## Syrulwa Somah, PhD

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#### **EDUCATION AND CREDENTIAL**

**Ph.D. in Policy Studies**, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, The Union Institute & University, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1994

Concentration: Policy Studies in Environmental and Occupational Health Management

Dissertation: Historical Resettlement of Liberia & Its Environmental Impact

Advisor: Dr. Douglas Davidson

**M.S. in General Administration**, School of Public Administration, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI, 1996

Concentration: General Administration

Thesis: Lead Poisoning of Children and the Role of Nutrition

Advisor: Dr. Jack Cavanaugh

M.S. in Liberal Studies, Liberal College, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, 1999

Concentration: History and Religion

Thesis: A Study of the Views of Manufacturing Company Representatives and Freshman Students Concerning the Establishment of a New Associate of Science Degree at Guilford Technical

Community College Advisor: Dr. James Butler

**B.S. in Labor Studies**, State University of New York, New York, NY, 1990

Concentration: Occupational Safety & Health/Personnel Management

**A.A. in Liberal Studies**, Fiorello La Guardia Community College, City University of New York, New York, NY, 1988

Concentration: General Studies

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

## President of Harbel College, Harper City, Margibi County, 2015 to present

- Responsible for the academic, financial, and organizational integrity of Harbel College, for advancing its mission and strategic priorities.
- Provide leadership and direction for the College's mission.
- Serve as the chief executive for the College and work closely with the Dean/VP, Faculty, and Administrators to move the College forward.
- ▶ Work with the Board of Trustees and Higher Education Commissioners.

Vice President for Research, Sponsored Program & Economic Development, W.V.S. Tubman University, Harper City, Maryland County, 2014 to 15.

- Provided leadership and direction for the Research, Sponsored Programs and Economic Development Division.
- Served as the chief research officer for the University, and work closely with the President, other Vice Presidents, Deans, Faculty, and Administrators to foster research programs, and enhance the reputation and viability of research at the University.
- ▶ Worked with faculty on the development of research agendas that will result in higher publication notes.
- Developed and conduct research seminars and individual programs for faculty to enable them to enhance their research skills.
- Created and head University's Research Council, to be comprised of faculty with enhanced research skills.
- Developed and implement a student research program.
- Developed and implement sponsored programs that will generate and increase revenues for the University.

**Professor and Vice President for Administration,** W.V.S. Tubman University, Harper City, Maryland County, 2013 to 2014.

- Provided leadership for the development and implementation of the University's facilities master plan.
- Provided leadership for the development of all university contracts, and procurement of all goods and services.
- Recruited, reviewed, and made recommendation to the President for all new positions, replacements and promotions.
- Provided oversight for the security of university personnel and property.
- Provided supervision for Unit directors within the division.
- Coordinated budget requests and develop the university budget.
- Represented the University at various regional and national meetings.
- Supported all academic curricula and standards within the University.

**2010** Fulbright-Nehru Senior Researcher and Lecturer Fellowship, Department of Biosciences, Applied Zoology, and Applied Botany, Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri-574199, Karnataka, India, 2010 to Present.

- Serves as External Evaluator of Doctoral Dissertations.
- Lectured lower- and upper-level graduate courses in Environmental Studies and Public Health.
- Researched environmental factor and "Culture-Driven Malaria" prevention and control.

Associate Professor and Graduate Education Coordinator, Environmental Health and Occupational Health, Department of Built Environmental, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Greensboro, NC, 2003 to 2013.

- Served as the designee of the School of Technology to receive all contract grievances.
- Taught lower and upper level graduate and undergraduate courses in Environmental Health and Occupational Safety & Health.

- Performed regular academic research on topics of various interests to the University, and coordinate the Department's first and only Online Degree (Distance Learning) Course in Occupational Safety and Health.
- Managed certificate program in occupational and health, which now serves as the foremost recruiting tool in the Technology Department's Bachelor's of Science Degree Program in occupational safety and health.
- Coordinated MS degree (EHOH) program with interdisciplinary concentration in environmental and occupational safety and health, in collaboration with the school of Agriculture, School of Industrial Engineering, Department of Electronics and Graphics Communication, and School of Engineering.
- Managed Graduate Certificate in Disaster Management (GCDM) program.
- Provide leadership and oversight in the accounting, financial and control reporting, and internal auditing, and long-term financial planning of Graduate Program funds donation in consultation with the Chair.
- Prepared reports and other information as may be required for communication between Division of Researched and grantors and for effective management of the funded project resources.

**Assistant Professor,** Occupational Safety & Health, Department of Built Environment, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Greensboro, NC, 1997 to 2003.

- Proposed and developed the first successful on-line degree course in the history of the UNC System.
- Developed and served as the lead developer of the first on-line degree program in occupational safety & health at NC A&T State University.
- Implemented the eCollege on-line courses within the UNC System as the result of the on-line degree program in occupational safety & health at NC A&T State University.
- ➡ Taught lower and upper level graduate and undergraduate courses in Occupational Safety & Health.
- Performed regular academic research on topics of various interests to the University, and coordinated the Department's first and only Online Degree (Distance Learning) Course in Occupational Safety and Health.

**Adjunct Professor**, Environmental Health and Occupational Health, Department of Built Environment, 1997 – 1998

- Taught undergraduate courses in occupational safety part-time in OSH.
- Proposed and signed agreement with companies for students majoring in OSH to use their facilities training ground for my students, with the primary goal of combining practical and theoretical teaching to ensure the 'wholesome functioning' of graduates.
- Helped to replaced students in internships and co-oops.
- Visited military installation with other faculty to recruits students.
- Served on Degree Program Advisory Committee.

Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist, City of Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, 1995 to 1998.

Managed a full spectrum of environmental, health, & safety services for the City by developing and implementing innovative and cost-efficient risk management strategies to achieve legislative compliance.

- Developed strategies to help the City achieve continuous improvement in health and safety for city employees, contractors and visitors.
- Trained employees and management in occupational safety and health.

**Visiting Lecturer**, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Guilford Technical Community College, Greensboro, NC, 1997

- Taught an undergraduate course on African history, culture, religion, and politics.
- Prepared prospective overseas interns for life in the West African State of Ghana.

**Assistant Director/Instructor**, Department of Learning Resources, Guilford Technical Community College, Greensboro, 1995

- Managed college tutorial center, mentored, and supported first year students in academic discourse and audience analysis and needs assessment.
- ▶ Wrote robust, measurable learning objectives for distance learners, and designed evaluated, and redesigned instructional support materials for the college.
- Managed multimedia computer-based training programs for diverse audiences and supportive services, including seminars on career planning, Orientation for Success course, group and individual tutoring, and personal and academic counseling.

Assistant Safety Director, Department of Public Safety, Guilford Technical College, 1994 to 1995

- Managed key operational and administrative areas, including facilities, public safety and auxiliary services.
- Managed college safety programs, determined training needs, training methods and content.
- Supervised documentation of all regulatory trainings conducted by the Department.
- Directed public safety and campus security.
- ▶ Increased safety & health awareness campus-wide training by 85 percent.

**Assistant Director,** Environmental Health and Safety, College of Optometry, State University of New York, New York, NY, 1993 to 1994

- Served as technical liaison responsible for ensuring University compliance with State and Federal regulations regarding OSHA and associated environmental, and health and safety codes.
- Managed systematic records for OSHA activities, and monitored college research activities with respect to chemical, biological, and low level radiation to ensure that programs meet Nuclear Regulatory Commission, EPA, JACHO, and OSHA requirements.
- Performed and taught proper handling of chemical and bio-hazardous waste disposal.
- ▶ Improved the College's biowaste disposal to satisfactory and compliance by 80 percent.

**Director of Support Services/Facilities Management and Safety**, Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center, New York Health and Hospital Corporations, New York, NY, 1992 to 1993

Coordinated safety and health support services for the Center, including bicultural relations, project management, facility management, problem solving, program development, staff supervision, administration.

- Managed construction projects and preventive/predictive maintenance management.
- Reviewed financial reports for trends and performance against goals, financial analysis, and meeting to set consensus goals.
- Developed and implemented policies and procedures.
- Assessed operational results, including benchmarking operations against peers and industry standard.
- Examined governmental regulations, investment and industry standards to ensure regulatory compliance.
- Developed and monitored goals and objectives for subordinate divisions, reviewed performance of subordinates.
- Ensured customer service, quality expectations, best practices and innovations.
- Developed and maintained effective process automation and decision management reporting for all assigned administrative data.
- Met regularly with constituents to provide budgetary and operational information and related advice, interceded in issue resolution.
- Planed and led improvement initiatives in all assigned areas.
- Interfaced with city officials to define funding opportunities and operational efficiency initiatives for New City Health and Hospital cooperation.

Senior Occupational Safety & Health Specialist, Citywide Occupational Safety and Health, City of New York, New York, NY, 1990 to 1992

- Provided leadership and oversee the daily fiscal operations of the City's OSH Program.
- ▶ Kept the City-wide Occupational Safety & Health Program Director fully advised on financial related matters of the Program through regular reporting, meetings, and conferences.
- Provided leadership in the development of the College budget and controlling expenditures within the approved budget.
- Oversaw the liaison between the City and the civil service office of the City, to include recommending the appointment or dismissal of civil service staff and adjudication of grievance cases.
- Provided leadership and oversight for the operation, maintenance, and protection of the physical plant and City vehicles.
- Provided safety & health compliance leadership and oversight of the City's bidding process.
- Worked with Department of Sanitation safety and health process development.
- Trained and promoted the health and safety of City employees by developing, implementing, and maintaining programs and processes that yielded compliance with appropriate federal, state and local workplace safety and health laws and regulations.
- Periodically monitored Staten Island landfills for methane gas and other regulatory safety & health compliance.

# Construction Inspector/Industrial Hygienist, Hall-Kimbrell, Inc. Kansas City, MO, 1984 to 1990

- Managed asbestos hazard abatement project, asbestos hazard evaluation, asbestos contractor/supervision and air clearance sampling.
- Coordinated Company compliance with the Federal mandated Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) by setting up processes and procedures for timely disposal of asbestos-related materials from site.

- Monitored removal of asbestos materials through inspection, re-inspection, assessment, management plans, response actions, operations and maintenance, training, notification, periodic surveillance and record keeping.
- Monitored, performed audited, documented and managed construction projects.
- Calibrated sampling instrument for sample analyses.
- Ensured constructors compliance waste disposal and environmental ambience.
- Participated in subcontractor prestart job meetings.
- Performed and documented safety review inspections.

### ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MALARIA EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

**Executive Director**, Liberian History, Education & Development, Inc. (LIHEDE), Greensboro, NC, 2003 to Present.

- ▶ Identify, design, and implement all programs of LIHEDE in coordination with the LIHEDE Board of Directors and Executive Officers.
- Serve as chief spokesperson for LIHEDE and principal representative of LIHEDE at local, regional, national, and international conferences and seminars in the US and overseas.
- Serve as point of contact and coordinator for LIHEDE's malaria eradication campaign, "WE WANT NO MORE MALARIA IN LIBERIA," that led to the successful hosting of a series of malaria awareness symposiums, workshops, and seminars within African communities across the US and Liberia to include:
- ▶ 2006 Symposium: International Malaria Conference (National Health Conference) held at the University of Liberia. The symposium intended to bring to the consciousness of the Liberian people and the world the magnitude of the impact of malaria in Liberia.
- ▶ 2006 Workshop: The Impact of Fake Drug on Malaria Treatment in Liberia. This one-day workshop held on the main campus of the University of Liberia sought to create public awareness that the increase of counterfeit drugs on the Liberian market posed serious health risks to citizens and residents of Liberia.
- ▶ 2005 Symposium: Combating Malaria in Post-Conflict Liberia: A Lesson for the Rest of Africa. The symposium was held under the theme, Exploring Cutting-Edge Technologies For Malaria Treatment in Liberia.
- Liaise with the LIHEDE secretariat to commence a letter writing campaign in 2004 in support of the LIHEDE malaria eradication efforts in Liberia and the West African sub-region by sending letters to the political leaders of the world, including the U.S. Congress, President, and Secretary of State; Pope Benedict, the UN Secretary General; the European Union; the head of the African
- Union, Ghanaian President Koufou; the WHO, and USAID, and so forth. The next results of the letter writing campaigns have been successful so far with inclusion of Liberia on the PMI and other responses and cooperation from USAID, WHO, the Liberian government, and AU.
- Coordinate LIHEDE's non-malaria related workshops and programs to include the signing of a memorandum of understanding with two of Liberia's universities (AMEU and UMEU) to commence a degree program in a LIHEDE-prepared curriculum in Liberian Studies, in addition to the following:
- ▶ 2007 Symposium: Working together for Quality and Equitable Public Education in Liberia: This international symposium examined potential linkages between poor public school systems and

- underdevelopment, poor public health system, tribalism, and the community at large to more effectively use public education and technology to promote the mission of public school.
- ▶ 2005 Workshop: Mapping Out Appropriate Strategies for the Restructuring of the Armed Forces of Liberia. The workshop was aimed at highlighting and creating public awareness of the need for the constitution of a professional army in Liberia prior to the 2005 post-civil war national elections.
- ▶ 2004 Symposium: Promoting Civil Liberties, Collective Security, and Development in Post-Conflict Liberia. The symposium was held to provide a forum for all Liberians, Africans and other nationals of different spheres and backgrounds to come together and find practical solutions to social and economic problems in Liberia and Africa.
- ▶ 2003 Symposium: African Governance, Philosophical Thought & Rule of Law. This international symposium examined accelerating African unity, peace & progress through understanding of traditional African governmental structures and practices

### INVITED SPEAKER/SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "The Role of Indigenous Engineers in Reshaping Liberian Civilization," A Speech delivered at Association of Liberian Engineers National Convention," NC, October 30, 2011.
- Seeding the Mother's Tongue," A speech delivered at Zwedru Multilateral High School, PA, August 23, 2011.
- "The True Meaning of Independence: Reflection of Our Yesterdays and Vision for Our Tomorrow," A Liberian Independence speech delivered in Paynesville, Liberia, July 26, 2011.
- Our Common Humanity as World Citizens and the Need to Defeat Malaria," Farewell remarks delivered at Mangalore University, India, March 15, 2010.
- \*Collaborating for Climate Change, Global Economics, and Disease Burden," A speech delivered at The International Conference on Green Summit on Climate Change Issues & Concerns, St Ann's College for Women, an Affiliate of Osmania University, Hyderabad, India, November, 2010.
- Developing Local Talent for Capacity Building in Liberia: The Myth About Brain Drain," 2009, A Speech delivered at the Press Union of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia, June 23, 2008.
- \*Health & Education Imperatives for the New Liberia: A Proposal for Collective Action," DC, October 1, 2007.
- \* "The Dangers of Trusteeship in the Republic of Liberia," Speech delivered at AMEU University Camp Johnson Road, Liberia, July 14, 2005.
- "History, Migration and Settlement of the Americo-Liberian: Black History Lecture Series at the First United Methodist: Children's Rescue Outreach International (C.R.O.I.) & Orphanage Benefit & Conference On "Africa: International Trade Conference Culture, Politics, Protocol, History, Leadership, Opportunities" TX, April 9, 2005.
- \*\*Reorganizing the Liberian Military for External Defense & Internal Peacekeeping", A Speech delivered at the African Methodist Episcopal University, Liberia, March 29, 2005.
- Remarks at The Sunday Project Winter Ball & Buffet Fundraiser, Ramada Inn, RI, February 26, 2005.
- "The Principles of Wholesome Functioning Safety Management," Keynote delivered at Greensboro City Annual Safety Breakfast, NC, January 21, 2005.
- \* "Agricultural/Environmental Reforms in Post-Conflict Liberia at The All Liberian National Conference," MD, April 15, 2005.
- \*Who Will Lead Liberians to the Promised Land in 2005?" Keynote Speaker at Cuttington University College student general assembly, Liberia, June 12, 2004.
- The Role of the Bassa in Reshaping Liberia," speech at the 14th National Convention of the United Bassa Organizations in the Americas (UNIBOA), GA, May 30, 2004.

- Online Fire Science & Occupational Safety and Health Degree Conference.
- ▶ Invited Speaker, Collaborative 2+2 Online Fire Science & Occupational Safety and Health Degree: Raleigh, Durham Technical Community College, NC, October 2, 2002.
- Safety & Health is Innate, Invited Speaker, Greensboro City Annul Safety Breakfast, NC, November 22, 2002.
- "Model of Government that Fit the African Culture," Invited Speaker, African Arts Institute, NC A&T State University, NC, July 10, 2001.

### LEADERSHIP HONORS AND MEMBERSHIPS

My leadership skills have been recognized by a number of local, state, and national organizations. Specifically, I currently hold the following leadership positions:

- Member, American Society of Safety Engineers, 1995 to Present
- Advisor, Committee of Children Safety, World Safety Organization, 1993 to present
- Member, Human Factors Society, 2001- present
- Member, NCA&T, Institute of Human –Machine Studies, 2002-present
- Member, Board of Certified Safety Professionals, 1992 to present
- Assistant Editor, The Specialties: A Newspaper for ASSE Safety Educators
- Member, National Registry of Environmental Professionals, 1998 to 2000
- Member, American Public Works Association, 1997 to 1998
- Member, Toastmasters International, 1996 to 1998
- ▶ Vice President for Education, Greensboro Toastmaster, 1997 to 1998
- Member, American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 1991 to 1997
- Member, ASSE Advisory Board to NIOSH, 2003 to present
- Member, Africa Environmental Watch, 2004 to Present

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- A Fulbright scholarship from the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES, a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State) for a research/teaching in India, 2010
- Africa Environmental Watch Humanitarian Award, 2009
- Liberian Image/Lifetime Award, 2008
- Teacher of the- Year, School of Technology, NC A&T State University, 2007
- Union of Liberian Association in Americas [ULAA]Humanitarian Award, 2005
- ASSE National and International Best Article Award, 2004
- ASSE National and International Best Editor Award, 2008
- Outstanding OSH Department Professor of Year Award, NC A&T State University, 2004
- ▶ 2002 Faculty Innovator Award, Research Institute, 2002
- Outstanding OSH Department Professor of Year Award, NC A&T State University, 2001
- Outstanding Lecture Award for OHST, ASP and CSP ASSE (Greensboro Chapter), 2001
- Certificate of Appreciation for Biohazards Education, NC A&T State University Alpha MU Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., 1999
- Award for Outstanding Service Through Training and Promotion of Safety Awareness, City of Greensboro, Department of Transportation, 1997

## **BOOKS PUBLISHED**

- Somah, S. (2003). Nyanyan Ghon-Mana: History, Migration and Government of the Bassa. Bloomington, IN: Author House.
- Somah, S. (1994). *Historical Resettlement of Liberia and Its Environmental Impact*: Baltimore, MD: University Press of America. (Republished in paperback and hardback).
- Somah, S. (2015). Duankadyu (Broad Day Son): Legend of the Bassa. Hudson Line, Kingsway Camp, Delhi. (in-print)

# **REFERED JOURNALS**

- Somah, S. (2014). Environmental Degradation in Liberia: Challenges and Opportunities. Liberia Studies Journal.
- Somah, S. (2012). Ergonomic Design to Rescue Trapped Mines Worker. ATMAE Journal
- Somah, S. (2012). Greensboro Lead Hazard Evaluation. ATMAE Journal
- Somah, S. (2009). Radio Driven Safety Program for Migrant-Workers: A New Approach to Traditional Safety Training. <u>ASSE Safety Specialty Journal.</u>
- Somah, S. (2009). Environmental Health & Safety Issues in Post-conflict Nations: lessons from Liberia and Ivory Coast. ASSE Safety Specialty Journal.
- Somah, S. (2004). Greensboro Lead Safe Program Evaluation survey was conducted on the City HUD lead treatment initiative to determine the efficacy and satisfaction of the participants.
- Somah, S. (2002). Working Conditions of Pharmacists: A Greensboro Case Study. NAIT Journal.
- Somah, S. (1999). Successful Internship Programs: How to Establish and Nature a Classroom to Workroom Program. 13th WWOSAPCON Journal, 24, (1), 34-39.
- Somah, S. (1998). Municipality Safety. 12th <u>WWOSAPCON Journal</u>, 23(2), 7-15.
- Somah, S. (2001). The Ideal Classroom Desk survey was conducted in Greensboro, NC to investigate if there was a growing need for well-designed height desk in the classroom.

## NON-REFEREED JOURNALS/ PAPERS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES

- Somah, S. (2005). Using Monrovia's Garbage Disposal As a Revenue Source: The Perspective Web Magazine.
- Somah, S. (2005). Liberia is at a Brink of Irreversible Environmental/Ecological Impotency: The Perspective Web Magazine.
- Somah, S. (2002). The Effect of Height of Classroom Desk: Related to Stress on College Professors' Skeletal Muscles System: ASSE Academics Practice Specialty Quarterly Newspaper, IL.
- Somah, S. (1998). You Received the Degree What Next? 32<sup>nd</sup> National Association of Industrial Technology, FL.
- Somah, S. (2002). Internships: Why Your Program Needs One and How to Get It: ASSE Academics Practice Specialty Quarterly Newspaper, IL.
- Somah, S. (2003) Your Tenure and Promotion Begins the First Day of Employment: ASSE Academics Practice Specialty Quarterly Newspaper, IL.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Somah. S. (In-progress). Duankadyu: Legend of the Bassa: A1 Books, India.
- Somah. S. (In-progress). History and Migration of Liberia Ethnic Groups: Kiiton Press, USA.

- Somah, S. (2005). Christianity, Colonization and State of African Spirituality: Battleground Press, 1998.
- Somah, S. (2000). Contributor: African Politics and Spirituality: The African Diaspora: An Introduction to African Studies: Kendall/Hunt, USA.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

- Basic Instructor Course in Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA 500) 40 hrs West Virginia University Safety and Health Extension, Baltimore, MD. 1997.
- HAZWOPER Training 40 hrs Environmental & Safety Services, Inc., Wilmington, NC. 1996.
- Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor Course 40hrs Industrial Training Company, Richmond, VA. 1997.
- AHERA Building Inspection for Asbestos 40 hrs Chapel Hill School of Public Health, NC. 1998
- Public Health Pest Control 16hrs NC Department of Agriculture. 2000.
- Ornamental and Turfgrass Pest Control 16hrs NC Department of Agriculture.
- Right-of-Way Pest Control-16hrs NC Department of Agriculture. 2000.
- Regulatory Pest Control 16hrs NC Department of Agriculture. 1997.
- Demonstration and Research Pest Control 16hrs NC Department of Agriculture. 1997.