I am honored to write my first newsletter column as director of the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH). In my search to find the most appropriate theme for an inaugural message, there were two words that kept circling in my head – opportunity and leadership. It has been said that one of the secrets to success in life is for a person to be ready when opportunity comes. The opportunity that lies before me is exciting and I am confident and ready! I have served as a public health laboratory director for the past 20 years and consider the many and diverse experiences along the way as preparation for this exhilarating new role. Leadership is a privilege; it is a privilege to serve in the communities where we reside and a privilege to better the lives of others. I am humbled by this opportunity to lead and look forward to taking this institution from where it is now, to places it has never been. Since my appointment to this role, I have been struck by the talent and dedication that is clearly embedded among the scientific, technical, training, administrative, and support staff at NCSLPH. This is a group that is focused on providing public health functions that touch the lives of every North Carolinian. It is truly an honor to work with such an outstanding team.

As I start in this new role, I am conscious of the large shoes I am attempting to fill. Dr. Leslie Wolf directed the NCSLPH boldly and effectively right up until her departure in July 2012. Dr. Wolf led the NCSLPH through many transitions and championed many public health efforts. Her leadership will be missed along with her warm personality. And so therefore, I personally thank Dr. Wolf for her many years of service to North Carolina and her dedication.
to public health and wish her the best in her new journey!

New beginnings bring new opportunities and so much is new at NCSLPH. In addition to my start as director in January 2013, NCSLPH welcomed our new assistant director in February 2013, Dr. Dee Pettit. Dr. Pettit previously served as the bioterrorism coordinator and BioWatch laboratory director for Virginia’s Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) where she worked for the past 14 years. Dr. Pettit serves on a number of national committees on Homeland Security and Laboratory Response Network issues, including the Biosafety Laboratory Competencies Working Group. She also serves on the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Preparedness and Response Committee. She also served in leadership capacity for the Virginia Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and is the chair of the Public Health Division of the national ASM. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Pettit join us in North Carolina.

Yet another new element of the NCSLPH is the facility in which laboratory operations take place. In January 2013, NCSLPH relocated from the site it occupied in downtown Raleigh since 1972 to a brand new, state-of-the-art laboratory building in northwest Raleigh that it shares with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). The 225,000 ft² facility construction project was completed in late 2012 following more than eight years of planning, construction, and commissioning.

Much credit for the new facility goes to former NCSLPH directors Drs. Lou Turner and Leslie Wolf. Both were instrumental in the support necessary and planning required for a new public health laboratory facility intended to serve the citizens of North Carolina for years to come. I also want to thank Mike Kaufman, NCSLPH assistant director for operations for his remarkable management of the construction project. Mike made sure that all aspects of the new facility would meet the challenging needs of a laboratory called upon to support a wide variety of public health initiatives. Thank you Mike!

And so 2013 brings new opportunities and new leadership to NCSLPH. I look forward to developing new relationships and nurturing established connections with our partners in State and local government, with academia, with our laboratory colleagues, with private industry, and with many other facets of our society that are impacted by public health laboratory functions. As we formulate and fine tune the strategic road map that will carry this lab forward, rest assured that NCSLPH will remain a cutting edge public health asset supporting nationally recognized public health programs. It’s great to be on board and I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months!

Submitted by:
Scott J. Zimmerman, DrPH, MPH, HCLD (ABB)
Director, North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health
Looking Back and Moving Forward

As I was receiving articles for Lab-Oratory, it quickly became apparent that the theme of this issue would focus on what is new at the state laboratory. However, just briefly, I would like to reflect on the old.

In December and January, boxes were being packed, checklists were being compiled, and many meetings were being held to ensure that the move of a large and complex organization would be smooth and efficient. It seemed a long time coming. Our new building had been talked about for years, and more than a few doubted it would ever happen. When the time finally did arrive to bid farewell to the Bath Building, our home of almost 40 years, there was a mix of emotions. Many employees liked the downtown atmosphere with nearby restaurants, coffee shops and museums. Our neighbors included the Governor’s Mansion and the legislative building, and it was exciting to feel the history there.

Yet in spite of all the creaks and groans of an aging building, many of us could not help leaving without some fond memories. The brightly decorated Christmas tree in the lobby brought a smile to many faces every December. Raffle baskets, cards of encouragement for co-workers, flower arrangements and fundraiser chocolate bars often adorned the reception desk. The Employee of the Quarter greeted us from a framed poster as we stepped into the elevators.

The second floor classroom was the scene of many employee celebrations, including retirements, wedding and baby showers, potluck lunches, Lab Week activities and holiday parties, all planned and carried out to celebrate each other and working together as a family. In the last couple of years, the second floor hallways were filled with floor plans and pictures of the groundbreaking and subsequent construction phases of our new building. These hallways became the gathering places for discussing and planning the details of our future workplace.

The laboratory floors of the Bath Building hold their own memories for many who have devoted their entire careers to working to improve the health of North Carolinians. The numerous labs and hallways on these floors were sometimes described as a maze and often baffled new employees, vendors and students as they attempted to navigate through them. As the rooms were packed up and emptied for the move, it was sometimes difficult to discern one area from another. But for those who worked in them, these rooms hold memories of co-workers, of the pride felt when problems were solved as a team, of times when instruments were down and everyone went the extra mile to keep samples viable and get testing done as soon as possible, of laughing and sometimes crying together over personal triumphs and tragedies, and of making friendships that will last a lifetime.

We worked together as a family in the Bath Building, and families do not dissolve over a change in location. We now have windows instead of concrete walls, spacious grounds instead of city streets, and room to grow instead of cramped spaces. One thing that has not changed is the people and the dedication to their jobs. While we bid farewell to the Bath Building, we will keep our old memories and look forward to making new ones.

Submitted by: Patty Atwood
Laboratory Improvement Coordinator
Editor, Lab-Oratory
A New Face to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health

The North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) has recently moved from the Bath Building in downtown Raleigh – its home for almost 40 years – into a new facility off District Drive near NC State University’s Carter-Finley Stadium. A recent visitor to the new laboratory shares her initial impressions.

First impressions are the strongest, and this was no exception during a recent tour of the new structure housing the NCSLPH in Raleigh. Access to this facility was straightforward, as was an abundance of parking. This is in contrast to the merry-go-round process of finding a parking space for visitors, students, and staff alike at the previous laboratory. In looking at the facility from the front, I could see the lobby area with two stories of glass, the new Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) on the left, and the NCSLPH on the right. The entire structure is situated on a wooded lot which promises scenic views during the warmer months.

The laboratory building has four floors, two that are devoted to laboratory testing and two for administration, training, and support services. Total square footage is more than 50 percent larger than the former lab’s space. In addition to there being more square footage, the design of the building allows for more flexibility in how the space is used. Staff and instruments are not bound by walls.

The tour began in the lower level, housing the mailroom, receiving docks and warehouse. In addition, the media preparation, maintenance shop, refrigeration units and central accessioning areas are present. In almost all of these work areas, large windows allow sunlight to fill the rooms; most areas in the old facility did not have windows. Central accessioning is a new feature in this lab, where most specimens are opened and accessioned before transport to the testing areas. In this new facility, the warehouse is much larger; it stocks supplies for both NCSLPH and OCME. Adjacent to the warehouse is a streamlined shipping and receiving area; staff in the Bath Building had to work between two rooms. It is a bustling area; staff receive more than one million samples yearly and prepare for mailing millions of laboratory reports. The lower level also houses another amenity for staff, a wellness center. I observed employees benefiting from a treadmill and elliptical cycle. For additional exercise options, there are walking and nature trails near the laboratory.

As I proceeded to the main floor, the number of windows increased and the resultant sunshine into work areas made for a more open feeling. In contrast to the previous city-bound building, I noticed staff taking advantage of a large patio area, which lies between the lab and OCME wings. Based on my impressions with the training facilities on the first floor, I would like to return to take a laboratory workshop or class. Several spacious training labs, viewed through windows, are equipped with new equipment and supplies. Nearby was a large classroom, with up-to-date audiovisual technology; the classroom can even be divided into smaller meeting areas to meet the needs of groups. I was able to observe the newly organized central data entry area, which combines...
The testing areas on the second and third floors continue the themes of windows and sunlight, and also include areas for staff to hold meetings and conferences. It’s possible to stand in a testing laboratory and look through windows to the outdoors; note that the Bath Building had no windows on the testing floors. As a visitor to these floors, I was able to observe lab operations when walking the “clean” hallways, but was protected from the potentially hazardous samples in the lab. I appreciate that visitors can learn about laboratory instrumentation and analyses while not interrupting testing. In addition, testing groups that had previously been housed on multiple floors are now placed on the same floor, making communications and workflow easier.

The second floor houses the Environmental Sciences, Newborn Screening, Blood Lead, and Chemical Terrorism laboratories. A feature new to the NCSLPH is an open core lab that houses most of the Newborn Screening and Environmental Sciences testing areas. I noticed that these labs have flexible work areas, with work benches on wheels. Staff explained these enable them to move instrumentation to other physical locations, based on workflow and expansion. Each staff person has their own dry-desk area, an individual space with computer to do paper and computer work away from testing areas. There are several labs on the second floor that are self-contained, attributable to the needs of sensitive instrumentation or tests, including a DNA suite for Cystic Fibrosis, Tandem Mass Spectrometry, Radiochemistry, and Blood Lead.

Outside of the lab areas proper is the main breakroom/lunchroom area, that enables staff to make a cup of coffee, have a snack, or consult with co-workers. These social areas are also open to sunlight and pleasing views of the site.

The third floor of this new lab also contains office spaces, open labs and contained labs. On this floor are special contained rooms for rabies testing (I learned that this site is the only laboratory to test for rabies in North Carolina), tuberculosis testing, investigation of bioterrorism and emerging pathogens events, and detection of food-borne illnesses. As on the second floor, there is a large core lab, with open spaces for expansion and flexibility in placement of equipment and workflow. This core lab is home to a variety of testing, including detection of the organisms causing sexually transmitted diseases, pertussis, hepatitis, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

After touring the new facility, I am impressed with the structure itself. Notable features include the size, location, and systems that allow for airflow, power, and staff protection from infectious substances. It is spacious, with room to grow and add new technologies. The amenities for staff, from a parking place close to the building to the windows and social areas, are attentive and necessary to attract and retain valued employees. In short, it’s a place where I might want to work!

I’ve taken some pictures of the facility to include in this newsletter. For more photos, go to the link http://slph.adobeconnect.com/slphtour/. Thank you to my guide and all of the staff for showing me this most impressive new landmark.

This article was actually written by Ann Grush, Newborn Screening Lab Consultant with photographs courtesy of Lavonda Benbow, Bioterrorism and Emerging Pathogens Lab Consultant.
Communications at the NC State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH)

Hello! I’m Vickie Whitaker, former quality assurance manager at the state laboratory. I’ve come out of retirement and I’m working part time in communications at the new laboratory facility. There have been many exciting changes and challenges associated with moving the NCSLPH across town. Some of the communication items in progress are:

- Updating specimen submission forms to reflect the new address and changes to the form—please check the NCSLPH website, http://slph.ncpublichealth.com/forms.asp#specimen, for updated forms. Please discard any old forms in your facility and begin using the updated ones.

- Updating specimen mailer labels

- Updating the state laboratory website

- Updating and making changes to SCOPE

The updates are a work in process; as forms are updated and approved, they will be posted to the NCSLPH website. The website also provides updated contact information and directions to the new facility. Organizationally, there have also been changes. The NCSLPH is in the process of creating a Customer Services Group, consisting of two dedicated employees. This section will triage phone calls for Newborn Screening, Hemachemistry (Blood Lead/Prenatal Group and Typing), and Virology/Serology. They will be assisted by staff from a centralized data entry pool. The Customer Service Group will handle submission and test report questions, while transferring technical questions to the appropriate laboratory. Hopefully, this new section will reduce the number of phone calls for results that are being routed to the laboratory testing areas. By creating the Customer Service Group, the NCSLPH is trying to consolidate all the phone calls and faxes to this area. The Customer Service Group may be reached at: 919-733-3937 and faxes may be sent to: 919-715-8610.

There is also a new Central Specimen Accessioning (CSA) area for the NCLSPH. Most of the specimens are now received and processed in the CSA. This reduces the processing time for specimens and keeps the mailers and packaging supplies out of the testing laboratories.

If you have suggestions or questions, please contact me at 919-807-8949 or Vickie.Whitaker@dhhs.nc.gov. My usual work schedule is Tuesday through Thursday. I look forward to hearing from you.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TIPS

Can you ever “hear a smile” on the other end of the line? It’s true – your attitude can come through loud and clear on the phone! Remember that a caller is a customer, and without customers, there would be no jobs. Don’t let a bad day or a frustrating situation affect how you treat an unsuspecting customer who is calling for help or information. Most likely, the caller has nothing to do with your bad mood. Put your problems aside when answering the phone, and remember that the Golden Rule applies to phone etiquette as well. Treat your customers the way you would like to be treated!
Employee of the Quarter Recognized for Outstanding Service

An employee from the Environmental Sciences Unit has been selected as the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health’s (NCSLPH) “Employee of the Quarter” for January-March 2013. Chris Goforth, chemistry supervisor II, is recognized for his outstanding service to both his co-workers and external customers.

Chris attended North Carolina State University and completed bachelor of science degrees in biology and animal science. After graduating in 1999, he accepted a position with NCSLPH and has remained a dedicated employee ever since. Chris supervises the Laboratory Certification office that enforces EPA and FDA compliance for the analysis of water, milk and milk products. This group also provides consultation, guidance and training to labs performing these tests. Chris is no stranger to other areas of the state laboratory, having previously worked in Water Microbiology, Organic Chemistry and Atypical Microbiology. When the Bioterrorism and Emerging Pathogens Unit was established in 2001, Chris was an original member of this team.

With the recent construction of the laboratory’s new building, Chris has provided invaluable assistance with plumbing, wiring and other facility/infrastructure issues. Having built his own home, Chris has some experience in these areas! Working with the Lab Certification office and having the opportunity to visit different labs has given Chris an excellent knowledge of a wide variety of laboratory equipment, and he has used that information to help co-workers as they have moved into the new facility and set up instrumentation in their labs. All of this assistance has been provided by Chris in addition to his usual duties!

During his time away from work, Chris enjoys spending time with his wife of 10 years and their two adorable daughters. In spite of his quiet and calm manner, many may be surprised to know that Chris is an avid surfer and snowboarder!

When asked to name his favorite thing about working at NCSLPH, Chris replied, “I like working in a state agency where, every day when we go home, we have actually made major accomplishments for the state of North Carolina.” Congratulations, Chris, on a job well done and thank you from your co-workers!

Submitted by: Patty Atwood Laboratory Improvement Coordinator

Save the Date!!

NCPHA Fall Educational Conference: Embrace the Future, Renew Public Health

September 18-20 in Asheville, NC

More Information to come!
The Cancer Cytology Unit Welcomes Dr. Les Burke

During the spring of 2012, the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) posted a search for a Physician III level pathologist. Any suitable candidates would be expected to serve as technical supervisor for the Cancer Cytology Unit and also be able to review all gynecologic cytology interpretations ranging from reactive to squamous or glandular abnormalities diagnostic of cancer. This pathologist would manage all quality assurance, quality control and technical aspects of the Cancer Cytology Unit.

The answer to this search came to NCSLPH and more specifically to the Cancer Cytology Unit by way of Dr. Les Burke in August 2012. Dr. Burke was born and raised in the Ukraine until she was 16 years old. She then moved to North Carolina and received her bachelor of science degree from Guilford College in Greensboro. With aspirations of becoming a physician, Dr. Burke attended graduate and medical school at the University of Colorado receiving her master of business administration and M.D. degrees. She trained during her residency at the Mayo Clinic and did a cytopathology fellowship at East Carolina University. She is licensed in anatomic and clinical pathology and brings several years of experience with her to the Cancer Cytology Unit.

Dr. Burke believes the discipline of cytopathology makes a major contribution toward women’s health.

“...This discipline provides valuable screening tests necessary for saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of people”, she states with confidence and conviction. The NCSLPH Cancer Cytology Unit is a focal point of women’s health with the screening and diagnostic interpretation of gynecologic specimens. Since her arrival, Dr. Burke has found it to be very rewarding being part of a system that provides affordable and quality health care to county public health labs and the surrounding communities. She said she feels that a real difference is made in the quality and quantity of lives being lived.

Even though Dr. Burke comes to us equipped with numerous academic accolades and a strong sense of professionalism, she is definitely not all work and no play. She enjoys reading, walking and writing fiction in her spare time. However, most of her spare time revolves around her husband, Paul, her 14-year-old daughter, Anya, and her set of very energetic 3-year-old triplets, Sasha, Paul and Juliet.

Please join the Cancer Cytology Unit in welcoming Dr. Burke to the State Laboratory of Public Health!

Submitted by: Kim Wright, Cytotech
Cancer Cytology Unit
Environment issues are the next topic on our Top Ten List. If you are keeping track, you may have noticed we skipped over a couple of topics on the Top Ten List. Both fire extinguishers and signage have been covered in past Safety Corner articles. If you would like to read more on those topics, please see the December 2007 issue for fire extinguishers and the June 2008 issue for signage questions. All past issues of Lab-Oratory can be found at: http://slph.ncpublichealth.com/forms.asp#laboratory

The topic “environment issues” covers a wide variety of violations in the laboratory. We will discuss a few that we noticed in multiple labs. First, many local health departments are cramped for space and do not have adequate room for a separate phlebotomy area. Although it is best to have a separate phlebotomy area, if this is not possible, there are some things you can do to keep the area safe. Strive to do as much as possible to limit the number of patients and children entering the laboratory area. Also consider what chemicals are available in your lab and lock any hazardous chemicals up in cabinets.

OSHA addresses this in the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard.

1910.1030(d)(2)(x): Food and drink shall not be kept in refrigerators, freezers, shelves, cabinets or on countertops or benchtops where blood or other potentially infectious materials are present.

Limit the number of people that can enter the lab. A crowded laboratory can cause contamination to patient samples as well as major safety issues. Another major complaint in many laboratories is room temperature. If the room is too hot, it makes wearing proper personal protective equipment (PPE) almost unbearable. Keep in mind, you must always wear the proper PPE, so discuss the temperature concerns with the building maintenance supervisor. You can also point out that many tests are temperature sensitive, so results can be compromised! Management may listen more when they realize patient results may be misreported due to high temperatures!

In older facilities, maintenance and repair can be very troubling. Chipping paint, cracked tiles and other concerns can be very hazardous to employees as well as patients. All of these concerns should be repaired as soon as possible!

If you have any questions regarding safety, please contact Kristy Breedlove at kristy.breedlove@dhhs.nc.gov or (919) 733-7186. Look for the next installment of The Safety Corner when we will continue with the series, “Laboratory Safety’s Top Ten List: Opportunities for a Safer Workplace”!

Article submitted by:
Kristy Breedlove, BS, Laboratory Improvement Consultant, NCSLPH

References
State Laboratory Word Search

D Z T M N L N E B C R S S N I Z A T V J
U R W O S U V G L H C A O S M K U C U J
W F M I K I D I K I Z I C E P M L I Z A
E N V I R O N M E N T A L R R E G R E B
R H P D C I F N X A R Q X V O U I T Z F
E O N W C R T V R S O X T I V C H S G I
X O M A N I O T V Q A Y M C E Z J I B H
P P L D F T S B I L B X J E M C Y D Y L
K S E I H I O Y I R R X Q S E L R A F A
I K C W N S Y Z L O N B L E N B C X G C
Q D U I A L T R G R L R K G T R A Q Y I
V I M D O M K A T U E O O R P O D G A D
N D L Z I J E K D S A X G B Q O O A K E
A G N I N E R C S I E A Y W L H K T M
V I R O L O G Y L P R M Y M O E G D D A
P K I T M A D S A T X I E R I E N T R Y
Y G O L O T Y C B T C W E H W N Z X B Q
Z I T D D C E W C X X S O U C V E D U J
G N B Q Q A S N B F K X L O X V P R K S
T B P K A M Z X X X Q F M X R G C G G Y

ADMINISTRATION
CHEMISTRY
CLINICAL
CYTOLOGY
DATA
DISTRICT
DRIVE
ENTRY
ENVIRONMENTAL
EXAMINER
IMPROVEMENT
LAB
MEDICAL
MICROBIOLOGY
NEWBORN
SCIENTIFIC
SCREENING
SEROLOGY
SERVICES
VIROLOGY
The new year has started off with a bang! Kudos to our new North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) facility at 4312 District Drive! The lab is now co-located with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). The move began in December 2012 and was completed by January. Everyone’s hard work to make this move a successful one is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Stephanie Baker who served as acting lobby receptionist during the move until our usual smiling face, Germaine Graham, could relocate from the Bath Building to take over this responsibility.

We would like to say a special welcome to two of our newest members here at NCSLPH. Welcome to our new laboratory director, Dr. Scott Zimmerman! Dr. Zimmerman comes to us from the Erie County Department of Health in Erie County, New York. While there, he served as director of the Division of Public Health Laboratories and Environmental Health Programs. Dr. Zimmerman is not a stranger to North Carolina, having received his master’s and doctorate in public health from UNC-Chapel Hill. With his open-door policy and sincere approachability, Dr. Zimmerman welcomes anyone who needs to speak with him.

Also, welcome to our assistant laboratory director, Dr. Denise (Dee) Pettit. Dr. Pettit joined NCSLPH in February and was previously employed at the Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) as bioterrorism coordinator and BioWatch laboratory director. She attended Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and earned both a PhD in microbiology and immunology/molecular genetics and a bachelor’s degree in biology. Dr. Pettit brings valuable management, administrative, technical and research skills to NCSLPH.

Everyone in the state laboratory did an amazing job during the move, but Cami Hartley of the Microbiology Section submitted a special note to her staff.

Kudos to all my lab staff: Christy Spratt, Lara Weaver, Debra Springer, Joanne Touchberry, Kathy Benson and Judy Logan for all their hard work getting things packed up on time, working hard to load everything onto the moving carts, cleaning equipment and the old lab, and then hustling at the new lab to unload everything, decontaminating the equipment and staying late to get things put away. Then they worked hard to get their benches up and running as soon as possible. Many staffers may have done this during the move, but I think these folks did an outstanding job, and they have all striven to comply with all the new rules and expectations of the new lab culture. I am proud to be their supervisor — they make it easier!

— Cami Hartley

Who’s New in Public Health at NCSLPH?

Christina Robinson – Virology/Serology
XiaoJing Zhan – Cytology
Laurie Poll – Environmental Sciences
Dr. Les G. Burke – Cytology
Michelle O’Connor – Newborn Screening
Kathryn Schnizler – Environmental Sciences
Kudos! cont. from page 11

Jim Kimani – Environmental Sciences
Edward Glover – Environmental Sciences
Amit Patel – Bioterrorism/Emerging Pathogens – Charlotte
William Butler – Microbiology
Gina Haseker – Newborn Screening
Dr. Scott Zimmerman – Administration
Angie Bradley – Lab Improvement
Holly Braswell – Environmental Microbiology
Robbie Hall – Molecular
Dr. Dee Pettit – Administration
Rebecca Stiles – Virology
Tiffany Ruffin – Central Accessioning

Best wishes to the following employees who have either retired or separated to pursue new endeavors:


Pamela Gambrell – The Cancer Cytology Unit gave a sad farewell to Pam after eight years of service here at the State Laboratory of Public Health as one of our staff cytotechnologists. She retired on March 27 and is looking forward to some much deserved rest and relaxation. Pam is a veteran cytotechnologist with more than 40 years of service in this ever-changing field of diagnostic interpretation of cellular changes from all body sites. Our team wishes Pam a happy, fulfilling retirement and good health for many years to come!

– Kim Wright

Laura Fierke from the NCSLPH Virology/Serology Unit will be leaving at the end of May. She will be starting a two-year program at Wake Forest School of Medicine in the Physician Assistant Program in June. Laura has worked at NCSLPH since the fall of 2007. During her employment at the laboratory, she has worked in the viral culture/rabies lab and as a “floater” in the serology section. Laura has also served on multiple committees, including the wellness and habitability committees. We wish Laura well as she begins a new journey in her life.

– Virology/Serology Staff

Savitri Mullapudi, an employee of the Molecular Diagnostics/Epidemiology Unit, relocated with her family to Florida at the end of March.

Sad News

NCSLPH regretfully announces the loss of two retired employees, Jake Rogers, a member of the administration team, passed away on February 10. Brenda Nichols, a member of the Environmental Sciences Unit, passed away on February 22. These individuals will be greatly missed by the NCSLPH family.

Congratulations to the following employees who have recently received promotions at NCSLPH:

Kimberly Handy, Teresa Bryant, Bonnie Forbes, Tex Parks, Joshua Montague, Darneice Lyons, Arnold Hall, Kate Mason, Vania DePaula, Stephanie Baker, Wendy Johnson, Christopher Tinsley, Supreme Duncan, Bernard Barrameda, Janet Marseglia, and Sam Mayes.

Welcome to all of our new employees and goodbye to those who are separating or retiring from NCSLPH. We wish them much luck in the future!

County Health Department News…

Sara Mauney – Retired January 31 from the Cleveland County Health Department after 30 years of dedicated service to this community.

Tammy Green, LPN, will be working in the laboratory and clinic areas of Randolph County Health Department. She comes to us from the Department of Correction in Lexington, NC.

Two long-time employees of Craven County Health Department have retired. Bobbie Morgan retired with 41 years of service on October 31, 2012. Pauline Blair retired on November 30, 2012 with 33 years of service.
Kudos! cont. from page 12

They were two hard working and dedicated lab techs whose presence is sorely missed in the laboratory.

Craven County Health Department welcomes Natasha Heggie and Carmen Godette to our lab staff team. Natasha graduated in 2005 from the medical laboratory technician program at Beaufort Community College. Carmen obtained her associate degree in 2000 as a medical laboratory technician from Coastal Carolina Community College and is ASCP certified. The lab staff welcomes both employees!

Kudos to Craven County Health Department for successfully meeting the re-accreditation requirements of Commission on Laboratory Accreditation (COLA). The review was held in December 2012.

I, Theresa W. Taylor am happy to announce the earning of my master’s degree in healthcare administration. Returning back to school after being out for 29 years was a challenge, but the effort was well worth it. Public health is my passion. For me it is more of a service than a job. I know I could probably get more money elsewhere, but the greater satisfaction is knowing I am helping those who don’t have anywhere else to go.

– Theresa Taylor, Craven County Health Department administrative director of laboratory services

The Lab-Oratory editorial board apologizes for having to shorten some of our reader’s submissions, but there were so many great laboratory employees to recognize that it was necessary to omit some of the extra information! If you would like to share news about your fellow co-worker in upcoming issues, please contact Angie Bradley at 919-807-8745 or angela.bradley@dhhs.nc.gov.