

## **Lifelong Interest and Skills Provide Path to Consulting**

Basith Mohammed

project manager, Handex Consulting & Remediation

M.S.E.S., Ohio University, 2002

B.S., biology, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India, 1992

Ever since he participated in an environmental club in the eighth grade, Basith Mohammed has had a passion to work on environmental issues. While growing up in India in the historic city of Hyderabad, he witnessed stark reminders of the byproducts of industrial growth, with pervasive noise pollution and air pollution.

The environmental threats posed by this pollution to the Hyderabad inhabitants as well as to the city's treasure of historic monuments and buildings inspired Mohammed to action. He became a high school peer counselor on environmental issues and an environmental journalist.

In college, Mohammed promoted environmental awareness by writing freelance environmental articles for local newspapers, providing photography exhibits at science or trade shows, and through poetry readings. He also presented to a 1995 international environmental symposium a paper titled "Impact of Vehicular Pollution on Historical Monuments."

Upon completion of the M.S.E.S. program in 2001, Mohammed moved to Florida and joined Handex Consulting & Remediation as a staff hydrogeologist. After about three years, he was promoted to project manager.

Mohammed is enthusiastic in his praise for the role he feels Ohio University served in preparing him for his current position and, more important, as an environmental professional. "The interdisciplinary nature of the M.S.E.S. program that I completed at Ohio University has provided me not only with a job in the environmental consulting field but also gave me a remarkable career of my utmost personal interest," he said. "Not only did all the courses I opted for hone my skills but also developed me into an evolving environmental professional."

The courses he took at Ohio University that were the most beneficial and directly applicable to his career were Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Law, Physical Hazards Control and Evaluation, Geographic Information Systems, and OSHA Hazwoper 40-hr Certification."

As a project manager, Mohammed's job responsibilities include:

- project management for a private client (Exxon Mobil Oil) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (petroleum pre-approval program work);
- soil and groundwater assessment project work scope design, planning, and implementation for Exxon Mobil and pre-approval projects;
- client services management and implementation of Exxon Mobil Operational Integrity Management Systems and Loss Prevention System;
- coordinate environmental remediation activities, remediation system operation and maintenance (air sparging and soil vapor extraction);

- review and approve environmental assessment reports prior to submittal to regulatory bodies and private clientele;
- prepare financial projections and project billing activities;
- oversee the maintenance of technical field sampling equipment;
- provide in-house training of regulatory field sampling methodologies;
- implement office health and safety program.

“What I like the most about my job is the management responsibilities which allow me to interact with my team of eight people,” Mohammed said. “Also report writing because it allows me to use my love for writing (freelance journalism is his hobby), and providing technical report reviews.”

He called choosing Ohio University “one of the best decisions I have ever made in my lifetime.” “Most of my undergraduate studies were completed in India,” he said, “and the M.S.E.S. degree program has added an edge to my prior educational qualifications.”

Mohammed states that he gets a least four job offers per year. “Petroleum cleanup programs in Florida are in high demand,” he said. “I am available to answer inquiries from those who are seeking job opportunities.” E-mail inquiries to him at mabdulb2006@yahoo.com.

--*Steve Brown*