

NYC  
Post's

# SAME story

THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS

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## LETTER FROM VINNY MANGIERE

In this issue of the *SAME Story*, our Publicity Committee has chosen to spotlight Joe Seebode in his newly appointed position as Deputy District Engineer, NY District. We acknowledge Joe's accomplishments and look forward to supporting him in managing the District's ambitious program going forward.

Also highlighted is the 2008 Scholarship Fund Dinner Dance. Year after year, you – our members and friends of the Post – come out the first Saturday evening in November to enjoy dinner, dancing and socializing at the Waldorf-Astoria in support of the Scholarship Fund. Each year following the event, the Post is delighted to hear from many of the scholarship recipients. In this issue we are sharing some of those letters with you. I encourage you to read them along with other letters of gratitude received.

As we wind down our activities for 2008-2009, I thank you all for your support of the Post and ask that you continue to stay involved in the many activities and programs that we offer.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer ahead with family and friends.

Sincerely,  
Vinny Mangiere  
President, NYC Post, SAME ■



The Service Chiefs with VADM Michael Loose, Ed Schmeltz, Maher Labib, Vinny Mangiere and Bud Griffis.

### 2009 DINNER DANCE SCHEDULED

**NOVEMBER 7, 2009**

The NYC Post will hold its 69th Annual Scholarship Fund Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 7, 2009, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Although reservations are not being taken at this time, please check the Post website often (<http://www.same-nyc.org/>) for the latest news and information.

To all of you who attended the 2008 event or made contributions, we extend our sincere thanks for your continued commitment and support of the NYC Post's Scholarship Fund. While these challenging times demand our attention and require reevaluating charitable commitments, please keep in mind the worthwhile nature of the Post's scholarship fundraising activities. Last year, we presented 186 scholarships to students in 75 colleges and universities nationwide.

Our 2009 Dinner Dance Committee will soon begin its work. If you're interested in joining the committee, please contact me at: [edward.schmeltz@aecom.com](mailto:edward.schmeltz@aecom.com)

**Did you know that you can visit us on-line? Go to <http://same-nyc.org> for additional events and information, or for a direct link to the National site.**

**To contribute news about your firm or events, please contact Judy Cooper at [cooperj@pbworld.com](mailto:cooperj@pbworld.com).**

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**Publicity Chair:** Gregory Kelly, *Parsons Brinckerhoff*  
**Editors:** Richard Ruth, *Parsons Brinckerhoff*  
Judy DeScenza Cooper, *Parsons Brinckerhoff*  
**Graphics:** Amy Geller, *Parsons Brinckerhoff*

DINNER  
**2008**  
DANCE



A "View from the Balcony" enjoying The Peter Duchin Orchestra.



The Service Chiefs escorting RADM Wayne Shear.



Posting of Colors.



Several of our scholarship recipients who were honored at the Dinner Dance.



Bud Griffis

# MEET THE MEMBERS

## A DISCUSSION WITH JOE SEEBODE, NY DISTRICT USACE & STU PIKEN, VICE PRESIDENT, PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF

**SP:** *“Joe, congratulations on being selected as the Deputy District Engineer for Programs & Project Management (DPM) for the Corps’ New York District. Generally, one associates a Deputy District Engineer as a position filled by an Army Officer. As a civilian, can you tell us what your role is with the Corps?”*

**JS:** “The past year as Deputy District Engineer has been very professionally rewarding for me and the pinnacle of my nearly 28 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The DPM position in NYC is exciting and challenging, and is multi-functional with many roles in the leadership and management of the NY District. It also requires engagement on emerging regional and national policy issues. With the NY District being one of the largest geographically and population density-wise, encompassing northern New Jersey, Long Island,



Joe Seebode

eastern New York State, and western parts of Connecticut and Vermont, we have a large and diverse mission.

“At the district, there are two major functions that are key roles for me: the first is serving as the senior civilian leader providing advice and support to the District Engineer and Executive Leadership team; and second is serving as the Chief of the Programs & Project Management Division (PPMD). In the role as PPMD Chief, I guide a great team of program managers who manage all of NY District’s major programs, including Civil Works, Military Construction, International and Interagency Services, and Environmental/HTRW Programs. The nearly 600 employees of the district have performed admirably under a burgeoning workload, and in 2008 we had outstanding financial performance and program execution of a budget in excess of \$600 million.”

**SP:** *“The public at large probably doesn’t realize that the Corps is mostly a civilian agency. Can you address this and tell us what it’s like as a senior civilian working with senior military officers?”*

**JS:** “I enjoy working with our military officers at the Corps and at the many installations we at the NY District serve with planning, engineering and construction services. The officers are true professionals with a passion and great energy for the mission. District Commanders are the face of the Corps and present a formidable leadership presence.

“In my role as DPM, I advise the Commander on many civilian issues and assist with adjustments to the ways of civilian leaders in the many local, state and federal agencies, as well as private industry, that are our partners. This relationship building is instrumental to successful execution of our many projects. The experience, expertise and institutional knowledge of our combined military and senior civilian leadership at the NY District create an excellent team and skill set that has enabled successful management and execution of the district’s huge project portfolio.”

**SP:** *“We understand that you have an extensive background in regulatory issues at both the state and federal levels. In fact, you recently returned from a two and a half year intergovernmental assignment as Assistant Commissioner for Site Remediation at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, where you worked directly for Lisa Jackson, the recently appointed EPA Administrator. What was that like?”*

**JS:** “I have fond memories of the short time I worked at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. I managed a large interdisciplinary team at DEP facing an overwhelming workload in a wide array of arenas that included Site Cleanups, Solid Waste Management, Brownfields Reuse, Emergency Response, Dredged Material Management and Recycling. I learned an incredible amount about these program areas and many new leadership and organizational management techniques which I have been able to bring back with me to the Corps. From the first day I started at the DEP, I learned that the team members were true professionals with a strong passion for their work. I set out a strategy to break down some of the barriers to production, develop new initiatives, and improve efficiencies. I believe we were successful and that the state’s Site Remediation Program is and remains one of the best in the country.

“A quick story...when I was weighing the assignment with the NJDEP in early 2004, it was Lisa Jackson who I called to get impressions on making the temporary move. I had not met Lisa prior but after just

that one phone call I knew I had to take the temporary position as her leadership and executive management skills and her strong opinions on the opportunity to make a difference at the DEP were clearly evident. I am proud to be able to call Lisa a friend today and that we've had the opportunity to work closely, collaborate and share ideas on many issues while at DEP, and since my return to the Corps. Lisa is a great public servant, with extraordinary energy and passion to protect people and the environment and she will be a great EPA Administrator moving our country forward."

**SP:** *"How do you compare working at the state level with your current role with the Corps?"*

**JS:** "While both positions are very different in terms of missions and goals, I realize today that there are many similarities. Both positions are extremely challenging, but in broad terms each is about execution and taking care of people. These are two principles that are key in my leadership approach and at the top of my daily list. My goals at the state and at USACE have been to develop a well-trained, world-class, motivated workforce that has a passion for successful execution of all programs."

**SP:** *"The Corps budget is probably the largest its ever been between the Stimulus [funds], Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), and your traditional missions. Can you describe the major efforts the NY District will be addressing and how it's going to meet these challenges? Will you be hiring more staff or relying more on the private sector?"*

**JS:** "In 2008, we set a new standard in project execution and accomplishments, completing numerous significant projects. At Fort Drum in NY, we spearheaded the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division modular force structure transformation, awarding 14 construction projects valued at over \$400 million using newly developed standard designs. This was done while at the same time we expedited design and developments, reducing the procurement process and making contract awards with a 12% budget savings. We are also simultaneously managing an additional multi-year, \$1.6 billion in military construction projects at other locations, including a \$1 billion office complex in Northern Virginia, and projects totaling over \$100 million at Picatinny Arsenal in NJ and over \$450 million at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

"Additionally, in the Port of New York and New Jersey, we have continued successful execution of the multi-year, \$2 billion Harbor Deepening

Project, which will create a world-class harbor and estuary with 50-foot navigation channels. The deeper channels will be able to safely and efficiently accommodate super containerhips, tankers and cruise liners. The program also includes important ecosystem restoration and sustainable port development initiatives. The project is one of the top six civil works projects in the nation and also the first to serve as a model for others to emulate with its 100% beneficial use of dredged material used, air quality enhancements, and comprehensive wetlands restoration plans. Last year, the NY District also executed civil works projects worth \$68 million for flood and storm damage reduction in NY and NJ. We are also doing some truly unique projects that are contributing to the safety and economic health of the region, including NYC drinking water supply protection, construction of hazard mitigation for East River Bridges, and a NYC Hurricane Preparedness Study that improved hurricane preparedness for sections of the city vulnerable to flooding and wind damage.

"We have an unprecedented volume of construction work scheduled over the next few years in many traditional, as well as some non-traditional areas. For example, I mentioned that the NY District is executing a nearly \$1 billion BRAC project in Alexandria, VA. The project is being managed by the NY District via a recently developed new office that sits at the construction site. The project involves constructing two large (15- and 17-story) office towers to relocate over 6,400 DoD staff into safe and efficient government office space. The project is a testament to the value of the Corps assets and flexibility to enable this work to proceed on schedule to meet the September 15, 2011 BRAC deadline for completion."

**SP:** *"How can the private sector help you meet these challenges?"*

**JS:** "We are well situated to manage the large volume of work that is ongoing and expected, which will result in great opportunities for the private sector. We will be utilizing significant resources from A/E services to construction companies geared towards Engineering and Design, Environmental, Construction and Construction Management that will enable timely project execution. I have met a lot of firms that are interested in working with USACE and this bodes well for the future in our ability to deliver top flight civil, military and environmental projects to the region and beyond."

**SP:** *"The NY District has been a great partner with the NYC Post. We look forward to working with you in the future." ■*

# LETTERS

Dear Mr. Schmeltz:

Thank you very much for your letter, and for the plaque. I am honored to have been named the SAME Civilian Guest of Honor at this year's Scholarship Dinner Dance. We look forward to continuing to support the Society's efforts in the years to come. All the best.

Sincerely,  
Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor, City of New York

Dear Ed [Schmeltz]:

Everything went perfect and everyone had a great, fun evening. You set the new "Gold Bar" for the SAME Dinner Dance. In addition to a flawless evening, I am still overwhelmed by your ability to juggle several balls in the air and your unflappable calmness.

Sincerely,  
M.K. Loose  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy

Dear Mr. Schmeltz:

I am very honored to be the recipient of the 2008 SAME Scholarship Award. Thanks to your generous support, I am motivated to further my

civil engineering education at the graduate level. Thank you for your encouragement and helping me to achieve my goals.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Carmine  
SUNY Buffalo

Dear Mr. Schmeltz:

Thank you very much for inviting us to the SAME Dinner Dance. It was a memorable occasion and we all greatly appreciate being included in the event. Thank you for your efforts.

Signed, Members of the Corps of Cadets, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY.

To the Society of American Military Engineers:

I would like to thank your organization for providing me with this scholarship. My family and I are extremely grateful, for this scholarship will lessen the burden of books and tuition. Thank you once again for helping me further my goals in engineering.

Sincerely,  
Massielle Begazo  
Cornell University

Dear Mr. Schmeltz:

It is with great pleasure that the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences announces Jesse Campbell as the recipient of the Edward J. Schmeltz Scholarship from the NY Post of SAME.

Jesse enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps immediately after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. ... He has served as a dedicated Team Leader in his military career and has received numerous awards of recognition.

He has also applied his keen sense of dedication to his academic endeavors. He has been on the Dean's List and has received the Engineering Science Award. ... Jesse's determination as well as his commitment to his academics, service activities and to his country exemplifies his integrity and strength of character and make him an ideal recipient of this outstanding scholarship.

Sincerely,  
Elyce Winters  
Assistant Dean, SUNY Stony Brook ■

# SCHOLARSHIPS



Jason J. Miller, Harvard University, receiving his Scholarship Certificate and award.



Warren Myers (left), Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and Brian Woerner (right) Computer Science and Electrical Engineering Chair, presented Joe Abel with his award and check from SAME.

Photo Credit: West Virginia University

# UPCOMING events

## **JUNE 4 (THURSDAY)**

Joint NJ/NYC Posts Annual Golf  
Outing  
Picatinny Arsenal Golf Course, NJ

## **JUNE 10 (WEDNESDAY)**

Board of Directors Luncheon  
Meeting  
12 Noon

## **JUNE 10 (WEDNESDAY)**

Post Annual Elections Evening  
Meeting  
5:30 PM - 8:45 PM  
The Harvard Club

## **JUNE 19 (FRIDAY)**

Harbor Inspection  
(Held Jointly with New Jersey  
Post)  
COE Vessel Hayward

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DEDICATED TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE

## **THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS NEW YORK CITY POST**

c/o Parsons Brinckerhoff  
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