years, I was honored to present him with a beautiful wooden plaque from the Washington State Environmental Health Directors group. It was a fine day of seeing Barry in the limelight and meeting up with old colleagues. It reminded me of all the great times we had and those interesting stories (or dirt) I remembered while working with Barry.

If you didn’t know Barry very well or didn’t attend many meetings with him, you likely missed out on his “punny” humor. He had a knack for seizing any opportunity to turn a mundane conversation into a light and professionally comical moment.

Outside of the office, Barry really loved to have the EH Gang and other PH employees over for a pool party in the summer. He and his wife Mary Lou were always so gracious to host these events and the staff really looked forward to these fun gatherings after work. At one of the pool parties, we found out that he had quite a collection of 70’s and 80’s albums. We also received a front row seat to watching Barry groove along and have a great time with his wife. I think some of these activities may have been encouraged by the consumption of “barley pops,” but I wouldn’t know anything about that. We also discovered that Barry is an actor and has performed in a number of plays at both the Little Theatre and at Fort Walla Walla in the summer musical. His retirement will no doubt be filled with watching his grandchildren and assisting his lovely wife Mary Lou, as she was just recently elected to the Walla Walla City Council.

All kidding aside, Walla Walla residents will miss Barry’s day-to-day dedication and work ethic. He is one of the few people I know that routinely arrived 10 minutes early, left 15 minutes late and rarely took a full hour lunch. I have no doubt that Barry has earned his retirement and his days will be filled with fun and adventure. Congratulations Barry, from the entire EH family!
SEHA has just started up for the quarter, and we have a busy month ahead of us. First, we plan to attend "Short Takes on What the World Eats", a food-themed talk hosted by ten experts from UW and beyond. A variety of food and health-related points will be discussed, and the multitude of perspectives offered will surely spark discussion! Next, we aim to contribute to the local community by restoring wildlife habitat in Redmond's Marymoor Park, planting native trees and shrubs. Finally, we're hosting a speaking panel featuring professionals from the diverse field of environmental health to better learn about potential career paths that await us!

Current Job Postings on our Website

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Closing Date</th>
<th>Position and Location</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb, 10, 2012</td>
<td>Environmental Health Specialist II Location: Thurston County, WA</td>
<td>Thurston County Public Health and Social Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 13, 2012</td>
<td>Public Health Advisor 3 – Part-Time Location: Kent, WA</td>
<td>WA State DOH Environmental Health Division Office of Drinking Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant review begins Feb. 13, 2012</td>
<td>Radiation Health Physicist 2 Location: Tumwater, WA</td>
<td>WA State DOH Environmental Health Division Office of Radiation Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open until filled.</td>
<td>Quality Assurance Manager, Global Retail Store QA</td>
<td>Starbucks Coffee Company</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Get Involved with Your Professional Organization!! Current Openings:

- President
- President Elect
- Secretary
- Northwest Regional Vice President
- Nominations and Awards Committee

Interested members, please contact Geoffrey Crofoot.
1) What are your primary roles with Whitman County?
   My primary roles with Whitman County are Food, Water, Pools, Housing and Epidemiology programs.

2) What program do you enjoy most and why?
   The program I enjoy the most would have to be the food program. It uses a lot of skills and techniques involved with other programs and the coordination with the public and private business keeps it interesting.

3) What interested you in public health?
   Being involved with the education and prevention of public health concerns is a major reason why Public Health interested me, also being able to use my interest in science to help analyze data that we collect daily (restaurant inspections, etc) to help respond to issues developing within the community.

4) Besides your boss, what is the best part of your job?
   The best part of the job is freedom to analyze and explain to the public what issues affect our community and working with them to develop solutions. It doesn’t always go smoothly or to plan, but it makes you look at an issue from multiple points of view.

5) Worst part of job?
   I wouldn’t say it’s the worst part of this job, but the most challenging part is that some people just don’t like you because you work for a government agency.

6) Future goals (big picture)?
   My future goals are to develop information that current laws require local health jurisdictions to maintain into useful tools. If local health jurisdictions are required to maintain the information we might as well develop ways to use it in making policies and procedures.

7) Goals for 2012?
   My goal for 2012 is to launch the test pilot program for restaurant inspections. The biggest change is the shift from only looking for problems during the inspection to meeting with management (once a year) to review policies and procedures. EHS only get a few inspections per year and working with management to instill policies and procedures will hopefully be more effective in developing safer food handling practices.

8) Future of EH?
   The future of environmental health is always evolving to meet the needs of the community.

9) Training needs/wants?
   I guess my training need/want would be to have a stable staff.

10) Best thing about WSEHA?
    Provides opportunities to connect with people in the same field and discuss ideas.
January 12, 2012

Dear Colleague:

Happy New Year. I’m writing to let you know about some important changes at the Health District. In 2011 we asked stakeholders how we were doing. We used their feedback to make changes that will enhance our ability to improve the health and safety of our community. Here are some of the changes you will see:

**We have a new name.** Kitsap County Health District has become Kitsap Public Health District. The use of the word “public” will make clearer the fact that we are an independent entity, not a department of the County. More importantly, it emphasizes the chief purpose of public health: to assure conditions in which all people—the “public”—can be healthy, safe, and have a chance to live to their full potential.

**We have a new website.** It’s clean and lean, with easy navigation and a search tool. We’d like your feedback so we can keep improving it for you.

**We have a new look.** We updated our logo and informational materials to present a fresh and professional face, rebranding ourselves as the source of choice for current and reliable information, both everyday and especially in times of public health crisis.

**We have a new strategic plan.** We’ll achieve it using a transparent performance measurement system and a continuous quality improvement culture. By demonstrating our accountability publicly, we hope to obtain more resources so we can be even more effective on your behalf.

**Kitsap County has a new community health improvement plan.** We worked with United Way, Harrison Medical Center and others to create an improvement plan that will focus resources throughout the county on our most pressing health issues. It harmonizes with our own strategic plan, ensuring that our work will improve problems the community cares most about.

Funding for public health is at an all time low. Many people have developed a dim view of government agencies in general. Instead of keeping a low profile, we are choosing to raise ours. We’re going to work even harder, smarter and more visibly—with you as partners—to achieve our mission: to make Kitsap County a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work and play.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Lindquist, MD, MPH
Director and Health Officer
WSEHA’s 2011 Membership Meeting

On December 13, 2011, we held our Annual Membership Meeting in the Snohomish Health District Auditorium from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Thank you to all who attended and to Mike Young and Janet Anderberg for making presentations.

Mike Young, who works in the Solid Waste and Toxics Section of Snohomish Health District, had two presentations: The first was titled, “Do You Know Where Your Garbage Is?” and it outlined the history and design of the Roosevelt Landfill in Klickitat County. His second presentation was titled, “The Good Landfill.” This presentation described a local landfill’s on-site groundwater monitoring system and what goes into interpreting the data.

Janet Anderberg, who works with the Washington State Department of Health Food Safety Program, presented, “Listeria Today.” Her presentation outlined the characteristics of listeria, where this bacteria comes from, symptoms, risky foods, at-risk individuals and challenges when investigating outbreaks.

After a pizza break, our longevous President, Geoffrey Crofoot, started the business portion of the meeting. First, he presented the supporting materials for the 2011 Rookie of the Year Award which was awarded to a deserving Philip Hagihara - see the front page of this newsletter. Way to go, Phil!

Next, Steve Garrett, WSEHA’s dependable Treasurer, presented his 6 page report. In summary, our investments have gone up and down over the years and we continue to hold our own. It was a good decision to invest years ago in the funds we are holding today. In the event we need to dip into our funds and transfer some to our checking account, we have reserves to draw on. 2011 had a lean budget meaning we took in less money than prior years and we spent less money. For 2011 we operating at a loss of about $3,500.

Geoffrey then reported that WSEHA’s membership is down 63% from last year. In 2011, the following educational opportunities were offered...the annual Swimming Pool and Spa Conferences in both Kennewick and Lakewood; the Children’s Environmental Health Trainings in Tumwater, Shoreline and Spokane; and the Certified Pool-Spa Operator Training Program for LHJ Staff in Shelton. We may need to focus our efforts on an annual educational conference.

Mike Young, Snohomish Health District

Janet Anderberg, Washington State Department of Health
In the last WSEHA Newsletter (Fall 2011), we asked you, our membership, to participate in a short survey to gauge the interest in having an upcoming Annual Educational Conference (AEC). Thank you to those who responded!

Kerri, our Executive Secretary, received a total of 26 responses. Below is a summary of the responses received:

1. Would you attend a 2012 or 2013 AEC? Almost everyone said yes.

2. Could you attend 1 or 2 days? 3 responded 1 day; 9 responded 2 days; 12 responded 1 or 2 days; and there were a few other responses.

3. Where would you prefer the AEC be held? This question received the most varied responses! The only thing they all had in common was in the state of Washington.

4. Would you be willing to volunteer on the AEC planning committee? 8 responded yes, 8 responded no; and 10 responded possibly.

5. Would you be willing to make a presentation? 11 responded yes, 12 responded no, and 3 responded maybe.

This year, the National Environmental Health Association will be holding their 76th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition in San Diego on June 28 - 30. Training and educational sessions along with other NEHA 2012 AEC events are now being posted online. For more information, visit http://www.neha2012aec.org.

Remember the AEC Survey?
Washington State Environmental Health Association (WSEHA)

Membership Application

WSEHA is a nonprofit professional and educational organization. It was established in 1946 to provide a forum for dialogue and a vehicle for advanced training opportunities. WSEHA enhances individual and collective expertise, promotes professional growth, and revitalizes Environmental Health endeavors. The Association is enriched by the diversity of ideas and orientations of its members, who represent both the public and private sectors.

Categories of Membership (please mark next to the category that applies)

_____ Regular Membership ($50.00) - Persons who are active in the field of environmental health or related educational activities, who have a bachelors degree from an accredited college or university.

_____ Associated Membership ($50.00) - Persons who are active in the field of environmental health or related educational activities, but who do not meet the requirements of regular membership.

_____ Student Membership ($5.00) - Persons who are working towards a bachelor or higher degree in sanitary science, public health, environmental health, or related academic field.

_____ Subscribing Membership ($20.00) - Persons residing outside of the state of Washington whose principal membership benefit is receiving the WSEHA Newsletter and other generally distributed information.

_____ Affiliate Membership ($75.00) - Professional or civic organizations which share the goals and objectives of WSEHA and wish to improve communications and coordination of mutual programs.

_____ Sustaining Membership ($250.00) - Persons or organizations that are interested in supporting WSEHA and its goals and objectives.

_____ Emeritus Membership ($5.00) - May be awarded by the WSEHA Board of Directors to persons who have been active in the field of environmental health for at least 25 years, including at least 6 years as a member of WSEHA, and who have retired because of age or disability.

First Name        MI        Last Name        Degree(s)

Job Title        Agency/Organization

Work Address        City        State/Zip

Work Phone        Fax Number        E-mail (for newsletter and other WSEHA information)

Home Address        City        State/Zip

Use as my primary mailing address: ( ) Work ( ) Home

Alternative E-mail

I have read and will abide by the WSEHA Code of Ethics found at http://www.wseha.org/CodeofEthics.pdf.

Signature: ___________________________        Date: _______________________

Please make check payable to WSEHA and mail to: WSEHA, 103 Sea Pines Lane, Bellingham, WA 98229-9363.

Memberships expire one year from the date issued and are non-transferable.