

**COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT OF VETERAN HEALTH EFFECTS OF MANHATTAN PROJECT (1942-1947) RELATED WASTE**

**INVITED SPEAKER BIOSKETCHES DECEMBER 16, 2024**

**Charles Finkenbine**, Certified Health Physicist and Project Manager, Leidos/AVESI

Mr. Finkenbine's area of expertise has been focused primarily as a Health Physicist/Project Manager for decommissioning projects, final status surveys and implementing radiation protection programs. He has been in the nuclear field for over 35 years. Currently working for Leidos in support of the St. Louis FUSRAP Project.

**Randy Hansen**, Radiological Risk Assessor, Leidos/AVESI (Architectural and Engineering Firm contracted to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for FUSRAP St Louis work

Randy Hansen is a Certified Health Physicist who has been involved with environmental cleanup of radioactive waste at many Dept of Energy and US Army Corps of Engineers Formerly Used Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) locations for over 25 years. Currently at FUSRAP St Louis, Mr. Hansen has experience conducting radiological risk and dose assessments associated with Baseline Risk Assessments, Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Studies, Records of Decision, and Post Remedial Action Reports.

**Greg Rakers**, FUSRAP Health and Safety Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers

Mr. Rakers has worked on the St. Louis FUSRAP Sites since 1998 (St. Louis Downtown Site, St Louis Airport Site, and Iowa Army Ammunition Plant) managing health and safety. Mr. Rakers is also the transportation coordinator for the FUSRAP remediated material.

**Gwendolyn Verhoff**, Professor of History and Chair of Social Sciences, St. Louis Community College, Wildwood

Gwendolyn Verhoff completed her Ph.D. in History at Washington University in St. Louis. Her work has been recognized with an Eisenhower-Roberts Fellowship, awarded by the Eisenhower Institute to support research into the Cold War; a Haas Fellowship, awarded by the History of Science Institute (formerly the Chemical Heritage Foundation) to foster understanding of the history of the chemical industry; and the Rachel Carson Prize for the Best Dissertation in Environmental History, awarded by the American Society for Environmental History. She has been a faculty member at St. Louis Community College since 2012 and previously served as an adjunct faculty member at Washington University in St. Louis. She joined the Board of Directors of Missouri Coalition for the Environment in 2019.

**Kathryn A. Vicat**, Account Executive, Footsteps Researchers LLC

Born at an early age in upstate New York as a January blizzard raged, Kathryn entered the world to join her 3 brothers and 2 sisters as the newest member of the Vicat family. When she was just

a toddler, Kathryn moved with her family to Strafford Missouri where her father took a “temporary” job in Marshfield, Missouri. More than 50 years later, the family is still in Strafford. Kathryn is the favorite child, so her siblings say. She is the proud mom to Audrey and Ellise, Aunt to 17 and Greatest Aunt to 13. Her focus has always been her family and the adventure of life. Many of those adventures have begun with lifelong friend, Dr. Myra Miller, who stays a cherished constant in her life. An alum of Missouri State University, Kathryn earned a Bachelors in Sociology and Communications. Her education was put to effective use as she spent the next 20 years working in education and youth based not for profits in Oklahoma, Missouri, Texas, and Illinois. Returning to her hometown in 2006, Kathryn began her second career as Festival/Event Manager and Caterer. Her work includes community events like Springfield Arts Fest, Taste of Springfield, and Sounds on the Square concert series and the Ozark Empire Fair. Transitioning into wedding coordinating and catering in 2012, Kathryn has managed and cooked for events from 2 to 500, taught cooking classes with the foster care program, and provided craft services while on location for the Michael Ackerman film, REVIELLE. During this time Dr. Miller and Kathryn continued to find ways to work together. In 2019, the two friends finally got the chance to make it happen full time and start a life changing opportunity with Footsteps Researchers. Dr. Miller relies on Kathryn’s unique skill set to keep the team on task, provide administrative support, be the right arm to Dr. Miller, as she works behind the scenes to support the entire research team. When she is not walking through history doing research or visiting foreign lands, Kathryn spends her time with family. She especially enjoys sharing love through food, Diet Pepsi, rolling around on the floor with her dogs, as well as caring for her mother and brother with MS on their family land in Strafford Missouri. Kathryn is proud of her work with Footsteps Researchers. She stays passionate about WWII research and looks forward to many years of new stories to discover.