



2010 STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE WELL ATTENDED

In March, SAME hosted its annual leadership conference for student chapter representatives across the nation. Almost 40 student leaders were present at this year's conference in Grapevine, Texas, with nearly another 100 post presidents and senior SAME faculty also present. The event took place over two days, with one day featuring informational briefings, presentations, networking and mentoring, and the second day consisting of an on-site tour of the new Dallas Cowboys Stadium.

The first day started with a joint conference of all SAME members present. Led by the Executive Director, Dr. Robert D. Wolff, this lasted slightly more than an hour and was focused on the mission and vision of SAME leadership, as well as the structural make up of posts and staff throughout the U.S. It featured a Q&A group discussion among members and students on problems faced by different posts, including ways to improve student exposure to SAME. However, the focal point of the conference was the group discussion between the student leaders, which was held later in the afternoon.

After the morning briefing was complete, the student leadership gathered to discuss the status of student chapters at the respective universities represented. One of the biggest topics of discussion was student participation, as several chapters indicated that they are struggling with ways to improve the roles their students play in SAME, as well as to increase the attendance of students with very busy schedules. An important idea recommended for club activity is to keep it short, and provide some enticement to attend meetings (such as using pizza as a motivator to bring perpetually hungry students together).



Attendees at this year's Student Leadership Conference.

The next day the student leadership was given a tour of the new Dallas Cowboys stadium, which included a walkthrough of the player's locker room, the field and the press box. The tour focused on the engineering feats involved in constructing such a large, technologically advanced facility. Some of the stand-out features of this \$1.3 billion, 80,000-seat stadium include the massive television screen over the field (the largest in the world) and the convertible roof.

Overall, the conference was definitely worth the trip. Most beneficial was the discussion among the student leaders, as well as the opportunity to network with many influential people in the engineering industry, while gaining exposure to their businesses.

Thanks to CDT Brendan Regan, USMA, 2011, for assisting with the reporting in this article. ■

COL(P) DELUCA ON PROMOTION LIST FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL

On January 20, 2010, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced that the President has nominated Colonel Peter A. DeLuca for promotion to the rank of brigadier general. He is currently serving as Commander, United States Army Engineer Division North Atlantic, Fort Hamilton Military Community, Brooklyn, New York.

Congratulations to COL(P) DeLuca from all your friends and colleagues.

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.

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DINNER 2009 DANCE



Guest of Honor, Lt. General Robert Van Antwerp, flanked by the Service Chiefs and Dinner Dance Chair, Ed Schmeltz (l) and Maher Labib & Bud Griffis (r).



Cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point enjoyed the evening.



Vinny Mangiere accepting the Past President's plaque from Col.(P) DeLuca.



A number of the Post's Student Scholarship recipients were in attendance to be recognized for their accomplishments.



Posting of colors.



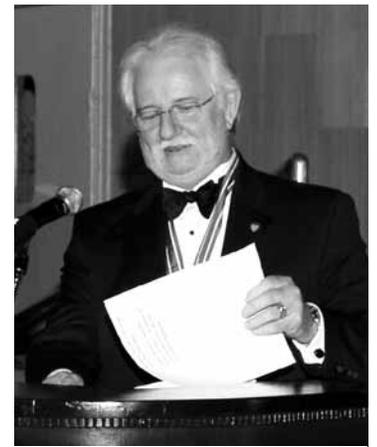
Frank Lombardi (l) presented with Civilian Guest of Honor Award.



Lt. General Van Antwerp was our military Guest of Honor.



Col.(P) DeLuca



Ed Schmeltz

WVU STUDENT HONORED

Breanna Henry, an industrial engineering major at West Virginia University, was awarded a scholarship from SAME as part of the Post's Scholarship Program. A native of Hedgesville, West Virginia, she is active in the University's Reserve Officers' Training Corps. She also maintains a 3.41 in her major, and recently earned recognition at summer field training as the top female candidate in the area of physical fitness -- the "Iron Woman" Award.

Breanna is also the first ROTC cadet at WVU -- male or female -- to have won the organization's Iron Man/Woman Award, scoring a perfect 100% on every fitness assessment. She is currently serving as a flight commander for 15 freshman cadets, and is the treasurer for Silver Wings, a honorary service organization affiliated with Air Force ROTC.

Photo credit: West Virginia University



Col. Edwin Parks (left) and Warren Myers, Associate Dean of WVU's College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (right), present Breanna Henry with her SAME scholarship.

MEET THE MEMBERS

A DISCUSSION WITH COL(P) PETER A. (DUKE) DELUCA AND STU PIKEN, VICE PRESIDENT, PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF

SP: Colonel, congratulations on your assignment as Division Commander of the Corps of Engineers' North Atlantic Division (NAD). NAD has a long history of service to the nation as well as a long list of prior distinguished commanders. For those who are not familiar with your background, can you give us some insight on Colonel Peter A. (Duke) DeLuca?



Col. (P) Peter A. (Duke) DeLuca

PD: The simplest and shortest answer to my background is that it is in many ways unusual for a USACE Division Commander. My service has been entirely in field Army engineer units or in some very senior level joint staffs in policy and planning roles. Three of my last six years of service have been in Iraq, commanding twice there at battalion and then brigade level

and one tour as the engineer for the training and development command for the Iraqi Army and Police forces...where I was a major customer of USACE and five other construction management and contracting agencies.

I am a Eurasian Foreign Area Officer (politico-military specialist) and have spent a great deal of time in and out of the Balkans and the Caspian Basin in that role.

While my degrees are in Mechanical Engineering and Economics and International Affairs, my real love is history, as it is always fascinating to discover 'how we got here' (sometimes 'how we got into this mess'). That passion and its past focus on Soviet economic history and my own experiences with over-centralized and chaotically organized teams give me a real bias against the centralization of decision-making and control under the guise of false efficiency at the expense of effectiveness.

SP: You certainly have had a distinguished and challenging career, including multiple assignments in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo, mostly commanding our war fighters. This will be your first assignment in the Corps of Engineers, a predominately civilian workforce. Are there differences or challenges in leadership that you will need to address?

PD: Yes, this is my first assignment in the Corps of Engineers and the first in which the majority of the workforce is civilian. I have led mixed teams previously of multi-service, civilian government and contract-hire engineers with great results so I am confident that if I do the right amount of listening and analyzing, it'll work out well here at NAD as well. Probably no major changes to my technique, but some nuances that were not needed or not effective in previous assignments.

SP: The Corps is facing perhaps an unprecedented buildup in its military and civil works missions. Certainly NAD has a large part of that workload. What do you see as the major components of that workload and how is NAD postured to execute those missions?

PD: My predecessors here at NAD and the team have really postured the division and its districts very well for any alternative future for the region, whether it is continued rapid program growth, steady state, or even a small contraction. We have a very good mix of senior, mid-grade experienced, and young junior staffs and a smart-sized component of the current workforce that is contracted employees. We can go any direction without pain and I believe the programs, which are historic in size, will remain strong in our region in all major areas.

We are seeing a huge increase of legislative and executive branch interest and action on holistic watershed management and managing coastsheds (like the Chesapeake Bay, for example) to include managing the implications of climate change. All this activity is beyond the one-time burst of Recovery Act funding. We also see other requirements for Army, DoD and other non-DoD agencies being planned and funded now that will compensate for the completion of the BRAC 2005 surge of military construction work.

SP: Many of our members are from the private sector and have partnered with the Corps on all aspects of project development from planning, design, construction and O&M. We've seen a transformation of sorts in contract acquisition strategies from District-focused solicitations to large regional or national IDIQs and MATOCs. Do you see this trend continuing?

PD: I think we have peaked in terms of national-level and regional-level IDIQ activity. Our program now has so many extremely large and

uniquely complex requirements that we do not find these tools helpful. In addition, I see districts adding their own MATOC capabilities in the future and us worksharing using these rather than trying to centrally manage work at division or national level. Many of the small special program MATOC/IDIQs will need to be replaced with deeper district-level capacity given laws and standards. Being put in place (for energy efficiency goals is one example of a small national program that is about to explode in volume and will be unmanageable from a single center or district). There is some discussion on whether the centers of standardization model went too far in both number of standardized facilities and in the seemingly over-centralized manner of implementation under which the CoS also contracted all the work on standard facilities.

SP: *You stated that in prior assignments you were a customer of the Corps. LTG Van Antwerp has expressed his desire for the Corps to go from “Good to Great.” How can we help the Corps achieve that goal?*

PD: The way that contract firms can help us all go from “Good to Great” is to replicate and refine some very innovative techniques we are pioneering in the region to meet BRAC goals in spite of the very unique, highly-technical and gigantic projects we have in the region. The customer demands for ever more acceleration of work, for turn-key complete business solutions and for flexibility on requirements throughout the duration of the project are not going away. These trends will intensify. To meet them will require ever more early and intimate contractor involvement, experimental and pilot acquisition strategies and hybrid contract tools and changes to the way we as teams manage projects and even changes to USACE and contractor governance, I believe. Fear of the unfamiliar or excessive bid amounts to (over) compensate for uncertainty harms progress greatly.

SP: *Let’s turn to another assignment you have; President of the NYC Post of SAME. One of our key challenges is continuing to demonstrate the value of SAME membership and participation to our profession. This is particularly true for the public sector as well as attracting young members in general. We know you have not been in your new role very long, but we welcome your thoughts on this subject.*

PD: Well I am new to the role as SAME NY Post President and so I am just forming more definite views on this. The post has a tremendously successful scholarship program at the center of its being. This is very relevant for encouraging young people to become engineers and to help

train some of the workforce needed by our members. So I do not want to do anything to detract from this phenomenally successful program. Given the changes in the marketplace in terms of how long young engineers can expect to be with any one firm compared to the past (much higher job rotation for this younger generation), I think that if the post can be involved as a placement resource or talent broker in some small way, this will attract young members and also please our corporate and senior management members. Not sure how to do that yet or what niche is best served by SAME.

SP: *Coming back to the Northeast must be a welcome respite from some of your other tours. What do you look forward to the most during this tour?*

PD: This is my first assignment ever in my home region and it’s a job in which I can help give back to the region which is very exciting and rewarding. This is all very personal for me; not just a stop on a career path. Other great things about being here in the Northeast is that I am near my son (in Virginia) and my sister (in Pennsylvania) and many old friends from Virginia to Massachusetts.

SP: *One last question...what is the origin of “Duke”?*

PD: When I was a little boy my father’s nickname was “Duke” and I was “Little Duke” to his friends. While I did not use this name with my friends growing up, I changed my mind once I was leaving college for the Army. My father had died while I was in high school and I was never going to know him as an adult. So I decided to go back to the “Duke” nickname, dropping the “Little” part because I wasn’t. It was a small way for me to show my admiration for my dad even though he was gone. And it’s a great Army name I have to admit, and one you need to live up to even without the father connection. So I think I have been more aggressive, driven and successful for using it. It works for me, perhaps even better than it worked for him. And I have no idea how he got the nickname; that was one story I never got to hear. I’m sure it was a good one and more colorful than mine.

SP: *The NYC Post has had a great relationship with the Corps of Engineers and we look forward to working with you in that capacity and as our post president.*

UPCOMING events

JUNE 3 (THURSDAY)

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

JUNE 9 (WEDNESDAY)

Board of Directors Luncheon Meeting
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Jacobs Engineering Offices

JUNE 9 (WEDNESDAY)

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

JUNE 18 (FRIDAY)

Harbor Inspection
(Held Jointly with NJ Post)
COE Vessel Hayward

IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of our colleague and friend COL John B. O'Dowd, USA (Ret) who served as NYC Post President and New York District Engineer during the response and recovery efforts stemming from the September 11 terrorist attacks that took place just blocks away from the District's headquarters. His family has requested that individuals, who wish to, may contribute to the following charities in his memory: The Wounded Warrior Project; Help for Haiti; and CARE.



COL John B. O'Dowd, USA (Ret)

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DEDICATED TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE

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