

For immediate release

## **AHMP HONORS MEMBERS, CHAPTERS, INDUSTRY PARTNERS WITH AWARDS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO**

*Awards recognize outstanding contributions that advance association's mission*

**BETHESDA, MD (Sept. 1, 2009)**—The Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals™ (AHMP), formerly the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (ACHMM), honored its top members, chapters and supporters during an awards ceremony at its recent National Conference in San Diego, Calif.

The AHMP awards program recognizes outstanding contributions in education, training, research, development, operations and performance that advance the association's mission and the hazardous materials and environmental, health, safety and security (EHS&S) professions.

"The Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals applauds its members, chapters and supporters who are being honored for their outstanding contributions with an award," said AHMP President Harry S. Kemp, CHMM, during the presentation ceremony. "Each of the honorees has made a valuable contribution that has helped make AHMP more vibrant and stronger membership organization."

The Awards Ceremony was held Sept. 1 during the AHMP National Conference. Nearly 700 hazardous materials and EHS&S professionals from around the country and the world attended the AHMP conference at the San Diego Sheraton Hotel & Marina.

Among the awards presented were:

### **Pete Cook Founders Award—Kenneth Manchen, CHMM**

AHMP's top individual honor was presented to Kenneth Manchen, CHMM. Manchen has served in a top AHMP, Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM) or local chapter leadership position for 25 consecutive years. Manchen served two years as ACHMM president and 20 years consecutively on the IHMM Board of Directors; chaired the IHMM Board for five years; and served as president of his local chapter—the Northeast Ohio Chapter of Hazardous Materials Managers. Also, for the past two years he has been the CHMM program representative on the Council of Engineering Specialties Board, which accredits the Certified Hazardous Materials Manager® (CHMM®) credential.

### **Hazardous Materials Manager of the Year—Cheryl Polios, CHMM**

This award, which recognizes a hazardous materials professional over the age of 35 who has made outstanding contributions in the EHS&S field, was presented to Cheryl Polios, CHMM of the New Jersey Chapter of ACHMM. Polios has served as a New Jersey chapter trustee, vice president and president. For the past two years she has served as chair of the chapter's CHMMunity Task Force; a member of the Programs, Membership and Nominations committees; as well as a member of the Website Work Group in addition to fulfilling her responsibilities as immediate past president.

(more)

*Global leadership for a sustainable future™*

## **AHMP Awards 2009 National Honors**

**Page—2**

### **Young CHMM of the Year Award—Leo Oberle, CHMM**

The Young CHMM of the Year Award, which acknowledges an outstanding EHS&S professional under 35 years of age, was presented to Leo Oberle, CHMM of the Gateway Society of Hazardous Materials Managers. While president of his chapter Oberle organized and managed a one-day Regulatory Update Seminar for more than 70 attendees. The event featured speakers from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, EPA Region VII, Army Corps of Engineers, an EPA on-scene coordinator, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) and St. Louis County Department of Health. He also helped the Gateway chapter negotiate an alliance agreement with OSHA.

### **Chapter of the Year—New Jersey Chapter**

The New Jersey Chapter of ACHMM was honored as the Chapter of the Year. Among its many accomplishments were the hosting of two CHMMunity projects with the Habitat for Humanity chapters in Ocean County and Trenton, N.J.; launching a new Web site that mirrors the look-and-feel of AHMP Web site; and participating in the Rutgers University Environmental Science and Engineering Career Fair to promote the CHMM credential.

### **Chapter Web Site of the Year—Northeast Ohio Chapter**

The Chapter Web Site of the Year, deemed to provide crucial ACHMM information such as membership and schedule of events, was presented to the Northeast Ohio Chapter ([www.neochmm.org](http://www.neochmm.org)). The chapter redesigned its Web site with a new layout and graphics, new content, more photos and new functionality—i.e., online member sign-up for chapter meetings and events.

### **Chapter Newsletter Award—CHMM of Michigan**

The best chapter newsletter award was presented to the CHMM of Michigan Chapter. Each issue of the chapter's newsletter, which is distributed quarterly, is filled with informative industry and chapter-related articles, most of which are authored by the chapter's members. Its layout is both professional and attractive and projects positively the image of the Michigan chapter.

### **Unsung Hero Award—Karen Goryl, CHMM**

The Unsung Hero Award, which honors an individual for outstanding contributions not recognized by another AHMP award, was presented to Karen Goryl, CHMM of the CHMM of Michigan Chapter. Goryl has been a member of the Michigan chapter for 16 years, served on its board for 15 years, and as treasurer for 11 years. As treasurer, she instituted various changes that benefited the chapter immediately as well as long term. Goryl participates in the overview class and provides continual help with membership recertification on the chapter's Web site, which she also assisted in redesigning.

### **Sponsor Appreciation Award—Bangalore Institute of Technology (BIT)**

In 2008 BIT, located in Bangalore, India, hosted a diverse delegation of CHMMs from the United States who were there to present the second Essentials of Hazardous Materials Management training course in the country and to participate in India's first National Seminar on Hazardous Materials Management. Culminating these two events was the formation of an institute to accredit the country's environmental professionals in hazardous materials management.

**(more)**

**Honor Roll of Champions Award**

AHMP local chapters that fulfill five criteria out of a list that includes items such as sponsoring an Essentials of Hazardous Materials Management course, are recognized with an Honor Roll of Champions Award. The six chapters honored were: **Eastern Washington Chapter of ACHMM, Gateway Society of Hazardous Materials Managers, Georgia Chapter of ACHMM, Michiana Chapter of ACHMM, New Jersey Chapter of ACHMM and Wisconsin CHMM Chapter (FET).**

**Champions of Excellence Award**

Fifty-three individuals were honored with a Champions of Excellence Award. To be considered for this award, each individual must fulfill five criteria out of a list that includes items such as publishing an article in a newspaper or journal or introducing prospective members to AHMP. The 2009 Champions of Excellence honorees are: Douglas Andrews, CHMM (Michigan Chapter); Albert Arnofsky, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Matthew Basso, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Mark Baumgardner, CHMM (Northeast Ohio Chapter); Ellen Bernard-Buie, CHMM (Michigan Chapter); Zvi Blank, Ph.D., CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Sharon Budney, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Cynette Cavaliere, CHMM (Finger Lakes Chapter); Don E. Coffey, CHMM (East Tennessee Chapter); Stephen E. Crouch, CHMM (East Tennessee Chapter); MaryEllen Doherty, CHMM (New England Chapter); John Egan, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Patricia Forgang, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Steven Galbierz, CHMM (Gateway Chapter); Lane Garwood, CHMM (Georgia Chapter); Karen Goryl, CHMM (Michigan Chapter); James Harless, CHMM (Michigan Chapter); Chandra Jennings, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Lakshmi Kantha (India Chapter); Linda Lawhorn, CHMM (East Tennessee Chapter); Daniel Levine, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Kenneth Manchen, CHMM (Northeast Ohio Chapter); Liz Marsh, CHMM (Michigan Chapter); Sandra Martin, CHMM (Roadrunner Chapter); William Moore Jr. (Michigan Chapter); Catherine Morse, CHMM (Michigan Chapter); Leo Oberle, CHMM (Gateway Chapter); Roman Pazdro, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Adonia L. Phillips, CHMM (East Tennessee Chapter); Bradley Scott Phillips, CHMM (Gateway Chapter); Cheryl Polios, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Philip Polios, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); B.S. Jai Prakash (India Chapter); Andrea L. Prignano, CHMM (Eastern Washington Chapter); Diane Pupa, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Raja Ranade, CHMM (Eastern Washington Chapter); Matthew J. Redmann, CHMM (Wisconsin/FET Chapter); Jeff Rothwell, CHMM (Georgia Chapter); Scott Sherman, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Jennifer Spalding, CHMM (Gateway Chapter); Robin Spencer, CHMM (Northern California Chapter); Charles Stebbins, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Ram S. Suga, CHMM (East Tennessee Chapter); Christie Sunderrajan, CHMM (Finger Lakes Chapter); Rhonda "Ronie" Swan, CHMM (Eastern Washington Chapter); Venky Venkatesh, CHMM (Northeast Ohio Chapter); Michael Verdon, CHMM (Georgia Chapter); Rampur Viswanath, CHMM (Eastern Washington Chapter); Roger Watson, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Barry R. Weissman, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); Robert West, CHMM (New Jersey Chapter); David Wheeler, CHMM (Georgia Chapter); and Ron Wilkins, CHMM (Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter).

**About AHMP**

AHMP is an international membership organization that fosters the professional development of its members through educational programs, peer group interaction and recognition of the Certified Hazardous Materials Manager<sup>®</sup> (CHMM<sup>®</sup>) credential and other credentials as standards of excellence in the environmental, health, safety and security (EHS&S) industry. AHMP is comprised of more than 50 chapters in 37 states and more than 4,000 hazardous materials professionals throughout the world.

###

**For more information contact:**

Alan Greilsamer, Communications Resources, LLC  
agreilsamer@communications-resources.com  
(703) 760-7007 / (703) 201-2508 (Cell)