

# THE ASSESSOR

## US EPA'S ENVIRONMENTAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND JOB TRAINING (EWDJT) PROGRAMS IN NEW YORK STATE

### Student Assessors

BY MARIA COGLIANDO, MARCH 10, 2021

Welcome back to our second issue of our newspaper "THE ASSESSOR." Our inaugural issue published last month was extremely well received and widely shared among our own CCNY constituents as well as our external partners. In this second issue, in addition to focusing on EPA's EWDJT program, we highlight the BCONE members who presented at the Phase II environmental site assessments course (EAS 33400.). These include Rick Shoyer, Dr. Robert Blauvelt, and Sandra Gaurin. We are also extremely proud to feature two reports by former students Omar Hamad and Nicholas Ferreira (currently employed at the US EPA), as well as two reports on ongoing or completed internships by current students Erin Wengertter and Marileidy Pimentel.



Lee Ilan, Chief of Planning at NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation (left) and Sharon Mackey-Mcgee, Executive Director, Continuing and Professional Studies, City College of New York



Omar Hamad and Nicholas Ferreira, CCNY alumni of the Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments courses currently employed at the US EPA



Erin Wengertter and Marileidy Pimentel, CCNY students currently enrolled in the Phase II environmental site assessments (EAS 33400), reporting on internships completed or in progress.

### CCNY-BCONE panel on EPA's EWDJT program

BY ANGELO LAMPOUSIS, MARCH 10, 2021 (TWITTER: @LAMPOUSIS)



EPA's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) has its own unique history in New York State. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, we expect to welcome representatives of successful EWDJT grantees, including Ms Raphaella Savaides, training coordinator at The Fortune Society, Mr. Paul McFadden, manager of workforce development for the City of Rochester, and Ms Angela M. Iocolano, Sr. Director, Quality & Evaluation, PathStone Corporation, Rochester, NY. Michael Senew will represent the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI).

The panel will be moderated by Ms Schenine Mitchell, Brownfields Program Coordinator, Land Chemicals and Redevelopment Division, Land and Redevelopment Programs Branch, Brownfields Section, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2. The context for the EWDJT panel at CCNY is the course Phase II environmental site assessments (EAS 33400) offered this year in conjunction with the Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast (BCONE). The "assessors" of the future, our own CCNY students enrolled in this course, will get the opportunity to interface again with BCONE members as well as the general public, since this is an open event. For information on how to access the event please contact Maria Cogliando at mcoglia000@citymail.cuny.edu.

### IN THIS ISSUE

**EWDJT AT THE FORTUNE SOCIETY**

**EWDJT AT CITY OF ROCHESTER, NY**

**HMTRI AND MICHAEL SENEW**

**BROWNFIELDS TRAINING**

**BCONE members guest lecture at CCNY**

*February - March, 2021*

**LECTURES ON PHASE II SAMPLING  
METHODOLOGIES AND DATA  
EVALUATION**

Dr. **Robert Blauvelt** (right, middle) guest lectured on the topic of Phase II sampling methodologies on February 20. Dr. Blauvelt is a geologist with more than 30 years of experience in the investigation, remediation and redevelopment of industrial and commercial properties. Over the course of his career, he has assisted clients in complex, multi-site due diligence assessments, regulatory compliance audits and litigation/expert witness services. This remedial and redevelopment (brownfield) work has been done within the context of a variety of regulatory programs including CERCLA (RI/FS), RCRA (RFI/CMS), NJDEP (SRP), NYSDEC DERR, MA MCP and OEPA VAP. Dr. Blauvelt also has led cleanup projects involving in situ and ex situ management of soil impacted with petroleum hydrocarbons and chlorinated solvents. His remediation experience runs the gamut from the development of enhanced bioremediation/natural attenuation to providing technical support in the design and installation of multi-level air sparge, soil vapor extraction and treatment systems. Dr. Blauvelt has a M.S. and B.S. in Geology from Rutgers University, as well as a Ph.D. from the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Ms **Sandra Gaurin** (right, bottom) guest lectured on the topic of Phase II data evaluation on March 6. She is Director of Client Services, Risk Management and has more than 20 years of experience simultaneously managing multiple projects with a focus on loss control services and environmental claims support. Her responsibilities with Gallagher Bassett Technical Services Division include the coordination of teams of experts to provide technical support for complex environmental issues and claims. Ms. Gaurin has been involved in expert witness report preparation in support of litigation for nationwide insurance carriers, and also coordinates and performs risk management and due diligence support to nationwide real estate investors, including local office staff coordination, budget and deadline management as well as interface with clients. Ms. Gaurin has also managed projects for commercial/industrial as well as municipal/state clients involving site investigation and remediation activities such as underground storage tank removal, impacted soil excavation and disposal, groundwater and soil vapor investigation and remediation, and in-situ bioremediation treatment.



**Mr. Frederick (Rick) J. Shoyer III,  
President of BCONE**



**Robert Blauvelt, P.G., LEP, LSRP  
Senior Consultant, GEI**



**Sandra Gaurin, ERM, LEED AP,  
Director Client Services,  
Gallagher Bassett Technical Services Division**

She also maintains reporting compliance for industrial/warehousing facilities, including Tier II reporting, hazardous waste reporting, homeland security assessments, SPCC, and SWPP. Ms. Gaurin earned a Master of Science from the Industrial Biology School, France and a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University Paris 6. She is a LEED Accredited Professional and holds many certification and licenses, including Environmental Risk Management (ERM) License, 40-hour OSHA HAZWOPER, 30-hour OSHA Construction Safety Training, and EPA Hazardous Waste Management Training.

*Guest lecture by  
BCONE President  
on soil  
investigation*

Mr. **Rick Shoyer** (left) guest gave a lecture on February 27, on the topic of soil investigations, specifically the NJ guidance for site investigation, remedial investigation, and remedial action verification sampling for soil. Mr. Shoyer is a Senior Project Consultant for Advanced GeoServices, a Montrose Environmental Group company based in Robbinsville, NJ. He is a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) and an N-2 licensed operator in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Shoyer's experience includes working on brownfields, PFAS projects and PFAS research. He currently serves as President of Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast (BCONE.) BCONE's mission is to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and best practices on the benefits of brownfield remediation, resilience, and sustainable redevelopment; and to work with public, private, and regulatory stakeholders in our region to facilitate economic activity and growth. Mr. Shoyer was appointed as the BCONE representative on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Site Remediation.

**THE ASSESSOR**

**IDENTITY**

Periodic publication with the purpose of highlighting environmental site assessment courses, training, and professional development opportunities offered through the City College of New York, CUNY, and beyond.

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CCNY, CUNY

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Columbia University School of Journalism

**MARCH 20, 2021 - BCONE AND CCNY VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION ON  
EPA'S BROWNFIELDS ENVIRONMENTAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND JOB TRAINING  
(EWDJT)**

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The latter, also known as Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grant funds are provided to nonprofit organizations and other eligible entities to recruit, train, and place residents from solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities, including low-income and minority, unemployed, and underemployed individuals.

The moderator for this panel discussion was EPA Region 2 Brownfields Program Coordinator Ms Schenine Mitchell. Panelists include three EWDJT grantees, as well as one representative of the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute, as outlined below.

**Moderator:**  
Schenine Mitchell, Brownfields Program Coordinator, Land Chemicals and Redevelopment Division, Land and Redevelopment Programs Branch, Brownfields Section, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2.

**Panelists - EWDJT Grantees:**  
Raphaella Savaides, Training Coordinator, The Fortune Society, Long Island City, NY  
  
Paul McFadden, Manager of Workforce Development, City of Rochester, NY

Angela M. Iocolano, Sr. Director, Quality & Evaluation, PathStone Corporation, Rochester, NY

**Panelist from HMTRI:**  
  
Michael Senew, representing Eastern Iowa Community College's Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI)



Raphaella Savaides, Training Coordinator, The Fortune Society, Long Island City, NY

**Panelist profile**

*Raphaella Savaides*

[www.fortunesociety.org](http://www.fortunesociety.org)

After growing up abroad, Raphaella moved to the United States in 2012 to begin university and a career in reentry and criminal justice reform. For the past four years, she has been working at the Fortune Society, a reentry organization in Queens that services individuals with criminal justice touchpoints. In her current role, she coordinates Green Training for the Employment Services Unit. Training opportunities include Environmental Remediation Training, a six-week course made available through the EPA EWDJT grant. The training focuses on hazardous waste removal and remediation, allowing many students to remediate the environments they grew up in. As a result of teaching and coordinating this training for the past few years, Raphaella will also be pursuing a Master's in Urban Planning in the fall, with hopes to prevent the inequity that comes with living in underprivileged and often contaminated neighborhoods.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (HMTRI)**

**Panelist profile: Michael Senew**



Michael Senew served as an officer in the US Public Health Service assigned to the US Environmental Protection Agency during its formation in the early 1970s. A mechanical engineer with a Master of Science in Industrial Administration from Purdue University, he has over 50 years' work experience in a variety of technical, policy and regulatory environments.

His employers have included the US Environmental Protection Agency, Argonne National Laboratory and the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute, including assignments with EPA, DOE, NSF, state agencies, colleges, universities, environmental consulting and construction firms.

As a participant in over 60 studies related to environmental policy, control technology, remediation and assessment, he has a historical perspective of environmental systems as they impact training, economics, regulation and control. In an advisory role, he served for ten years as a member, and later Chairman, of EPA's Mid Atlantic Hazardous Substance Research Center (HSRC) Training and Technical Transfer Advisory Committee.

He has consulted continuously since 1987 under various EPA research and training related cooperative agreements. His workforce and environmental justice experience began in late 1991 with Cuyahoga County Community College. Brownfield workforce training and development experience dates to the first pilot assessment grant award in 1995 and continues to the present under various cooperative agreements between Eastern Iowa Community College's Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) and the EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management. Current responsibilities include providing technical assistance to communities with the objective of providing support to stakeholders interested in developing and sustaining Brownfields workforce development and job training programs.

## Panelist profile: Paul McFadden



Born November 16, 1972 in Rochester, N.Y., Paul McFadden faced many inner-city challenges at a very early age. By the age of 12 years old he became heavily involved with felony gang activity. Under the impression that this was a normal part of life, his “life of crime, gangs and weapons involvement” landed him in prison by the young age of 19 and from there he would spend nearly a decade before being released.

Determined to turn his life around, McFadden dedicated over nine and a half years of his sentence towards searching for key answers as to why so many youth such as himself had developed a “no fear” concept towards life and why so many of our urban youth continuously place themselves in the revolving door of jail and death. McFadden's search for alternative options led him to leadership positions such as peer counselor for Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Programs, teaching assistant for G.E.D. programs, host seminar speaker for African American History, peer advisor for Facility Gang Intervention, Peer Mediator for Aggressive Re-placement Training and certifications as a Legal Research Clerk.

After returning home in 2003, McFadden coordinated with various community outreach programs, co-chaired two city wide Mayoral Youth Transition and Prevention Teams and networks with private sector business owners in an effort to provide a voice for urban youths who were in search of a much more positive, structured life. He also co-founded a ten year prison fellowship ministry with Bishop Gregory Parris and the Church of Love, called R.O.C. Youth Ministries, in order to reach more active at-risk teens before they are returned to society.

Employed as a Youth Intervention Specialist for the City of Rochester (Pathways to Peace) in 2004, McFadden developed specific strategies geared towards helping young men and women turn their lives around. He has earned the respect of his peers as a positive role model and is a prime example of what it means to lead by example. In 2010 he founded the “R.I.S.E. Rochester Intervention Service & Empowerment” in order to teach at-risk teens and families how to turn lost lives into proud and productive citizens. His philosophy is, “Teach them how, don’t just tell them how.”

As Executive Director for R.I.S.E. (Rochester Intervention Service & Empowerment) Paul McFadden works with families to provide positive strategic goals for at-risk teens. Through support groups structure, parental outlines and referrals to various community outreach centers, R.I.S.E. takes the initiative to guide at-risk teens to a much more positive and productive young adult life. The goal of R.I.S.E. is to perform services for various agencies by providing concrete presentations and realistic seminars for members of our community who have exhausted all available remedies aimed at the redevelopment of the minds of our youth. Local agencies have a growing demand for positive and effective role models for at-risk teens. R.I.S.E. offers a platform of positive guidance to families in need of low, moderate and even high level intervention and prevention treatment.

R.I.S.E.'s programs can help agencies nation-wide to relate to the various negative influences that the children of our future are bombarded with in their everyday lives. As a Gang Intervention Specialist, Paul McFadden is a highly recognized expert on the subject matter of hybrid gangs. He also served as the lead Youth Intervention Services Coordinator for Action for a Better Community, Inc. from 2007 to 2014. Paul McFadden led the community in providing Transitional Workshops, Community Based Motivational Speaking, and Hybrid Gang Awareness Trainings. Mr. McFadden also provides presentations to not-for-profit agencies, City School District Staff, NYS Dept. of Probation and Parole, and agencies working with NYS Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention with comprehensive intervention methods known county-wide. He is a member of Monroe County Reentry Task Force as well as the Youth Service Quality Council. In addition to being Co-Coordinator of R.O.C. Youth Ministries serving high risk youth in the Monroe County Jail in conjunction with the Monroe County Inmate Minor Development Program, other endeavors include program developer of the Monroe County Court Watch Intervention Program for Monroe County Criminal Courts.

In 2014, Mr. McFadden was promoted to Manager of Workforce Development Senior Program for the City of Rochester: Operation Transformation Rochester Program and the REJob Environmental Construction Program. These new programs are a comprehensive approach to help the City of Rochester residents make connections and gain the skills they need to achieve sustainable, rewarding employment and the transitional skills needed to guide individuals out of poverty. The REJob Program, funded by the EPA, has led the country for five consecutive years with 100% positive outcomes for recruitment, enrollment, attendance, accreditation, environmental construction, and engineering career placement. The City of Rochester, New York is grateful to have Mr. McFadden as a vigilant leader and advocate in the fight against poverty.

## Panelist profile: Angela M. Iocolano



Ms Angela M. Iocolano is Sr. Director of Quality and Evaluation at PathStone Corporation, Rochester, NY. Since 1998, Angela has worked to develop PathStone's quality and evaluation processes, and to generate funding for new initiatives. She conducts needs assessments and collaborative analyses, designs and delivers customized training programs and resource materials, and facilitates strategic planning, standardized measures and tracking. Angela is a Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer and is currently leading Trauma Informed Care Implementation.

Prior to her career with PathStone, Angela was an entrepreneur, building individual, interpersonal and organizational competencies in manufacturing, pharmaceutical and power utility industries. She developed a pro bono consulting network to serve non-profits and public education.

Her Master's work in social/organizational psychology (Keuka College and SUNY at Buffalo) focused on cognitive diversity, conflict mediation, quality of work life and job satisfaction.

## CCNY CURRENT STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

BY OMAR HAMAD, MARCH 12, 2021



Omar Hamad, US EPA

I have had a meandering career path, to say the least. It has taken me through various trades and introduced me to amazing people along the way. I am a true believer in the notion that you never close yourself off to any possibilities in life because if you do, you will miss out on some fantastic opportunities. Before returning to the City College of New York for my engineering degrees, I spent the better part of a dozen years working in hospitality and hotel management and starting a few companies along the way. When I decided to go back to school, I imagined that I would work within the engineering consulting sector and developed the network needed to achieve my goal. But something interesting happened in the spring of 2014: while enrolled in the Earth and Atmospheric Science's Phase II Environmental Site Assessment course, my instructor, Dr. Angelos Lampousis, informed us of the annual EPA-CCNY Information Day. Holding to my belief that you never say no to an opportunity, I attended the event both in the spring of 2014 and 2015. The event gave me an illuminating insight into the everyday working of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I would later go on to intern at the EPA Region II New York office and become a full-time employee after graduating in 2016. The event itself played a large role in my decision to join the EPA: listening to the keynote talk about brownfields and meeting various alumni who worked in a host of different environmental fields opened my eyes to the endless possibilities afforded to the agency's staff. Seeing the impact your work could make in the lives of everyone around you and being able to help people in the work you do is a worthwhile bonus to any work you do in life. You never know what opportunities life will afford you. Take advantage of whatever comes your way. I am incredibly grateful to Dr. Lampousis and the CCNY alumni that helped host the event. In recent years, I have taken over the event's planning and organization, and I hope to keep it going for many more years.



Nicholas Ferreira, US EPA

BY ERIN WENGERTER, MARCH 12, 2021



Erin Wengert, CCNY student

Tackling environmental site remediation is like playing a game of chess. One needs to use all of the pieces, engage multiple strategies, and constantly anticipate the motions of the entire board. Such was my journey as a Summer 2020 Intern within the USEPA Region 2 Superfund Division. At the start, I was welcomed into an amiable environment by a variety of Remedial Project Managers (REMs). Under the supervision of Jonathan Gorin, Renee Gelblat and Kate Watkins, one of my biggest tasks was assisting the team in charge of the Imperial Oil/Champion Chemical Superfund Site in Morganville, New Jersey. As it stood, the natural processes were effective enough at reducing the level of groundwater/soil contaminants that the active treatment was rendered obsolete. Therefore, needing to communicate the switch to passive monitoring to the public, I was able to assist the team in their organization of the press release and public meeting. Here, I learned the importance of transparent, precise, and multi-party communication to the public. Especially with the rise of environmental justice, if our mission is to protect human health and the environment, the assistance and support of those within these ecosystems we aim to protect is essential. It was through REM David Montoya that I discovered several remediation techniques: bioremediation to remove petroleum products and pesticides, and in situ thermal treatment to remove chlorinated solvents, etc. Additionally, REM Larry Granite opened up my world to the ubiquitous global contamination by PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances). In order to remain involved, I continuously attended meetings between REMs, outside contractors, lawyers, and like-minded friends. Even through their professionalism, it was evident everyone involved cared deeply about how their work not only improves social and environmental welfare but uplifts everyone around them. As I approach graduation and plan for my completion of the Phase I and II En. Si. As. courses, it is clear to me that my experience within the Region 2 Superfund Division continues to propel my passions for this field going forward.

BY NICHOLAS FERREIRA, MARCH 12, 2021

My time as an undergraduate was quite the bumpy ride to say the least. The almost six years I spent obtaining my bachelor's degree were some of the roughest and most confusing years of my life. Thankfully, I always kept pushing forward and was able to turn my dream of working at the EPA into a reality.

Prior to attending the City College of New York, I spent my freshman year at Pace University and the following two years at SUNY Old Westbury. During these three years, I was quite lost and unsure of what to pursue a degree in. I ended up enrolling in several introductory courses across a series of degree programs in hopes of finding one that would stick. When I originally enrolled at CCNY, my intentions were to get a degree in civil engineering and figure out a career from there. However, I ended up failing two courses during my first semester at CCNY following the emotional trauma I experienced related to my grandmother's death. My GPA plummeted to a low I could never have imagined, and I was unable to qualify for CCNY's civil engineering program. Following this setback, I decided to take as many courses as I could that were technically part of the civil engineering curriculum but open to all students. It is during this time that I discovered my passion for environmental science. After this revelation, I enrolled in the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences program and submerged myself in the world of all things related to environmental science.

As an Earth and Atmospheric Science major, I enrolled in several courses with Dr. Angelos Lampousis and was introduced to all the possibilities a career at EPA presented. It was through his Phase II Environmental Site Assessment course that I was given the ability to attend the annual EPA-CCNY Information Day where I was selected for a summer internship position at EPA Region II. During my internship, I fell in love with all things EPA and knew there was no better place for me to develop my professional career. Thus, following my internship, I continued to stay in touch with people I met at EPA and applied to every opening position in EPA Region II that I could.

All in all, the years leading up to finally becoming an official EPA employee were not easy. However, I wouldn't trade these years of struggling as an undergraduate to find my place in the world for anything. Everything happens for a reason and no matter what roadblock was thrown my way I never gave up. I hope that sharing my experience can serve as inspiration to never let any setback to deter you from fulfilling a dream you have and to always keep pushing forward.

## CCNY CURRENT STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

BY MARILEIDY PIMENTEL, MARCH 12, 2021



Marileidy Pimentel,  
CCNY student

Since January, I have had the privilege to serve as an intern at WE ACT. WE ACT's mission is to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and low income residents participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. WE ACT envisions a community that has informed and engaged residents who participate fully in decision-making on key issues that impact their health and community. WE ACT also envisions a community with strong and equal environmental protections, as well as increased environmental health through community-based participatory research and evidence-based campaigns.

As a WE ACT intern, I am part of the community organizing and membership team. I am assisting with data entry in support of the Nation Builder membership database. I also perform community outreach and recruitment – both to invite locals to meetings, and to convey OSHA cards to those who have completed classes. Thus far, the internship has been an invaluable experience in developing my communication skills. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity and I will continue to strive to improve environmental conditions in my community.

## ANNUAL EPA-CCNY INFORMATION SESSION

### THURSDAY APRIL 1, 2021

#### Speakers

- Omar Hammad, Air and Radiation Division  
Introductions and Housekeeping
- Eric Schaaf, Esq., Office of Regional Counsel  
Senior Management Statement and Welcome
- Angelo Lampousis, Ph.D., CCNY  
Overview of the EAS Department
- Liubov Kreminska, Ph.D., CCNY  
Overview of the ESE Department
- Pamela J. Baxter, Ph.D., CHMM  
Keynote
- James Feeley, Human Resources  
EPA Employment & Internship Overview

#### EPA Region 2 CCNY Alumni Group

- Pamela J. Baxter, BEME '88
- Phillip Clappin, BS '78
- Adolph Everett, MECE '94
- Omar Hamad, BE '16 & ME '18
- Charles Harewood, BE '98 & MS '05
- Fernando Rosado, BEME '88
- Paul Sacker, BECHE '87
- Eric Schaaf, BS '76
- Derval Thomas, BECHE '85
- Ricardito Vargas, MS '15
- Terry Wesley, BECHE '88
- George Zachos, BECE '61
- Nicholas Ferreira, BS '19
- Ysabel Banon, MS' 20
- Fausto Taveras