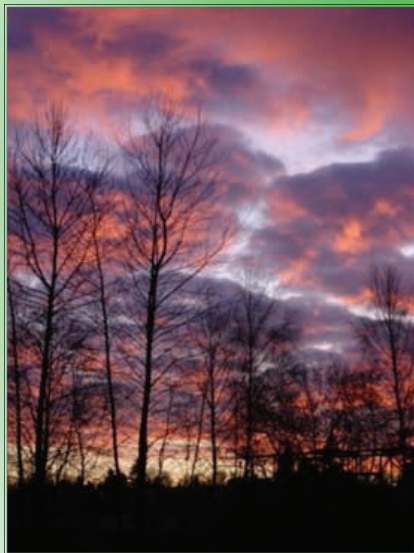
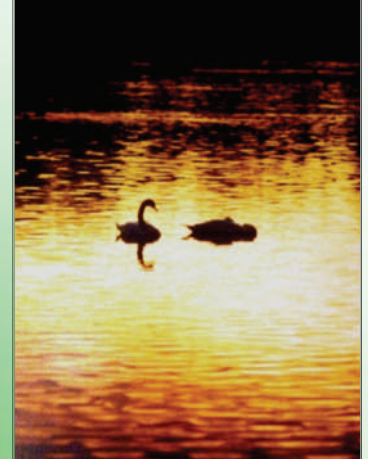


From Playing in Mud Puddles to Working on Golden (brownish) Ponds

by Charles Johnstone

I wonder at times how I stepped into a career in wastewater. Other times remind me that it was a great choice. Certainly no small example is how fortunate I know I am to have a good job with good people around me, or to arrive to work at a treatment plant with unique character that treats us to sunrise views like these.



In a broader and more important sense, and despite some of the icky and smelly realities of working with things like sewers or grease traps, I know how fortunate I am to serve people and planet in the field that a 2007 British Journal of Medicine survey concluded was the #1 most important medical advancement since 1840 (when what's now BMJ was first published).

That's right. Beating out antibiotics, anesthesia, vaccines, and DNA decoding, over 11,000 mostly doctors said safe water supply and wastewater disposal (er... recycling!) are the biggest medical advances in 170 years! Inter-

esting that modern secondary or biological wastewater treatment processes also rely a great deal on nurturing (or removing) select members of the next (6th) item on that survey's list, germ theory.

Along with the many other critical services we provide, services that most of us have been able to take for granted all our lives, we should feel good and take pride in being a part of not just the good but in fact the essential things that government and civil servants bring!

So here's to us!