

THE WATSONIAN



A newsletter for members and friends of the Watsonian Society

Oct/Nov 2011
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GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings Watsonian Members,

News Time! Before I begin describing some of what this edition has in store for your reading appetites, I'd like to take the time to thank you all for submitting so many creatively dynamic stories that continue to tantalize our reading pleasures. Thank you! Keep the stories coming.

In this edition, we take you on a journey through the foothills of Denver to check on a friend who has; followed by a trek through Ohio where we are likely to meet a pair of Zombie TaskForce members. As we wind down, we make our way back to the southeastern region of the States, where we will pit stop in the "sleepless" city of Snellville, where 'Everybody's Somebody'. But there's more:

Eager for this nail biting experience?

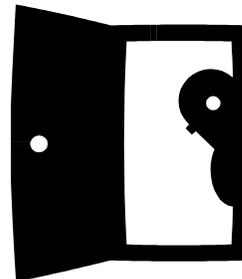
If so, Enter:

Enjoy,

Jeffrey D. Walker

khz2@cdc.gov

(828) 837-7486



We would like to hear from you and about you. **The deadline for all submissions is the 3rd Tuesday of each month.** Please continue submitting your stories

NOTICE

Marjorie Williams
WS Field Communication Coordinator
marjoriedwilliams@sbcglobal.net

"Share your experience in our monthly newsletter."



PRESIDENTS CORNER



Hard to believe how time flies by but it is banquet time again. The Watsonian Society's 26th annual banquet took place Thursday, November 3, 2011 in Atlanta. We sold over 120 tickets and joined members at this year's new location of the Buckhead Yacht and Polo Club. Our key note address was given by Dr. Ward Cates who is known to many in the STD and HIV programs. Dr. Frieden dropped by on his way home from Chicago and visited with friends during the social hour then made an impromptu address to the membership in attendance. He credited work of Public Health Advisors over the years as being critical to the success of public health. He added a few personal notes about his experience in NYC with PHAs and how they helped to shape his career.

Door prizes were provided by Beverly Taylor from the CDC Federal Credit Union including a Nook! We sang Happy Birthday to Bill Watson as he celebrated his 87th on November 1st. He was there with his daughter and son-in-law and seated front and center. We sang another round of Happy Birthday for Ward Cates who's celebrates his next week. Overall, food and fellowship were enjoyed by all. We welcomed over 38 new members and associate members this year plus several signed up at the banquet. Thanks to all of our ticket sellers, the planning committee and especially to our own Bob Kohmescher for paying the bills. Cheers for Gustavo, our President Elect, for finding the great location! We look forward to seeing folks again at the holiday social sometime in early December.

KB

Kristin M. Brusuelas, PHA
President, Watsonian Society

RETIREMENT

Please join us in sending Ron Stoddard off in style as he moves into his next great adventure - retirement. Ron has touched the lives of many in CDC and his career has been filled with meaning and accomplishment.

Ron joined CDC in 1972 as a Public Health Advisor with the STD Program in South Carolina. Three years later, he transferred to Maryland where he worked as a Front Line Supervisor at Eastern and Western Health Clinics and eventually Druid Health Clinic. In 1977, he was reassigned as the Assistant City Representative for Baltimore City. The following year, Ron was selected to undertake a special assignment to work with the Commissioner of Health for the State of Connecticut to address tobacco smoking as a public health problem. This was the first time a Public Health Advisor from CDC had been assigned to a state to address this issue. One of his most important accomplishments during this time was his work with a coalition of health organizations to successfully pass legislation that established “Non-Smoking Sections” in restaurants (Connecticut was the second state to pass such legislation) with the vision that someday there would be non-smoking sections in all restaurants and other public places throughout the U.S.

Ron then transferred to CDC headquarters in 1984 where he has been ever since. In his first position at headquarters he worked with the Division of Health Education to support the development and implementation of a health planning model that became known as the Planned Approach to Community Health (PATCH). PATCH was implemented in numerous states and more than 150 counties or communities across the country and in Australia. Five years later, Ron was the first Public Health Advisor to be assigned to a newly formed Cardiovascular Health Branch at CDC and in 1991 was selected to work in the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program where he conducted Program Evaluations and Assessments and served as a Project Officer on cooperative agreements that addressed the serious issue of childhood lead poisoning. It was during this time that Ron participated with a Department of State team in an assessment of the drought in the southern Africa. Upon return from this assessment, he took an additional assignment as an EEO Counselor, serving for two years. In 1995, he was asked to work with the Immunization Program out of Washington, DC on a six month detail which turned into 18 months. In 1999, Ron was reassigned from the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program as a Program Consultant where he oversaw a new “Diabetes Today Training Program” and worked with Appalachian Regional Commission to address diabetes in Appalachia. In 2001, Ron volunteered to be on a response team during the Anthrax attack where he served as the CDC point of contact at Brentwood Postal Facility in Washington, DC where several people died the night he and his colleagues arrived – a most challenging assignment. In 2004, he took an assignment with the Division of Parasitic Diseases to work on Special Assignments out of the Office of the Director. Ron then brought his significant domestic experience to CDC’s international programs when he joined the Center for Global Health in 2005 to provide management and operational support for the

establishment of several “Consolidated Country Offices” and to serve as a Project officer on several new “Umbrella Cooperative Agreements”.

Ron has been married to Linda Patton Stoddard since 1970. They have three children and four grandchildren. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves and the Air National Guard from 1971 until his retirement in 1996. Ron is an active member of the Watsonian Society. We will miss Ron’s impressive knowledge, can-do attitude and good humor. As he often remarks, “life with CDC has been an adventure and one cannot make up the things I have seen with CDC.” Please join us to say farewell and to wish Ron continued success and fulfillment.

A reception will be held on Thursday, December 1 at Building 12, Corporate Square, Room 5100 from 1:00 – 2:30.

Point if Contact is Nancy H. Nay, NHN1@cdc.gov

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Greenshields

Our dear friend Jim Greenshields passed away Friday evening. His son Aaron called me yesterday and asked that I spread the word to his friends at the Local Heath Departments, ODH and the CDC. Aaron told me that Jim had been diagnosed with cancer of the liver back in June. I spoke with Jim's wife Jean Marie as well. Jim was only 62 but we all know how he'd struggled with his health for most of his life. His funeral arrangements and a short summary of his life are posted on line in death notices at Redmonfuneralhome.com. He'll be buried at Riverside Cemetery in Cleveland. Flowers or donations to Hospas or St. Eugene's can be made via the information provided on the web site or you can call Redmon at 330-688-6631.

Jim retired from the ODH in the Fall of 2009. My wife and I had dinner with him at one of our favorite restaurants almost exactly two years ago. We had a great time! He didn't interact with his email buddies after retirement but we did occasionally speak on the phone. He got quite active in work at St. Eugene's in his last few years and I'm sure that was a solace over the past few months. I'll never forget him as one of the most energetic, devoted and hands-on DIS I've ever met. Nobody was ever a more dedicated Infertility Project Coordinator (self titled - Capt. Clap). He visited every single screening site all across Ohio at least once each year for QA and



training. I find it a bit ironic that Jim died the same night as Andy Rooney. In many of the same ways these two characters will never be duplicated as unique individuals.

I would ask each of you to think of someone else who would want to know about Jim and forward this message.

Thanks, Dennis Sayers

Submitted by Fred and Joan Martich

PERSONNEL UPDATES

Birth Announcement

Hello Family, Friends and Colleagues,

Nisha and I are so happy to announce the birth of our handsome baby boy named Rowan Anthony Moussakhani! He arrived at 3:09 pm on Thursday, September 29th and weighs 8 lbs. and is 20 1/4 inches in length.

Rowan has Mom's beautiful skin and eyes and Dad's nose and soccer legs! Both mother and baby are doing great. Here's a first picture of our baby boy.....more to follow after we escape the hospital.

With love,

Phillip & Nisha.....and Rowan!

Nisha Moussakhani is a member of the Watsonian communications committee working on the WS web site.



Frank Piecuchs' Emergency & Thanks

A few weeks ago, I experienced what was called "a catastrophe" and was transferred by ambulance from here in Denver to the Cooper Medical Center in Camden, New Jersey. The medical condition I have is "an Internal Hematoma", type B, where blood leaked into the layers of the descending thoracic artery aneurysm. I spent a week in the ICU and was released to home care. After medical consultation, it was decided to begin recovery heavily monitored/medicated for BP maintenance. During the next critical 90 day period, if the blood

pressure remains well managed, the aorta could actually heal itself (somewhat) and the blood that has collected in the damaged aorta can be reabsorbed.



At that point, further correction will be considered. Medical maintenance is the preferred course of action at this time. The reason for this note is to express a sincere "thank you" to Watsonian Society members who, during my emergency, offered encouragement and more importantly, prayers. At the top of the list are John Seggerson, Dave Knorowski, Joe Carter, Jerry Naehr and Jerry Dunleavy. John was in Poland with his family at the time; he learned of my dilemma while visiting the Shrine of the Black Madonna in the town of Czestochowa. It is Poland's holiest Shrine. A candle was lit and prayers offered on my behalf. Guess what! All were answered; I think of the offerings every morning as I awaken.

Ironically, this was going to my first attendance at the Banquet. No possibility of going. Just two days ago they gave the OK to start driving.

Hopefully, I'll still be around next year and will see many of you at the event. Enjoy this year's event.

Submitted by Frank Piecuch

Diane Gallagher (wife of deceased WS member, John) was injured in a car accident near Dalton, GA on October 14. Although she has no broken bones, she's still in a lot of pain. Sandy, her dog, was in the car, but fortunately suffered no injuries. We hear that she is still in good spirits. If you'd like to send a "get well" card, please send it to:

Diane Gallagher:
4427 Kingsfield Court
Dunwoody, GA 30338

Orlando Blancato – Getting Better

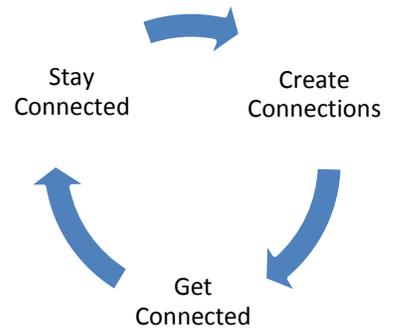
Retired PHA, Orlando Blancato, recently endured a 3 hour operation to repair a serious gastric reflux condition. He is at home recuperating. His address and email is:

2442 Idlewood W
Snellville, Ga. 30078
blancato@aol.com

He would be pleased to hear from folks

Submitted by Fred Martich

NEW MEMBERS



Sariane Leigh, US Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Sariane found her love for public health after serving in the US Peace Corps Belize from 2002-2004 as a Health Volunteer. The work inspired Sariane to learn more about the intersections between women, trauma and HIV/AIDS risks. She received a Master of Arts in Women's Studies from George Washington University and is currently working on college access opportunities as a Management and Program Analyst at the US Department of Education.

Sariane is excited to join the WS and hopes to contribute from Washington DC. Even though she works with the Department of Education, she has a passion to work in public health outreach for women, low income communities and international health issues. She would like to work internationally again in the Caribbean, West Africa or Pacific Islands.

Greg Olmsted, Environmental Protection Specialist, Washington, D.C.

Greg's education includes a MSc in Environmental Health Science and 29 years work experience in the environmental health field. He began work as a sanitarian and advanced in my career to front-line supervisor and management positions. Greg's current employment is environmental protection specialist with Joint Base Myer - Henderson Hall as their pest management coordinator. He also oversee the installation's fuel storage tanks and remediation cleanup sites.

Until last year, Greg was chief of vector control for the State of Hawaii Department of Health. Financial cutbacks by the state led to the abolishment of the vector control program and he took the environmental protection specialist position in Washington, D.C. Greg's job search made him realize that his interests had evolved. Greg is now concentrating his efforts toward public health, while at the same time building on my knowledge and skills in management. Research into educational opportunities led him to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's MSc in Public Health, and he is in my second year of their distance learning program. Greg has enjoyed the classes.

His research into public health careers led me to the Watsonian Society. Greg is excited to learn that a society exists such as the Watsonian. He is looking forward to sharing experiences with everyone and learning more about public health.

Mary Bovenzi, MP, Public Health Prevention Service Fellow, Atlanta, Georgia

Mary is a new PHPS fellow, currently on rotation in CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. She recently finished a MPH degree at the University at Albany. Mary has had a bit of Public Health programming experience working within a community-based organization, a county health department and the NYS Department of Health and is looking forward to gaining more experience here at the CDC.

Caryn Roth, Public Health Associate, Delaware, Ohio

After being accepted into the CDC Public Health Associate Program (PHAP), Caryn moved from Berkeley, California to Delaware, Ohio for a field position working in Chronic Disease Prevention. Through connections that she made at the Ohio State University in the nearby city of Columbus, Caryn began a research project connecting my Chronic Disease Prevention focus and biomedical informatics. When an opening in the Department of Biomedical Informatics came along, she applied for the position and was selected. Caryn believes she never would have had this opportunity without PHAP and her experiences in the program. She is glad that she will be able to stay connected to all the talented and dedicated Public Health Advisors and other health professionals through the Watsonian Society.

Other New Members

- George Hughes
- Chelsey Chmelar
- Diane Dlouhy
- Michele LaLand
- Whitney Li

NEWS OF INTEREST

This section will feature a snapshot of selected CDC Connects articles and other publications of interest. Fully text of the articles will be posted on the Watsonian website (<http://www.cdc.gov/watsonian/>).

INTERVIEWS FROM THE FIELD

Mentorship as Prevention:

Nurturing New Generation of Officials to Ensure that Public Health Thrives

Diana Yassanye, MSeD and Jenni Steckowski, BS, CHES

The perception of [public health](#) to the community is vague, if recognized at all. When we, as public health professionals, do our jobs well, our neighbors and communities do not get sick. How do we maintain our ranks when our best, and daily, work goes unnoticed?

A potential answer is mentoring. Mentorship should be looked at in the same light as public health at its purest: [PREVENTION](#).

It is a long-term investment and those with institutional knowledge have the responsibility to enact preventive measures to slow the decline in public health professionals. CDC is investing energy and capital into mentorship via field assignees at state and local health departments. A few of these projects involve young people with undergraduate and graduate degrees, at the beginning of their public health careers. The co-authors of this article share in the mentorship experience through the [CDC Public Health Associate Program](#) (PHAP).

Public health practitioners need to step up and groom the next generation of this profession. Choosing to mentor a young health professional is a win-win-win situation: for the mentor, for the mentee, and for the future of the public health workforce. CDC programs such as PHAP provide an opportunity for these partnerships. Sustaining our workforce is imperative and mentoring is an effective method of preventing the loss of institutional knowledge in the field.



*Diana (left) & Jenni (right) are proud members of the Zombie Task Force .
Commissioned to investigate zombies domestically and abroad*

Before being accepted into the Class of 2010 Public Health Associate Program, Jenni Steckowski pursued her undergraduate degree in health promotion and behavior at the [University of Georgia](#). Due to the close vicinity of the CDC, many employees would frequent her lectures as guest speakers to discuss their public health programs. The passion exuded by these speakers had a profound effect on Jenni. This passion inspired her to pursue a career in public health.

While these CDC employees were not formal mentors, they still had the potential to influence young professionals, as evidenced by Jenni's experience. Shortly after relocating to her field assignment with the [Office of Emergency Preparedness at Ohio's Columbus Department of Health](#), Jenni became a part of the PHAP mentor program and was excited about the opportunity to have a direct connection to the CDC. This connection allows her to gain a deeper understanding of how public health functions at the federal level while also gaining insight and guidance from the expertise of a seasoned CDC employee. Jenni strongly believes that the mentor program really is a win-win situation for both the mentor and the mentee. Diana Yassanye, Jenni's mentor, is new to formal [mentoring](#) and stationed at CDC's Atlanta campus.

PHAP offers an opportunity for her to develop structured dialogue regarding the current state of public health at the local health department level. This includes the economic climate, current initiatives, and professional dynamics that she needs to more effectively serve the local public health customer. It also keeps her "in touch" with her roots at the community level. She shares her experiences from 16 years of public health work, knowing that her experiences can inform Jenni's efforts. Diana is also learning about a professional young woman who is defining her own path in public health and gaining insight from Jenni's perspective.

Health departments are dealing with programmatic cuts across the board, in lock step with government-wide cuts. State and local public health personnel feel these cuts personally. Government jobs, at all levels, continue to trend downward. When experienced public health advisors leave, they take with them their skills, established relationships, and vision for the future. The resources available now are time and people, not money. Applying the [tools](#) we have to improve the numbers and quality of the workforce are necessary for the [future](#) of public health.

Resources on Mentoring

[PHAP](#)

[Watsonian Society Mentor Program](#)

[American Public Health Association, National Mentoring Program in Public Health](#)

[University of Washington, Community/Campus Partnerships for Health,](#)

[Public Health Institutes of the World](#)

[Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard Mentoring Project](#)

From Fellow to Public Health Advisor

Christopher Smith, MPH

My route to become a PHA started back in college at Tuskegee University when I learned about epidemiology and continued via my formal Master's level education in public health at Saint Louis University. Graduate school and my first official job as a field assignee for the National Cancer Institute in Missouri really stimulated my interest in public service in the field.

I left National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service in 2007 and joined CDC via the best fellowship ever, the Public Health Prevention Service- PHPS (clearly I'm a little biased). My PHPS experience was phenomenal! First being assigned to the CDC Director's Office via the then Office of the Chief of Public Health Practice (now OSTLTS) and following that 6-month assignment with another 6-months learning about public health systems to address international emerging infections in the National Center of Preparedness Detection Control of Infectious Disease.



The valuable trainings PHPS provided in addition to the those working-learning experiences prepared me well for my first CDC field assignment in Environmental Health & Emergency Response at the Kentucky Department for Public Health. The comprehensive and cross-cutting skill sets I felt myself gaining plus the support of other CDC field assigned staff such as Margo Riggs (CEFO), Doug Thoroughman *(CEFO), Chang Lee (PHA), and Margaret Patterson (PHA) allowed me to flourish whether it be in a emergency response to a devastating state-wide ice storm, flash flood mitigation in a coal mining community, or the legislative process to pass a new food code for the Commonwealth. Upon successful completion of the PHPS fellowship, I knew I wanted to remain with CDC and in the field so I connected with the Program Operations Branch at NCIRD-ISD via Title 42 as a PH- Associate. I accepted the Michigan assignment with great anticipation and excitement for I had never worked in immunizations but knew my public health foundation was solid enough to make me an asset to the team while learning the new and ever evolving immunization information.

The support and welcoming spirits of PHA's such as Denise Rogers, Ed Mihalek, Donovan Robinson, Jim Lutz, Angela Sorrells-Washington, Rosie McLaren, and all other Immunization PHA's has allowed my first year in this position to be a success. I'm stepping into my role confidently now and definitely feeling like I'm an integral part of our team's continued growth. Now that I am officially at Title 5 PH Advisor, I look forward to continued growth into my role with the agency and hope my works add to the legacy of this distinguished position.

**Definition of CEFO (Career Epidemiology Field Officers) for us unfamiliar with the program. <http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/science/cefo.htm> . One of our former maternal child health epidemiology assignees (she was in Massachusetts) joined the CEFO program and is now posted to Maine. Further one of our staff is using the CEFO training model in Africa.*

My PHPS Experience in Houston: By: Shahid M. Hafidh, MPH

As a CDC Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS) fellow, I began a two year field assignment in October 2010 with Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPHES), in Houston TX, seeking to gain as many public health leadership and project management skills and experiences as possible.

Since arriving in Harris County, the 3rd largest county in the United States, I have been involved in many projects, ranging from conducting a community health assessment, to coordinating the development of a community-based Produce Buyer's Club aimed at addressing challenges with access to healthy food. I have also designed a process evaluation plan and coordinated assessment activities for a \$2 million Childhood Obesity Prevention Planning Initiative. Those activities have included conducting the initial assessment of the walkability and bikeability of Harris County neighborhoods identified as crash hot spots for accidents between automobiles and pedestrians and cyclists. It has been exciting working on a cutting-edge public health strategy designed to promote safer built environments that will encourage people to be more active with a goal of impacting the climbing obesity rates.

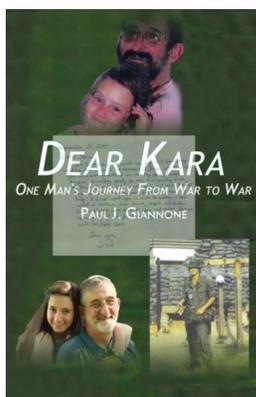


My experience as a fellow has been both rewarding and challenging. Fortunately, I have a dynamic set of supervisors (both PHPS and field supervisors) who are also great mentors. They worked diligently with me to identify the numerous opportunities available within my revised scope of work. Flexibility and open-mindedness have been extremely important.

I appreciate the opportunity to try new experiences as a fellow, at the local health department/community level. I also witnessed firsthand how vital the work of Animal Control staff is in protecting the public from vector-borne disease, by shadowing an HCPHES Veterinary Public Health Animal Control Officer to catch loose animals (usually dogs and cats). That was a very memorable experience! My experience as a PHPS fellow has been exciting and enjoyable, and I highly recommend PHPS to others interested in obtaining varied public health experiences and gaining a broad set of skills

EVENTS

Dream Catcher Publishing *Dear Kara One Man's Journey From War to War* by Paul J. Giannone.



Paul Giannone is a 30 year career emergency responder, planner and public health administrator. Paul resides in Atlanta, Georgia with his wife Kate and his daughter Kara.

Submitted by: Dwan Hightower



Livvy's Love, Inc. invites you to participate in its inaugural Livvy's Love Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, January 14, 2012. You will enjoy your run/walk along five scenic miles of the beautiful and historic Stone Mountain Park. Livvy's Love Inc. was created by fellow Watsonian Society members, Norman and Nikki Hayes, in memory of their daughter, Olivia Nicole Hayes. Norman is a Public Health Analyst in the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Division of STD Prevention, Office of Health Equity.

He is responsible for managing the Tuskegee Health Benefit Program and is the project officer for a couple of contracts and cooperative agreements housed in the Office of Health Equity. Nikki is a Public Health Advisor assigned to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Nikki is an Assistant Branch Chief in the Division of Cancer Prevention currently on loan to the Center's proposed Division of Community Health. She has provided

technical guidance and expertise in the development, implementation, and evaluation of several public health programs to include the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, the CDC's Colorectal Cancer Control Program, the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and the newly launched Community Transformation Grant Program. Both



Norman and Nikki are extremely committed to improving health outcomes and have dedicated the majority of their professional lives to public health service.

Norman and Nikki's daughter, Olivia (affectionately called "Livvy" by her family), was an excellent student, very active in extracurricular activities, and is most remembered for her loving spirit. Sadly, Olivia passed on September 1, 2008 after a tragic vehicle accident that occurred while boarding her school bus in late August of 2008. Olivia was 10 years old, and about a month shy of her eleventh birthday.

Norman and Nikki decided to honor Olivia's memory by developing this 501(c)(3) organization to provide financial support in the form of scholarships and grant awards to deserving youth between the ages of 5-21 years and other non-profit organizations with similar missions. Funds raised from this event will benefit such youth in educational, extracurricular, and community involvement endeavors. Since its inception, Livvy's Love, Inc. has provided over \$7,000 in direct and indirect assistance to several hundred youth, and is on a mission to increase its reach and amount of assistance. In the spirit of Olivia, Livvy's Love, Inc. is committed to "making a difference one small act a time". Invest in our youth by giving a child an opportunity for growth and development that may not otherwise be attainable.

Join us in this effort by pre-registering as a Watsonian Society Team member today at <http://livvyslovefunrunwalk.eventbrite.com>! For more information on the organization, please visit www.livvysloveinc.org. Thanks in advance for your participation!

There are 2 ticket options: \$10 Team Patron ticket and the \$20 Team Angel ticket. Team Angels are individuals that contribute above and beyond to their teams, and ultimately the organization. Team Angels are also formally recognized at the event. If you do not enter any discount code, your purchase will come to \$30, and you will also be recognized as a Team Angel.

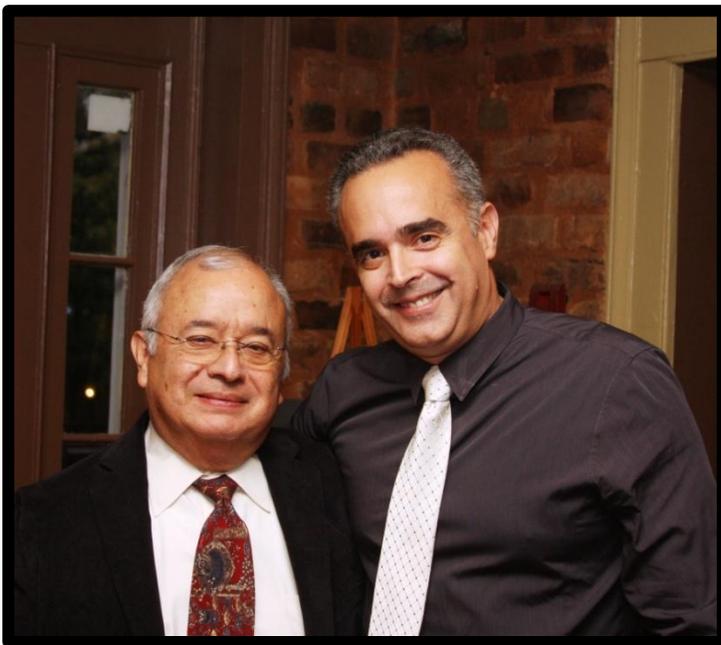
To purchase the Team Patron ticket(s), select the number of "Team Member" tickets you would like to purchase, enter the discount code WATSOC10, and click "Order Now".

To purchase the Team Angel ticket(s), select the number of "Team Member" tickets you would like to purchase, enter the discount code WATSOC20, and click "Order Now".

2011 Watsonian Society Annual Banquet Pictures



Banquet Scene



Louis Salinas & Gustavo Aquino (President-Elect)



Ward Cates, M.D., featured speaker

**EAGER TO SEE MORE?
CLICK the Link Below:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/watsonian/events/2011-banquet.htm>

