



## WATSONIAN NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 5, 2007

### The 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL WATSONIAN BANQUET

It was a great scene, *old friends* visiting with each other at the Marriott Atlanta Century Center for the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Watsonian Banquet September 28<sup>th</sup>. The bash was wall to wall PHAs and friends.

Following the dinner, the OUTSTANDING PHA AWARD was presented to: **Michael Waller**.

Nomination for Michael Waller

It is rare that one can say at age seven they want to be a Public Health Advisor. However, Mike Waller's uncle, a pioneer public health advisor, made an early impression on the boy.

After learning on-the-ground public health and the best way to get the job done through the STD program (1976-1984), Mike joined the Chronic Disease Center to help initiate the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Mike played a pivotal role its development and growth by always asking colleagues and partners, "What can I do to help you?" During his tenure (1984-1999), BRFSS expanded from a point-in-time survey in a few states to an ongoing national survey.

In 1999 Mike became Deputy Branch Chief for the newly created Health Care and Aging Studies Branch. Those early days were rocky; however, Mike in his special quiet manner worked behind the scenes to focus staff on the public health challenges ahead. His efforts resulted in the launch of the arthritis program, which today funds 36 states.

As Deputy Director for the Division of Adult and Community Health, since 2003, Mike still holds true to those early themes, always asking "What can I do to help you?"; always going the extra mile to improve public health impact; and constantly reminding staff that CDC's greatest asset is its employees. For his dedication to public health we nominate Michael Waller for the CDC Watsonian Society's Outstanding Public Health Advisor Award.

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**The 2006 Honorary PHA award was presented posthumously to Larry Farer.** and was presented to his brother Dr. James W. Farer.

Here is his nomination

**Dr. Laurence S. Farer** served 24 years as a CDC PHS Medical Officer and served as Director of CDC's TB and Quarantine Divisions. He received numerous awards for

exemplary service. Sadly, he passed away suddenly on October 11, 2002, at the age of 65, of a brain hemorrhage.

Throughout his CDC career, Dr. Farer (or Larry to PHAs), was known as a staunch supporter and promoter of the 685 series and of individual PHAs. PHAs and others remember him for his integrity, brilliant intellect, professionalism, sense of humor, and administrative talent. He firmly believed that CDC's successes and continued operations were dependent upon a dedicated corps of PHAs working hand in hand with CDC's scientists. He consistently strived to sustain and enhance the PHA series. As a result, Larry was known for "looking out" for PHAs and their interests throughout his career. He was a demanding yet inspiring and compassionate mentor for his PHAs who considered Larry a friend, confidant and partner. All his PHA friends have stories about working and kibitzing with Larry who loved to dine with his reps in Atlanta and in the field. Larry was never reticent about promoting the value of PHAs and bragged that he expected us to get the job done while keeping him out of trouble as we did the job. He was also sometimes very frank about his thoughts when things were really messed up in the bureaucracy, but he valued and listened to PHA advice on how to proceed. He was very proud of his participation with PHAs in domestic and international details to refugee camps, outbreak investigations, and to India during the WHO smallpox eradication campaign.

Dr. Farer graduated from Cornell University with honors, received his medical degree from New York University and a Masters degree in public health from Harvard University. He was an NIH Fellow. He was widely published in professional journals and was a longtime member of the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease and of the American Thoracic Society.

As Director of the CDC TB Division, he oversaw a large contingent of PHAs. He presided over the reinstitution of categorical TB grants which enabled health departments to recruit outreach workers from TB high incidence cultural/language populations. These workers were better equipped to reach out to patients and make it easier for them to complete treatment. A number of these workers have become CDC PHAs; many others moved into health department supervisory and management positions; at least two have served on the national TB Advisory Committee. The nation's Strategic Plan for TB Elimination was initiated on Dr. Farer's watch. He also became internationally renowned as a TB expert. He recognized the need for better TB control worldwide and the potential for the U.S. impacting on global TB. He enhanced the U.S. role with international TB control and research groups. Dr. Farer's medical and public health proficiencies, as well as his ability to diplomatically summarize discussions and agreements were especially appreciated by the international and domestic TB communities.

During Dr. Farer's tenure as Director of the CDC Quarantine Division, the immigration patterns to the U.S. were undergoing significant changes and he led the modernization of medical screening of aliens seeking admission into the U.S. He also provided medical direction and improved oversight for the medical screening of refugees in camps throughout S.E. Asia.

After retirement, Larry became a consummate bird-watcher along with his long time colleague and friend, Frances Ogasawara. Global travels from his home in Asheville, NC, to observe birds in local habitats took him all over the world. He visited every

continent except Antarctica. Leading nature walks and birding trips, Larry was a compelling raconteur who brought seemingly sleepy woodlands and meadows to life. As a generous, caring philanthropist, he benefited conservation and humanitarian charities. Larry is a credit to his brother, Dr. James W. Farer, to his extended family, to the Public Health Service, to CDC, and to a worldwide network of PHAs and friends who remember him fondly.

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Throughout the night- the banquet attendees were treated to a large array of door prizes- ranging from body massages, dinner certificates, to books by CDC related authors, there were many happy winners.

Speaking of authors- the key note speaker was **Chet Richards, PhD**, author of "Certain to Win" John Boyd's Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Richards mesmerized the audience with the *OODA loop*: "Observe, Orient, Decide, Act". Well known in other industries, it has significance to business and government operations. Points for discussion: covered included: Why we need better strategies; What an OODA loop really is ; What OODA loop "speed" really is; Ideas for improving agility and What you really do with OODA loops. Everyone leave the bash ready to OODA the world!

A special; note of THANKS to the **events committee** and all who worked on planning, organizing, the event and to those who sold tickets and helped with logistics.

The events committee is chaired by **DWAN HIGHTOWER**- who outdid herself for this event. It was a great success and enjoyed by all.

We look forward to next year's banquet!

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**COMMITTEE NEWS**  
**NOTES OF CHEER NEEDED**  
**MEMBER NEWS**  
**HAVE YOU HEARD?**  
**RETIREMENTS**

**CONDOLENCES**  
  
**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:**  
**October 18,, 2007                    3:00 PM to 4:30 PM.**  
**LOCATION: Roybal Campus, Bldg 1, Room 6106**  
Dial-in: 877-213-9251  
Leader PC: 794789  
Participant PC: 740797

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**CONDOLENCES:**

**Dave Crowder's sister** - Jennifer A. Dunn  
Jennifer Ann Crowder Dunn, age 41, of Rock Spring, Georgia passed away Thursday, September 27, 2007. She was born in Phoenix, Arizona and had resided in the Rock Spring, Georgia area for the past thirteen years. She is preceded in death by her mother: JoAnn Alexander Crowder. She is survived by her father: Harold Boyce "Buzz" Crowder of Rock Spring, GA, brother and sister-in-law: **David & Joan Crowder** of Lilburn, GA, nieces and nephew: Jackie, Kate, Makenzie and Stephen Crowder. Contributions maybe made to Ambiothropic Lateral Sclerosis Association..

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It is with great sadness that we report the death of friend and former co-worker, **Allan "Al" Lee Kovach**. Al died unexpectedly on Monday, Sept. 10, 2007, at Northeast Georgia Medical Center. Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Gloria Kovach of Flowery Branch, also a CDC employee; son, Brian Kovach and his wife Jennifer, Braselton; daughter, Jennifer Ann Kovach, Cumming; along with a host of close friends.

Al was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on April 19, 1946, to the late Elmer and Dorothy Grugel Kovach. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, having served his country with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Conflict. He spent his career in federal service, working many years for the U.S. Park Service and retiring from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2005.

Al began his service at CDC in the Financial Management Office and in 1989 joined the AIDS program, which was later a component in the formation of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. During his tenure at CDC, Al played a key role in the coordination and processing of incoming HIV/AIDS surveillance data from State and Local Health Departments. He worked tirelessly with health department staff across the country to insure that all data were updated and available by the close of each month and available for use in critical summary reports serving the entire CDC community, including local community planning efforts for HIV prevention.

Al was also known in the CDC community for his jovial and friendly spirit. Many office mates recall talks with Al over baseball or football scores from the previous weekend's games. He played golf and umpired youth baseball. He had a great love of animals and rescued many animals that had been abandoned. Al lived life to the fullest and enjoyed his many friendships. His down to earth and inviting spirit made it easy for CDC colleagues to approach him and participate in an impromptu chat. One left feeling better about the day in general after talking with Al.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to PAWS, (Pets Are Worth Saving), 806 Honeyridge Road, Guyton, GA 31312

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**NOTES OF CHEER NEEDED**

Catching Up with you all.

**Gene Williams** is recovering from recent heart surgery and is looking forward to getting back on the golf course. He could use some **lighthearted** humor!

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**MEMBER NEWS**

As of August 13th, **Kate O'Toole** is the Managing Director for Business Operations in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer at the American Cancer Society. She can be reached at

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**HAVE YOU HEARD?**

A Message from the Secretary Regarding Presidential Rank Award

On September 28, President Bush announced the winners of the **2007 Presidential Rank Award**. These awards are given to a very select group of career civil service executives whose integrity, strength, leadership, and sustained performance have earned them one of the most prestigious honors in government. Recipients are selected after nomination by their agency and a rigorous review process that includes evaluation by private citizens. The two award categories are: the Distinguished Rank Award, awarded for achieving extraordinary results through their executive careers, and the Meritorious Rank Award, given for sustained accomplishment.

I am very proud to be associated with all the thousands of employees who work so hard and accomplish so much for our country. I am especially proud to count as colleagues the following recipients of the 2007 Presidential Rank Award:

The Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive was awarded to:  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Kerry N. Weems

Office of the Secretary  
Linda D. Garvin

**The Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive was awarded to:**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
**Stephen B. Blount, Rosemarie Henson, and Donald E. Shriber**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Jacqueline S. Garner, Timothy B. Hill, James T. Kerr, Terris A. King, and Elizabeth A. Richter

Food and Drug Administration  
Jane A. Axelrad, Linda S. Kahan, Michael M. Landa, and Deborah D. Ralston

Indian Health Service  
Kathleen R. Annette and Don J. Davis

Office of the Secretary  
William F. Raub

National Institutes of Health  
Lore Anne McNicol and Richard Suzman

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Anna L. Marsh

Please join me in congratulating this Department's 2007 Presidential Rank Award recipients.

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I am pleased to announce the selection of **James A. Nelson, Ph.D.**, as the Chief Diversity Officer for CDC/ATSDR, effective October 1, 2007.

Dr. Nelson has achieved a distinguished career in the field of Diversity Education and Training and Development. He has a Master of Science degree in Management from Central Michigan University and a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Ohio University. He has also studied at Stanford University, and has certifications in Diversity, Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity, Mediation, Facilitation, and Survey Instrument Analysis, including the popular DiSC personality styles assessment, as well as certification from Lominger in the Leadership Architect Competency model and the Lominger Voices 360 Coaching product.

Among his many professional activities, Dr. Nelson has served as a member of the Diversity Task Force for the Southeastern Association of College Student Administrators. He is also a graduate from the Center for Creative Leadership's African American Leadership Program, and has received numerous awards and distinctions for his consultation work in the field of Diversity.

Dr. Nelson served nine years as Chief Diversity and Equal Opportunity Officer in the Department of Defense, where he was responsible for Human Relations and supervised more than 150 diversity counselors across the country. Most recently, Dr. Nelson worked for the Department of Defense and Georgia Institute of Technology in a number of key positions, including Diversity, Equal Employment Opportunities, Human Relations, and Training. He served as a special facilitator for the state of California, in its discussion on the future of healthcare in the United States.

Over this past year, in the absence of a permanent Chief Diversity Officer, we have relied on Sandra (Sandy) Williams, whose efforts in leading the diversity initiatives have been a mainstay. Please join me in thanking Sandy for her dedicated and outstanding performance. We will continue to count on Sandy's superb organizational skills and energy as we develop the Office of Diversity and address critical issues and opportunities.

I know that you will welcome Dr. Nelson as he begins his work in this vital position at CDC/ATSDR. I look forward to working with him as he contributes expertise and leadership to our ongoing efforts in the Office of Diversity.

Carlton Duncan

Deputy Chief Operating Officer

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I am delighted to announce that our **CDC website**, *CDC.gov* (<http://www.cdc.gov>), has been awarded the **Web Marketing Association's 2007 WebAward for Best Medical Web Site**. Now in its eleventh year, WebAwards ranks sites of 96 industries on seven criteria: design, innovation, content, technology, interactivity, copy writing, and ease of use. As Best Medical Web Site, and in its role as CDC's primary communication channel, *CDC.gov* reflects the vision and energy of the *CDC.gov* Council, the *CDC.gov* Team, CDC's health marketing staff, and their leadership.

Just five months ago, in April 2007, CDC launched the first phase of the [CDC.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) website improvements, which are guided by four criteria: They must be user-centered, research-based, performance-driven, and collaboration-rich. The response to the first phase has been evidenced in the site's accolades. Competing with more than 2,400 sites, *CDC.gov*, scored 68.5 of a possible 70 points in the WebAwards competition, far

exceeding the industry averages of 49.7 for the government category and 51.8 for the medical category. *WebMD* won in the medical category in 2006.

With more than 9.5 million page visits per month, *CDC.gov* recently hit an all-time high of 83 in the [American Customer Satisfaction Index](#), the industry index that measures user satisfaction with government, commercial, and non-profit Web sites. Users have reported a 70% increase in satisfaction and a 22% increase in ability to successfully complete tasks on the site.. Positive feedback has come from site users, other federal agencies, and industry leaders. Consumers, epidemiologists, and medical practitioners alike have shared their enthusiasm about the changes made to help site visitors find useful information on public health issues.

I know that you will want to join me in congratulating the *CDC.gov* Council, the *CDC.gov* Team, CDC's health marketing staff, and their leadership for the excellence they have demonstrated—and continue to demonstrate—in serving the needs of our public health audience.

Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.

To view CDC's listing in the Winners Database, go to:  
<http://www.webaward.org/winner.asp?eid=9635>.

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#### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT/EVENT**

##### **12th Annual Golf Tournament for FEEA Scholarships**

**Location: Country Club of Gwinnett**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2007**

**From: 08:00 AM To: 02:30 PM**

##### **CDC Federal Managers Association**

#### **Remarks from the President**

On behalf of CDC's Chapter 322 of the Federal Managers Association, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our chapter web site. Our mission is to promote excellence in public service, to inform managers of policy issues affecting their professional interest, and to increase the efficiency of the managerial force. We have a very vibrant chapter, as evidenced by our chapter being recognized at the 2003 FMA Convention with the President's Award for Excellence for being the best chapter in FMA. We host quarterly chapter luncheon meetings with exciting speakers, and we send delegates to the two major national meetings and to the Zone 3 conference each year. Our big event is our annual golf tournament, the proceeds from which we award academic scholarships to CDC employees and their dependents. We awarded five \$1000 scholarships for the 2005-2006 academic year, and hope to increase that number this year and in years to come. I invite you to explore our web site and find out more about our organization. If you like what you see, come join us. Thank you for your interest!

*Beverly King*, President  
FMA Chapter 322

[Apply Now For FMA Chapter 322 Scholarships For The 2007-2008 Academic Year](#)

12th Annual Golf Tournament, October 17, 2007

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Golfers, mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 17, 2007 for the 12th Annual Federal Managers Association Golf/Tennis Tournament! For more than a decade, this event has been the “driving” force behind college scholarships for CDC /ATSDR employees and their relatives. The scholarships are awarded through the Federal Employees Education Assistance Fund, which is a Combined Federal Campaign recognized charity.

Tournament Information

Advance Entry Fee \$75.00 per golfer includes: - Greens Fees  
- Cart Fees  
- Lunch

\* \$85 golf fee after October 1st

Tournament Day Schedule

8:00 a.m.....Registration  
9:00 a.m.....Tournament begins  
2:00 p.m.....Lunch  
2:30 p.m.....Prizes and Awards

Tournament Location

Country Club of Gwinnett  
3254 Clubside View Court  
Snellville, Georgia 30039  
www.countryclubofgwinnett.com  
SEE the website for all the details and registration form:

12th Annual Golf Tournament, October 17, 2007

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**RETIREMENT:**

After 29 years of federal service and 23 years at CDC, **Judy Froelich** will hang up her pipetman for the last time. Judy worked 13 years in hospital and clinical laboratories before beginning her federal career in 1978 at the Veteran Administration Hospital on Clairmont Road. There she worked as a Medical Technologist in the VA's blood bank and serology labs. In 1982 she went to the Eisenhower Medical Center at Fort Gordon in Augusta where she worked in the STAT Lab. In addition to her duties performing clinical tests for the health clinics and emergency room, she also trained military personnel to perform lab work. In 1984, she moved back to Atlanta and joined the Laboratory Program Office of the CDC to perform hematology and blood bank proficiency testing for over 3000 laboratories.

In 1988 she went to work for Mike Parvin in the Clinical Testing Branch of the Hematological Division. She performed hematological and chemical profiling, blood cell

differentials, phlebotomies and hemaphoresis in the clinical testing section. In 1993 she joined the Biotechnology Core Facility's DNA Section performing quality control testing on synthetic DNA.

Judy feels that she has been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with and support the dedicated scientists that make up the CDC family. She will be remembered not only for her technical and people skills but for her famous baking skills as well, those who have been fortunate to work with her wish her well in this well deserved next step of life, which involves more time with family and friends, and hopefully, an occasional visit to her coworkers in the CORE facility with a plate of cookies in tow.

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