SWANA Mission Statement:

“Advancing the practice of environmentally and economically sound management of municipal solid waste in North America.”

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This year, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter received four applications for the 2015 Scholarship Program.

Benjamin Ramsey received the highest score for the 2nd consecutive year by the Chapter Evaluation Committee and will receive the $2,000 George L. Winfield Memorial Scholarship Award. As a category 1A winner, Benjamin is majoring in Biological Sciences at Clemson University. He is the son of Amy and Thomas Ramsey, Associate, Geosyntec Consultants, Columbia, MD. Benjamin’s complete essay can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

The following three winners were each awarded $1,000. Excerpts from their essays can be found on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.

- Casey Jordan Marker is majoring in Marine Biology at the University of North Carolina. She is the daughter of Craig C. Marker, Senior Engineer, BAI Group, Inc., Middletown, DE.

- Kristen Eshoe Fawole is majoring in Chemical Engineering at Cornell University. She is the daughter of Deji Fawole, Project Manager, SCS Engineers, Columbia, MD.

- Perveren Kaur Gulati plans to major in Finance at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. She was sponsored by Charles Reighart, Bureau of Solid Waste Management, Baltimore County, MD.

Kristen Fawole’s application was also forwarded to SWANA International for consideration for the Grant H. Flint Scholarship Award for Category 2.

The Chapter has invited all scholarship recipients to attend the Thursday lunch on June 25, at the MRN/SWANA-Mid-Atlantic 2015 Annual Conference, 12:15-1:30 p.m., where each will be awarded their check to assist in defraying some of their college expenses.

The Chapter is also looking for a sponsor to replace the former Office Paper Systems Award.

Congratulations to all of the winners!
Benjamin Ramsey Receives $2,000 George L. Winfield Memorial Scholarship Award

Benjamin Ramsey received the highest score for the 2nd consecutive year by the Chapter Evaluation Committee and will receive the $2,000 George L. Winfield Memorial Scholarship Award. Benjamin is majoring in Biological Sciences at Clemson University. He is the son of Amy and Thomas Ramsey, Associate, Geosyntec Consultants, Columbia, MD. Benjamin’s award winning essay is copied below:

21st century civilization produces a lot of garbage. Sure, all animals produce waste, but ours is of a different nature. Landfills, polluted oceans, and an island of garbage in the Pacific show that the trash that we produce is not decomposable; in other words, the earth cannot naturally reuse or destroy our waste. Our tires, candy wrappers, and plastic bottles sit for decades, harming ecosystems and reducing the earth's natural resources. Solid waste management is an industry oriented around one goal: to stop us from destroying the earth with our waste. It represents our collective responsibility to our planet, our fellow man, and future generations to keep our global home a clean and safe place to live.

Solid waste management isn’t just limited to the people who work in this field. It is something that everybody should participate in because it is a global responsibility. The decision to recycle or drive a hybrid vehicle or to not use a plastic water bottle is up to the individual. Engineers, contractors, and environmental scientists are experts in improving waste management at a commercial scale, but ordinary people can make a positive impact though their own efforts.

In my mind, the biggest issue that the solid waste management industry is facing right now is finding ways to reduce our collective waste output. Waste management systems that were constructed decades ago often do not meet up with our modern standards for sustainability.

Many projects within solid waste management involve restoring old landfills and installing recycling programs in new areas. At my university, it is a struggle to recycle a meaningful percentage of waste because the local area does not have an established recycling program. Waste management systems cost money, and many communities don’t have the motivation to make themselves more sustainable yet. This blocks the funding and support needed to change the waste footprint of a neighborhood, a city, or our entire country. People who work in solid waste management have to find affordable, lasting solutions to help communities reduce their waste.

I think that the best solution to our waste management problems is engagement at the individual level. What I’ve learned from working with my peers on a college campus is that sustainability initiatives only succeed when everyone involved is invested in the goal of the group. The same principle applies in settings larger than a university campus. If we make the public more aware of the effects that garbage has on the environment, large-scale solid waste management projects will be more effective. It only takes a few decisions to recycle by homeowners for a neighborhood to reduce its garbage output by ten percent or more. A long term goal for solid waste management could be a community that recycled more than 50 percent of its waste or even a waste-free community.
Casey Jordan Marker

Casey Jordan Marker is majoring in Marine Biology at the University of North Carolina. She is the daughter of Craig C. Marker, Senior Engineer, BAI Group, Inc., Middletown, DE. Excerpts from Casey’s essay are copied below:

“Solid Waste (trash, garbage, manufacturing waste) has been a part of the world since the beginning of time. Mismanagement of solid waste results in releases to the environment.

One of the future directions I believe is important is trying to lessen the impact of releases of solid waste on marine life. They include wildlife entanglement which is derelict nets, ropes, line, or other fishing gear, packing bands, rubber bands, balloon string, six-pack rings, and a variety of marine debris can wrap around marine life.

There are many ways to help prevent the impact of marine debris. The most important being prevention of the release into waterways. Some specific ideas include educating students—and their families—on the importance of understanding and changing the behaviors that cause debris is an important step. Beach goers and fisherman can also prevent marine debris by being conscious of collecting waste and properly disposing of it.”

Kristen Eshoe Fawole

Kristen Eshoe Fawole is majoring in Chemical Engineering at Cornell University. She is the daughter of Deji Fawole, Project Manager, SCS Engineers, Columbia, MD. Excerpts from Kristen’s essay are copied below:

“With millions of households and businesses producing waste daily, a solid waste management system is essential...

Although much progress has been made, much more action needs to be taken. I believe the essential problem is changing the mentality of the general population, especially the youth.

In our society where everything is digitalized, young people have this mindset that problems should be solved as instantly as a text message can be sent to the person beside them. With updates for the latest devise being released daily, it’s no wonder adolescents are quick to discard outdated and “useless” objects; it’s no wonder they believe that progress should be evident the next day.

As long as efforts are made, our errors will not become a mistake until we refuse to correct it.”

Scholarship Winners continues on page 4
Perveen Kaur Gulati plans to major in Finance at the University of Maryland, College Park. Excerpts from Perveen’s essay are copied below:

“Solid waste management is not a government service nor is it one individual’s responsibility. Solid waste management has, and always will be, a community effort. It is through the community that we are able to practice the most environmentally sound strategies for municipal solid waste. We do this by reusing and reducing: this can mean anything from buying products in bulk or having our local businesses employing remanufacturing practices.

Without the public giving active input about how they feel on current policies and regulations, the government would not be able to understand the community and would not be able to make any effective progress on viable solutions.”

Perveen Kaur Gulati
Reminders / Wanted

- “Reporters”/writers for our Chapter newsletter.
- Training the Trainers: Contact a Board member if interested in being trained to be a trainer for a SWANA course.
- SWANA Web Sessions: If your organization presents web sessions, make them a Chapter event so that all attendees can get CEU’s. Contact Steve Lippy, Dana Murray or Shirl Wright.
- Job Vacancies in your Organization: Contact swright@nmwda.org for inclusion in our Chapter newsletter and website.
- Articles, information, recent/on-going projects of interest, active purchase orders, etc.: Contact swright@nmwda.org to be placed in our Chapter newsletter.
- Scholarship Sponsors: Contact Steve Lippy or Mehal Trivedi.
- Name(s) of Prospective SWANA Members: Contact either our Chapter Membership Chair, Ashley Evans ashleyevans@arcadis-us.com or direct the prospective member to our Chapter website www.swana-midatl.org or SWANA’s website [www.swana.org](http://www.swana.org).
- Newsletter Ads: These are business card size ads only (2” x 3.5”); $100 for 4 issues. Send your ad in a JPG or PDF file to swright@nmwda.org. Please make check payable to: Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA and mail to the attention of Shirl Wright at NMWDA, 100 S. Charles Street, Tower II - Suite 402, Baltimore, MD 21201-2705.
- American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists: If you are an environmental engineer or environmental scientist, you are eligible to become a member or to be certified in solid waste management by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. See [www.swana-midatl.org](http://www.swana-midatl.org) or [www.aaees.org](http://www.aaees.org).

SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Board Meeting, Lunch and Bowling Outing

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Visit Chapter website for add’l. info. [www.swana-midatl.org/events.html](http://www.swana-midatl.org/events.html)

Registrations due by July 3

Mid-Atlantic Chapter Annual Meeting

September 17, 2015 (tentative)

Location to be determined

The CompuWeigh System
Software That Outweighs the Competition

Mid-Atlantic Chapter
Solid Waste Association of North America
c/o Northeast MD Waste Disposal Authority
Tower II - Suite 402, 100 South Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2705

Stephen T. Lezinski, Newsletter Editor
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June 22, 2015

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**SWANA Guiding Principle:**

“Local government is responsible for municipal solid waste management, but not necessarily the ownership and/or operation of municipal solid waste management systems.”