

## 1980

51 officers

The prevailing concern during 1980-1982 was the federal budget cuts in the first years of Ronald Reagan's presidency. At the same time, CDC reorganized in 1981 from the one Center for Disease Control to the Centers (plural) for Disease Control, creating new centers that all competed for the limited funds that were available. Budget cuts were not limited to CDC – almost every health, social, and informational agency was targeted. The Reagan administration closed the U.S. Public Health Services hospitals, creating a reduction in strength of the Commissioned Corps (with more senior officers bumping more junior officers), and the Commissioned Corps itself was almost abolished. So our class was very concerned about funding of the agency itself and whether CDC would be able to hire any of us post-EIS. CDC's in-house cartoonist Ed Biel was the artist.



The poster may not have been a class decision (or perhaps we all said, "Yeah, sure, fine" to someone's suggestion), but I don't know who brought the idea to Ed Biel and asked him to sketch it with our caricatures.

Submitted by Richard Dicker (EIS '80)

I think credit for the "Budget Wars" theme is primarily deserved by Ronald Reagan and his budget director, Richard Stockman, for having proposed severe Reductions In Force (RIFs) to PHS, among other hits to public health in the early 1980s, that actually succeeded. (Obviously, the EIS was saved).

Submitted by Bruce Weniger (EIS '80)

## 1981

65 officers

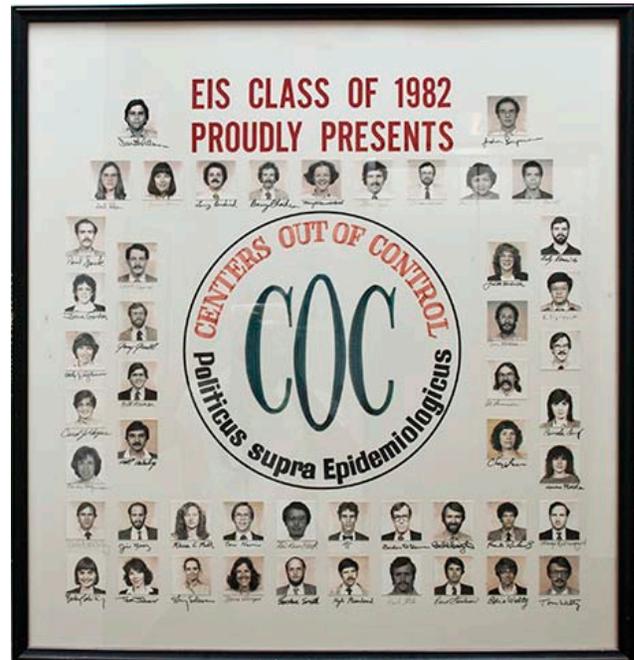
The story behind this gift is missing. Please contact Judy Gantt at [jgantt@cdc.gov](mailto:jgantt@cdc.gov) if you have information about this gift.

## 1982

49 officers

We started EIS in July, 1982. Reagan had been in office for just over a year when we started. Even though the AIDS epidemic was unfolding during EIS, Reagan was virtually silent about it.

For a while the American government completely ignored the emerging AIDS epidemic. In a press briefing at the White House in 1982, a journalist asked a spokesperson for President Reagan *"...does the President have any reaction to the announcement – the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, that AIDS is now an epidemic and have over 600 cases?"* The spokesperson responded - *"What's AIDS?"* To a question about whether the President, or anybody in the White House knew about the epidemic, the spokesperson replied, *"I don't think so."*



It was not until more than a year after our EIS class graduated (17th September 1985), that President Reagan publicly mentioned AIDS for the first time, when he was asked about AIDS funding at a press conference. Critics were quick to ask why, if AIDS had been a 'top priority' among the government, the president had not mentioned it in public before.

In fact, on April 23rd, 1984, Margaret Heckler reported that the AIDS virus had been found, but controversy surrounded who actually made the discovery. A few other political issues also come to mind. Reagan appointed Koop as Surgeon General in early 1982, just as we started EIS. Much of his work was political (e.g., tobacco, AIDS, abortion). Also, Bill Foege (a CDC legend) was replaced by Jim Mason about half-way through our EIS. That may have been viewed as a political change of the guard, from the old CDC shoe-leather epi, to a Republican appointee from Utah (although in the end, Jim Mason's tenure was quite distinguished).

Submitted by Patrick Remington (EIS '82)

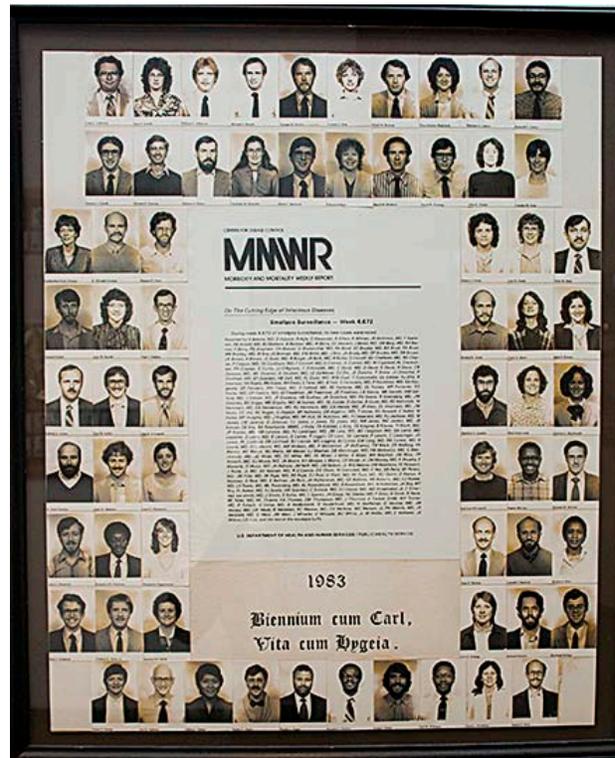
## 1983

71 officers

The *MMWR* portrayed with our class picture represents a satirical publication consisting of a one sentence update of smallpox surveillance in week number 4,652 following it being declared eradicated. The report shows no cases, and the list of contributors consists of all the members of our EIS class. This was a spoof on CDC "resting on its laurels" by mentioning the one successful disease eradication campaign at every opportunity presented.

The caption in Latin means: "A biennium (2 years) with Carl, a lifetime with Hygeia."

The skit was by Mark Eberhart and Ann Hardy. She and I worked in what was then CDC's "AIDS Activity."



Submitted by Ken Castro (EIS '83)

Ken -- I agree with your recollection of the *MMWR*. In addition, I think the article served as a comment on the *MMWR*'s tendency at the time to list large numbers of "contributors" -- seemingly defined more by geographical proximity to the events described rather than any effort they had put into the article, and, of course, except the EIS officer who actually wrote it.

Now, I may be making the following up, but I have a vague recollection of someone (maybe Mary Moreman) coming to us around or even after the time of the skit itself and asking "what about the gift?" I'm also thinking she got blank stares from us.

But, and this may be total confabulation, I'm thinking one of the skits was a musical number about an EIS officer seeking the path to glory investigating an outbreak of chronic diarrhea (the punch line was his Langmuir paper finding a highly significant association between chronic diarrhea and toilet use). A prop in the skit was a giant Q-tip-like swab he carried around swabbing everything. At one point the plan was to retrofit that as the "gift" (with all that it connoted) but I don't remember if that actually happened.

Submitted by David Fleming (EIS '83)

The Q-tip belonged to Mark Eberhardt's and Ann Hardy's act.... Stuart and I had this humongously large agar plate that I licked, while Stuart did a roll up and down the key board at the halfway point in the song. Parts I've forgotten, although Rob Tauxe immortalized it on a CD



that I have somewhere, and I still sing it softly to myself before viewing any Tuesday morning seminar....here's what I remember:

"I'm afraid Valdosta's made of Sweet Georgia Brown,  
If you took what's not been cooked, you got Sweet Georgia Brown,  
They all cry and wanna die when they get Sweet Georgia Brown,  
I'll tell you just why,  
My abstract don't lie, (not much)

If you took what's not been cooked, you got Sweet Georgia Brown,  
It's a shame, but what's to blame for Sweet Georgia Brown?  
The chicken, ice cream, or just the town?  
Can you tell me where the agent's gone?  
And can you tell me, now, where's the john?  
Georgia claimed it, and I named it  
Sweet Georgia Brown"

Submitted by Terry Chorba (EIS '83)

As I recall it through the dim mists of fading memory, Ken and Dave are correct. One day, after the EIS skits were over, I think, somebody came to us and said, "What about the class gift?" Dave is no doubt correct; it was probably Mary Moreman. Carl Tyler mentioned to somebody the lack of a gift from our class and was not pleased about the omission.

I created the framed presentation. I remember laying out the poster on the dining room table at Dan Fishbein's house (EIS '83), where I was living, and rubber gluing all the photographs. I think it was my idea to add the Latin phrase, "Biennium cum Carl, Vita cum Hygeia." I called a Latin professor at Emory to make sure I got it right. Ken is correct on the English translation. I think a few of us went to Carl's office and presented it to him. We were forgiven.

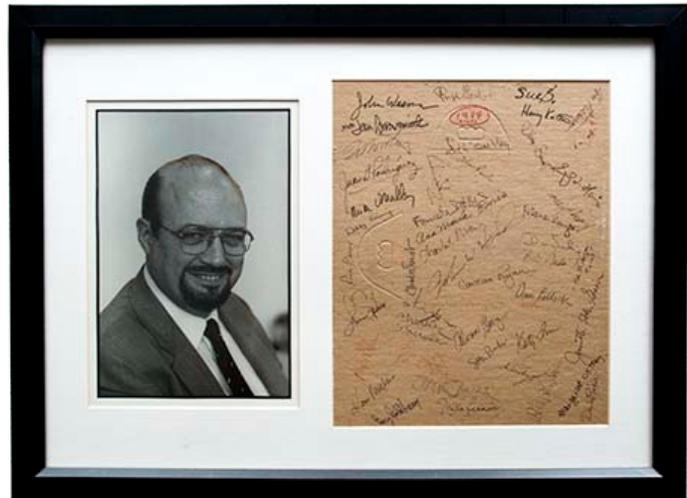
The fake *MMWR* on smallpox was the cover of the program at the annual EIS skits for our class year. I think Suzanne Smith (EIS '83) had a hand in creating it. The list of names appears to be a real list of all the people who did work on smallpox eradication.

Submitted by Fred Shaw (EIS '83)

## 1984

61 officers

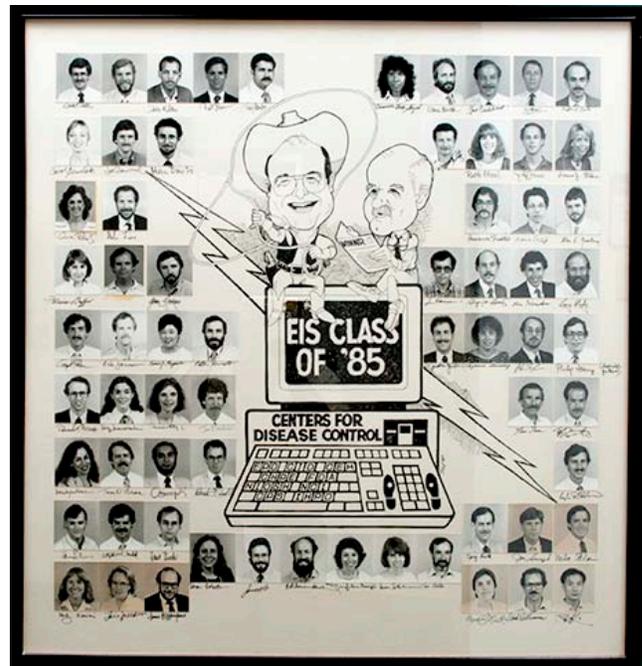
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## 1985

69 officers

My memory is that the lightning bolt was related to the following: During our EIS Summer Course field exercise, we conducted a telephone survey which led to observation/testing of fire detectors in homes. During the one evening when we were scheduled to conduct the telephone survey, we were in offices spread throughout Building 1 at Clifton Road. Our phone survey was in progress when a severe thunderstorm with lightning occurred, and the electricity in Building 1 went out. However, to keep to our tight timeline, we had no choice but to forge ahead, so we conducted the telephone survey basically in the dark using flashlights, etc. The publishing of this study was coordinated by Jim Mendlein from our class and was published in the *MMWR* during the time that Mike Gregg was Editor (Prevalence of smoke detectors in private residences--DeKalb County, Georgia, 1985. *CDC, MMWR* 1986;35:445-448). Our class T-shirt that we all wore on skit night at our EIS "graduation" was red and also had a black lightning bolt on it.



Finally, my memory is that Carl's cowboy motif is related to Carl's "sabbatical" at the Oklahoma State Health Department during our EIS tenure. My understanding is that as Director of the EIS Program, Carl wanted to stay in touch with EISO issues, as well as federal/state relation issues by spending some time in a field location which had a current EISO.

Submitted by Polly Marchbanks (EIS '85)





The use of a PC as iconic of the EIS 85 experience is because we beta tested the very first (MS-DOS) version of Epi Info. We analyzed data from our field project in the small amphitheater of the main building at Clifton Rd (now the Roybal campus). Epi Info was installed in several PCs (with 5 ¼ floppy disks and “luggable” Compaqs with “huge” 20MB hard disk drives!).

Submitted by Jose Becerra (EIS '85)

## 1986

51 officers

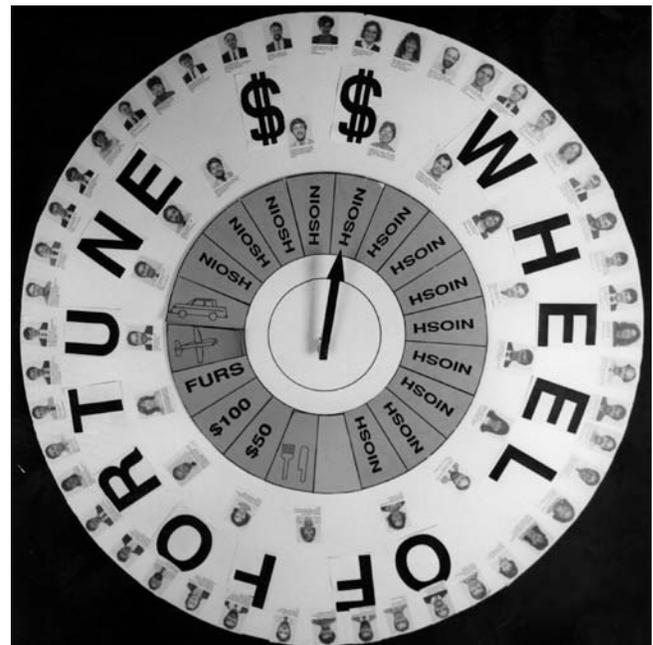
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### 1987

64 officers

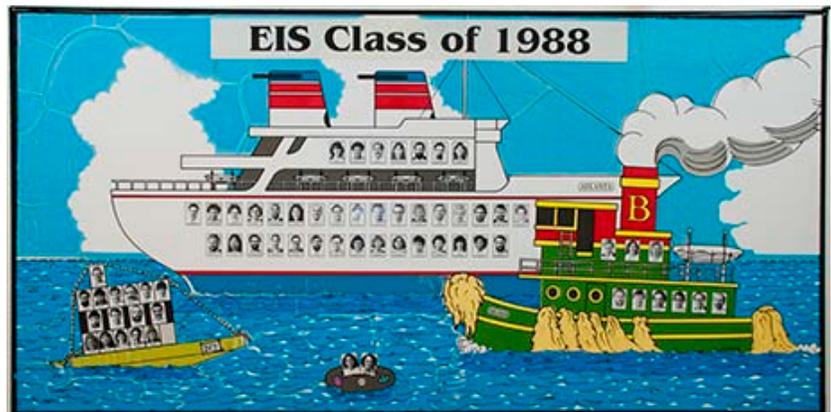
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### 1988

68 officers

The collage uses EIS photos of all of the people in our class. The photos on the ship are of the staff whose assignments were in Atlanta; on the dingy were the folks in field positions; and on the life preserver were the two who had DC area assignments.



The inspiration was based on the theme for the class skit, which was called the "HHS Pinafore."

Submitted by Christine Branche (EIS '88)

There were several cruise ship outbreaks that EIS members of the class of 1988 contributed to investigating, and so the cruise ship montage was a convenient way to get the photos of each member displayed in the class gift. I don't remember any particular outbreak that was exceptionally large or newsworthy, but the graphics people at CDC helped put the montage together for us.

Submitted by Anne Schuchat (EIS '88)





## 1989

67 officers

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