

Established 1928

# Newsletter

## Federal Water Quality Association

An Affiliate of the Water Environment Federation; [www.fwqa-dc.org](http://www.fwqa-dc.org)

2015-16 Theme - Sustaining Clean Water: Driving Global Innovation;  
Special 24th Annual National Capital Scholarship Award Issue

### Outstanding Students Awarded Annual 2016 Scholarships *by Sharon Nye*



Congratulations to the Federal Water Quality Association’s (FWQA) 24th Annual Capital Environmental Scholarship Program winners! The 2016 scholarship awardees are Luke Kellett (President’s Scholarship) and Dillon Waters (Barber Scholarship) of Anne Arundel County, MD; Valentina Lohr (McCallum Scholarship) of Arlington, VA; and Anu Patel (Olem Scholarship) of Prince William County, VA .

These four outstanding students were honored along with local science fair winners at FWQA’s yearly awards luncheon (also see article on page 3).

This group of talented young men and women were awarded \$2,000 each and will go on to pursue their environmental studies at various universities in the U.S. Applicants from the District of Columbia and surrounding Maryland and Virginia counties were rated on academic achievement, environment-related essays, references, extra-curricular activities related to the environment, and overall presentation. A fourth scholarship was awarded this year due to the high caliber of applicants and their environmental awareness relating to water quality.

Thank you to our judging committee - Christian Davies-Venn (PEER Consultants), Sheila Olem (Herndon Town Council), Mary B. Klein (EPA retired), and Sharon Nye (FWQA), for their hard work and dedication to this program and especially to our sponsors – this program wouldn’t be possible without you!

And the 2016 Scholarship Winners are....See article on right with more pictures and articles in this issue!

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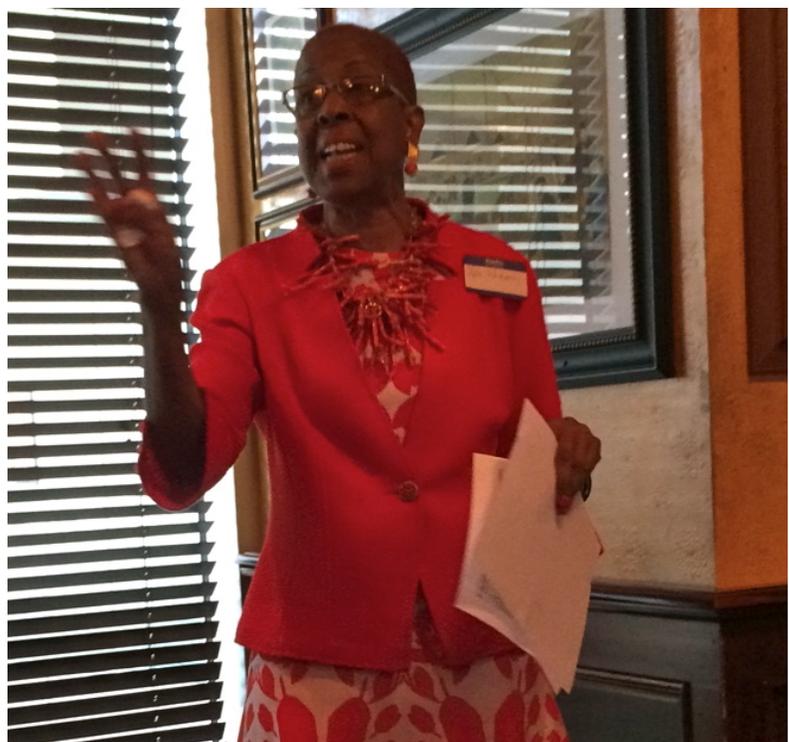
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## Dr. Abron’s Inspirational Earth Week Presentation: Having Our Cake & Eating It Too *By K. Jack Kooyoomjian, Ph.D.*

On April 21, 2016 at the Elephant & Castle Restaurant, FWQA hosted Dr. Lilia Abron, P.E., BCEE, Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of PEER Consultants, P.C. to share her views on the environment in a macro sense. Talking about “Having Our Cake, and Eating It Too,” she started off at an interesting place in 1969 with UNESCO’s program of peace, harmony and honoring the Earth on March 21st (the Spring Equinox), and how Senator Gaylord Nelson on April 22, 1970 in the U.S. founded “Earth Day.”

Dr. Abron tracked her life and academic and professional career with that of the environmental movement of 1969 and the Civil Rights movement to the present. Lilia noted that upwards of 20 million people participated in Earth Day 1970, while she was at the University of Iowa. She also touched on the history of collective bargaining from the 1937 time-frame, with the Pullman’s Union on the railroad (in that time-frame, Lilia’s Grand-daddy was a member of the Pullman’s Union). During that time there was the emergence of the Civil Rights movement, as well as the emergence of women in the U.S. joining the workforce with the advent of World War II, with the men at war. We had the emergence of Rosie the Riveter, and the (Continued on Page 6)



## Dr. Glass Challenges Award Winners to Focus on Finance 101 and Their Future Careers *By K. Jack Koovoomjian, Ph.D.*

The Federal Water Quality Association's (FWQA) 24th Annual Awards and Scholarship Luncheon took place on May 19, 2016 at the Elephant & Castle Restaurant, in Washington, DC. Keynote speaker for the event, Dr. Charles Glass, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, is an Associate Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Howard University. Dr. Glass is also a member and immediate Past President of the FWQA. Currently, he is serving as Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Analysis and Planning for the State of Maryland. Dr. Glass chose to discuss professional and financial growth, a topic that many students rarely hear about. He inspired the bright young people in attendance to consider the challenges in life as they make decisions regarding their higher education and career choices.

Dr. Glass began by asking the audience if they had thought about their career goals for professional as well as their personal financial growth. He then engaged the students on the subject of wealth accumulation and management. Poor people cannot cover basic expenses. The middle class people cover expenses and liabilities, as well as increases in income and asset purchases, to keep themselves generally ahead of inflation. Wealthy individuals derive income from purchased assets, and there is more income than expenses with minimal liabilities as compared to asset accumulation.

To maximize personal financial growth, you must know your individual strengths and weaknesses and do the following: continually increase income; decrease the ratio of expenses to income; purchase assets; and decrease liabilities. It takes continual discipline, tenacity, endurance, and vision, among other qualities to make this possible. People generally do not inherit these traits -- this is learned behavior, and one must be educated on the subject, be patient, humble, and thick-skinned, among other traits.

Dr. Glass outlined steps to becoming financially rich. He asked, "Do you want to become rich in your lifetime, but will you be too old to enjoy it?" or "Do you wish to accumulate wealth at a more rapid pace?" He indicated as a starting parameter (Step 1), you need to get an education, and a Bachelor's Degree helps, but a Master's Degree is better.



Dr. Charles Glass speaks to attentive award winners and guests at the 24th annual award luncheon May 20th in Washington DC.

Whether a Doctorate Degree adds to your wealth is variable. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree, one must devote himself or herself to hard work and discipline in their early 20's and 30's and continue this throughout their productive employment years. The major hurdles in the beginning of a career are such things as college loans and a car loan repayment. Other events might include the expense of owning or renting a home, condo or apartment, a marriage, saving for college for children and planning for retirement. Even (and especially) at this early stage, it is really important to put something aside for retirement, such as in a 401(k) plan or equivalent. If your employer has a matching contribution, get on this savings bandwagon quickly, because the time value of money will be working for you.

Dr. Glass indicated that in Step 2, you should really focus on paying yourself first, such as engaging in purchases of mutual funds, even if it is just \$100 per month. You need to budget yourself to have the discipline and long-term vision to save and start on that asset accumulation curve as your income increases. Think about getting a Master's Degree to enhance your career prospects and accumulate wealth. Invest a portion of your raises,

## Finance Advice for Award Winners

*(Continued from Page 3)*

think about the tax breaks and asset accumulation that comes with buying a house. You may also wish to start a business, buy individual stocks and take other avenues to wealth accumulation.

In Step 3 you may consider finishing your personal education, or buy your first home, or both. At this stage, you may get married, have children, may be engaged in hobbies and entertainment. It is important at this stage to increase your set-asides of funds to accumulate wealth. You will be gaining equity in your property between the tax break while you also pay off your home mortgage and hopefully the property increases in value over time. It is important to expand your assets for personal financial growth.

In Step 4, you need to accumulate other assets toward building your career aggressively with a view toward the long term. You may consider career moves that increase your income, as well as buying a larger home as an investment and for your growing family. You may be interested in business ventures, consulting, contracting or franchising. There are many options open to find your strategy and grow your assets. The take home point here is asset accumulation. You should strive to increase the rate of capital growth and increase that capital at a faster rate, preferably with added leverage from other people's money. When the business ventures show a profit, send the profit to your mutual fund portfolio, while also reinvesting back in the business ventures. This provides increases to your portfolio and completely changes your wealth accumulation chart. Increase your contribution as you are able. Multimillionaires make money in chunks. You can become wealthy with a plan to continually increase income and set it aside in the accumulation of assets, and in decreasing liabilities.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Glass urged the students to never forget to create their own reality, make a plan, have a vision, and stick to it. Hopefully on the way, they would have a commitment to make the world a better place, and accumulate personal wealth for themselves and their family. A brief enthusiastic question and answer session followed.



2016 Science Fair Winners (above) who attended Awards Luncheon. They represent schools in Prince William County, Loudoun County, and Arlington County, VA.



Eileen O'Neill (right) the Executive Director of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), presents longtime FWQA member, Karen Waldvogel (left) with WEF's Life Membership Award at the May Awards Luncheon. Karen currently works at the United State Department of Agriculture.



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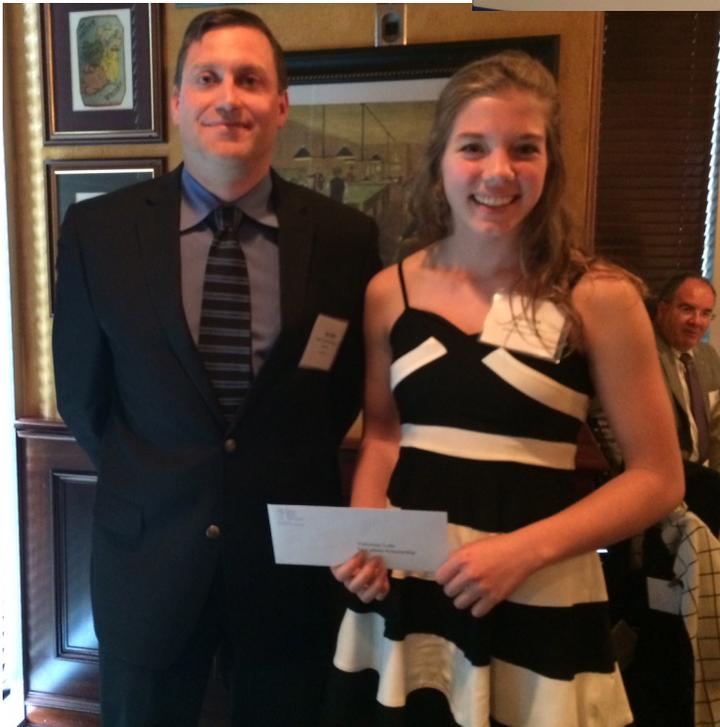
**FWQA's 2016 National Capital Environmental Scholarship Program**

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CONGRATS!!  
to All  
Awardees and  
Good Luck!



## Earth Week Luncheon (continued from page 2)

“We can do it, yes we can” attitude. Lilia was born in the 1945 time-frame.

In the postwar period (1948-1957), sanitary and civil engineering emerged as a part of the early environmental movement. Rachel Carson made us all aware of environmental issues with the publication of “Silent Spring,” and other classic works that noted the impact of pesticides, especially the wide use of DDT and other chemicals on birds, wildlife and the environment. The Nature Conservancy was started in this timeframe. We also were made aware of the awesome aspects of underwater wildlife, fisheries, coral reefs, currents, and the influence of oceans on climate with the underworld explorations of the world famous French oceanographer Jacques Cousteau.

When Lilia was in the 5th grade, we heard of the polluted Cuyahoga River bursting in flames. American’s awareness was elevated regarding environmental issues affecting their quality of life. In the middle of all of this, Russia launched Sputnik, and the Space Race and the technology challenge was on to educate our young children on science, rocketry, space, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) subjects. The “Sputnik Effect” spurred the Federal Government to offer National Defense Education Act (NDEA) fellowships to encourage young people to select science and engineering fields. Lilia was a recipient of an NDEA fellowship (so was this author).

In 1960, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was elected President. In 1961 Yuri Gagarin of the USSR was the first astronaut in space. We experienced the civil rights movement, the anti-war movement with Vietnam, the environmental movement, the oil embargo with the energy crisis. Around the 1969/70 time, Dr. Leon Weinberger (an FWQA member, by the way) was in the Interior Department and was involved with formation of the US EPA into a separate Agency from many disparate agencies by President Richard M. Nixon’s signature, and passage of NEPA (the National Environmental Protection Act) by the U.S. Congress. NEPA also established the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ), and required Environmental Impact Analyses for major environmental and public works projects. The Space Race was all about training space scientists, and there was a serious “bump” up in the education of civil/environmental engineers in the 1970’s and 1980’s. The use of the Greek term “Ecos,” meaning keeping one’s house in order became more commonly understood in education and environmental circles. Incidentally, Lilia’s felt that women were naturally inclined toward solving issues relating to straightening out the physical order of things related to ecology and Mother Nature. This included an inclination toward women tending to gravitate toward issues of social relevance. In her opinion, this also included understanding complex issues relating to Climate Change. She emphatically stated that man’s influence on climate change is at a tipping point and that this is supported by many scientific observations.

Dr. Abron also noted that there are many environmental challenges and problems, such as plastics pollution in the ocean, lead contamination in the drinking water as evidenced recently in Flint Michigan (and elsewhere), the disposal and pass-thru of pharmaceuticals from publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs) into water bodies and the phenomena of inter-species (male/female) fish, the disappearance of animals related to ecosystem changes, oil pollution effects on many water bodies resulting from human commercial activities, hazardous waste management issues, the problems with fracking, and many, many other environmental challenges. She felt that the advent of Silent Spring was her “Aha” moment that sealed her career path. She cited former Vice President Al Gore’s “Inconvenient Truth,” and it’s impact on Millennials for their “Aha” moment. Lilia also cited the challenges brought on by the California drought and many other examples, stressing that individuals can and do make a difference. She specifically cited Ms. Destiny Watford in Baltimore who recently received the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize for stopping the building of a trash to energy incinerator in the Curtis Bay Community where she lived in Baltimore, MD. Had this incinerator been built, it would have disproportionately adversely impacted the health of the predominantly African American minority population in the Curtis Bay community of Baltimore.

Lilia noted that a budget is a moral document. She feels that there are many opportunities these days for the younger generation in various disciplines to find their personal “Moonshot or Aha Moment” and rise to the many challenges that surely will come our way. She encouraged and urged young people to take their great ideas, enthusiastically embrace them, and apply them to keep Mother Earth and the Planet healthy. A lively question and answer session followed.

FWQA Election of Officers  
 Official 2016 Ballot  
 Ballots must be received by FWQA  
 P.O. Box 14303, Washington, DC, 20044  
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 fwqaevents@gmail.com  
 by June 30, 2016

**President**

- Greg Mallon  
 Write in \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President**

- Amanda Waters  
 Write in \_\_\_\_\_

**President Elect**

- Janet Goodwin  
 Write in \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary**

- Sharon Nye  
 Write in \_\_\_\_\_

Biographical Information

**Greg Mallon** is currently Vice President with Tetra-Tech, an environmental consulting firm in Fairfax, VA. Tetra-Tech provides engineering services to government and private sector clients around the world. Greg has over 25 years of experience in environmental engineering and program management. Before joining Tetra-Tech, Greg worked as a Project Manager for Weston Solutions and as a Senior Program Manager for SAIC. Greg has an engineering degree from New York State University. Greg is currently serving as FWQA President and is an active WEF and FWQA member.

**Janet Goodwin** has a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia in Environmental Science and Biology. She has worked for EPA and the Office of Water since 1980. She has worked on a number of regulations to control wastewater discharges from industrial point sources. Jan currently manages the Clean Water Analytical Methods program and various industrial studies. Janet has been an active member of FWQA and has coordinated the science fair judging for the organization for the past 12 years.

**Amanda Waters** is General Counsel & Director of Public Affairs for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). NACWA represents the nation's publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs) that treat wastewater, along with municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) utilities that manage urban storm water. NACWA's nearly 300 public utility members provide the majority of the U.S. population with reliable sewer service. Amanda manages NACWA's litigation portfolio, implements the Association's legal advocacy initiatives and oversees strategic communications. She was previously Deputy Executive Director & General Counsel for SD1 of Northern Kentucky, as well as Executive Director of Sustainability for New York City Department of Environmental Protection. She has also served as Deputy General Counsel for the State of Kentucky Environmental & Public Protection Cabinet and as a staff attorney with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. She received a law degree from Pace University and a BS in biology from Eastern Kentucky University.

**Sharon Nye** recently retired from her position as a research analyst with the Water & Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWEMA) where she worked for 24 years, assisting the president in a variety of legislative and regulatory issues. She remains active in the water industry in many capacities, and is an active volunteer and science fair judge in Loudoun and Prince William Counties. Sharon has served as Secretary for the Federal Water Quality Association for several terms and also serves as head of the Scholarship Committee. She is a recipient of the 5S award.

# National Capital Environmental Scholarship Fund

## Federal Water Quality Association

A Member Association of the Water Environment  
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