

- **Kumar Ganesan PhD, PE, BCEE**
 Professor and Department Head of Environmental Engineering
 Montana Technological University
 Butte, Montana, USA
- Join date: 1983
- Section/Chapter: Pacific Northwest International Section
- **Education and professional credentials:** PhD in Engineering Science (Air Quality Engineering), Washington State University, Pullman, WA, Masters in Public Health Engineering and Bachelors in Civil Engineering, Madras University (Anna University), Southern India. Board Certified Environmental Engineer of American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. ABET Program Evaluator. Fellow of AWMA, recipient of AWMA Lyman Ripperton Environmental Educator Award, and recipient of AWMA-PNWIS Robert Stockman Distinguished Achievement Award. Recipient of Distinguished Researcher Award and the Faculty Achievement Award four times from Montana Tech. Editor, Author and Co-author of over five text books. Presented several technical papers and written technical reports for government and private companies. Received Fellowships from USAID, AAAS and US DOE.
- **Biographical summary:** Kumar Ganesan served the environmental community since 1971 after receiving his M.Sc in Public Health Engineering in India. He was one of the first scientists who started air pollution studies in India and carried out extensive air pollution monitoring, source testing, meteorological studies to plan a new city, New Bombay, while working at the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) as a scientist. Kumar left NEERI in 1977 to pursue doctoral work at Washington State University. As a graduate student he was involved in several photochemical field studies and contributed towards developing ozone predictive modeling using simple chemical kinetics. After graduation he worked for ERT Inc. (defunct) in 1981-1983, Kumar was in charge of developing the grid emission inventory, input data of SO₂ and NO_x for US and Canada, for the first ever attempted large-scale acid rain modeling. In 1983 Kumar moved to Montana Technological University where he has been serving as the Head of the Environmental Engineering Department since 1996. Kumar founded the student chapter of AWMA at Montana Tech and the students never missed the annual PNWIS conferences in the past thirty plus years. His dedication to students is well recognized on campus by students and the administration and also by the AWMA-PNWIS. His contribution in educating environmental engineers is significant and it has a profound impact on environmental profession and industry. Kumar has been working on mercury related research for the past ten years and has developed a mercury filtration system for flue gas using metallic Nano-particles and holds an US Patent. He is in the process of commercializing the technology. He has received funding from US EPA, US DOE, State of Montana, USFS, Oil Companies, and other governmental agencies for research. Under his leadership Montana Tech's environmental engineering student design teams participated over 15 years and won several awards including the INTEL innovation award at the WERC design competition at New Mexico State University, Los Cruces New

Mexico. One of his past students, Karen Helfrich, stated that "One of my goals as a future engineer is to be as successful as Kumar has been and will continue to be. Kumar has motivated me to become not only a successful engineer, but also an honorable and ethical engineer and person. John Quincy Adams once said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." Kumar is not only a great teacher; he is truly a leader in our profession."

- **A&WMA activities and offices held:** Past President of AWMA-PNWIS, Annual PNWIS Conference general Chair twice; 2001 and 2019. Technical Chair for PNWIS Annual conference. Founder of Montana Tech's Student chapter and Advisor for over 30 years. Current Chair of Montana Chapter.
- **Goals/vision for the organization:** It is vital for the organization to have a continued growth. That is, existing strategies need to be evaluated and changed to meet the current needs of the existing members and potential members. Organizing student chapters, working with young professionals, recruiting new members, and collaborating with other organizations are some of the areas we need to focus on. Investing in younger members is one of the ways to keep our organization healthy and grow. The needs of our members are dynamic, similarly the organization has to be dynamic, and keep up with the needs of the members and the society. The **Mission of A&WMA** is to assist in the professional development and critical environmental decision-making of our members to benefit society. The Core **Purpose of A&WMA** is to improve environmental knowledge and decisions by providing a neutral forum for exchanging information. The "neutral forum" has been one of the hallmarks of our association for decades. Today's world consists of believers of science and non-believers of science. Thus, puts our association in a challenging position such that while we stay neutral, the society at times is exposed to scientifically biased information. The climate change is an example that comes to my attention. Therefore, the role of our association is becoming ever challenging in terms of how we position ourselves to counter balance the scientific misinformation. Years back, in 1985, I started the student chapter at Montana Tech, shortly arriving as an Assistant Professor. Since then, Montana Tech student chapter has been active participant of the PNWIS/A&WMA. We need to start new student chapters and help them to be an integral part of our chapters, sections, and A&WMA. This needs necessary resources, incentives, and mentorship until the student chapters become self-supporting, stable and independent. For beginners, starting two new student chapters, in each section of the A&WMA per year, is an achievable goal. It is time that the **young professionals (YP)** gain additional attention and identity. The needs of young professionals may not align perfectly with the needs of matured members of the association. YPs having their own technical sessions in conferences will help focus on the interests of the young professionals. Currently, we do have leadership roles for young professionals, but making the YP leadership more prominent and empowering them will help the association in the long run. Overall, we should evaluate how we can further strengthen the YP side of the association. A stronger YP means a stronger future for A&WMA, in my opinion.