Message From the President

Hello,

It is an honor and a privilege to be able to serve as the next Omaha Post President. I know I have large shoes to fill behind John Remus and a host of other superb past presidents. John, I thank you for your dedication and leadership over the past year and for the opportunity to follow your lead.

Having served previously as the District’s Deputy Commander from May 2005 to June 2007, and also as a SAME committee member under the leadership of Jeanne Lebron, I can honestly say it is wonderful to be back in Omaha and to see familiar faces and meet new folks. There is no better engineering community than ours as represented in the Omaha Post. I am excited about the future of the Post and look forward to working with the 2013-2014 board and committee members to continue the work set out by a long line of capable leaders.

As I look towards the future in military engineering, I see tough, challenging times ahead. The Department of Defense is operating under a constrained budget environment and dealing with sequestration impacts. Most DoD civilians are facing impending furloughs this summer and we have instituted department-wide restrictions on conferences and reductions in travel budgets.

Despite these challenges, there is one thing we can count on – our combined strengths and commitment to doing what’s right. Our strong SAME history is built on good communication, sustaining relationships in the military and private industry engineering communities, and developing our future leaders. Together we can meet these challenges by relying on each other to accomplish great things for the Omaha Post and ultimately those we serve.

I will be listening to the board and committee members for their ideas this year, but I also encourage members to come forward and become more involved with the Post activities. There are many opportunities, including taking part in our student mentoring program.

Message From the Past-President

Greetings,

The change of officers took place on June 13th officially closing my term as our Post President. It has been a quick 12 months, and I would like to take a few minutes and thank everyone for their support over the last year.

Last June I challenged our membership to become more involved with SAME activities and you responded. The leadership at the committee level was excellent. Through your actions we didn’t just maintain what we had, but expanded and improved our service to our members. It is easy to lead an organization when individuals are willing to seize the moment and make things happen.

I would also like to thank the Fellows for their increased participation. Their willingness to mentor our younger members and scholarship winners, and to advise our committees, provides continuity and a holistic perspective that adds a certain depth to our activities.

Last and certainly not least is a heartfelt thank you to the board members for their dedication and hard work. You not only are the future leaders of this organization, but are responsible for “growing the bench”, and you have done an outstanding job.

Again, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as President of the Omaha Post. It has been a most gratifying experience.

John I. Remus, II, P.E.
Omaha Post Past-President

... Continued on page 2
Our chapter is diverse, but we all share a common goal. As SAME members, we are successful when our servicemen and servicewomen have the resources they need to achieve their mission. Well designed command and control facilities and combat support headquarters, first-rate barracks and dining facilities, child care centers, just to name a few, provide our military members with the tools to get the job done. Our nation is stronger as a result.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the tremendous work of John Remus and his leadership team including the 2012-2013 board and committee members and thank them for their hard work and outstanding efforts for the Post this past year.

Have a safe and fun summer,

COL Joel Cross
Omaha Post President

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**Calendar of Events**

**July 11, 2013**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

***TOPIC***
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Proposed New Route for the TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline

***SPEAKER***
Pat Rice, NDEQ, Assistant Director Water Quality Division

***LOCATION/TIME***
Field Club, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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**message from the editor**

The Omaha Post is currently accepting articles, press releases, members in the news, job opportunities, etc., for the Fall 2013 newsletter. Please e-mail your articles by September 20, 2013 to Gina Raven at gina.raven@hdrinc.com.
Jim Wathen, P.E. - 2013 Golden Eagle Award Recipient

EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc. (EA), a leading provider of interdisciplinary environmental services, announced that Jim Wathen, P.E., was recognized with the Golden Eagle Award during the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) – Omaha Post Industry Day which was held 8 May 2013. He becomes the 7th recipient of the award, which gives recognition to an SAME-Omaha Post member who demonstrates patriotism and commitment to the engineering profession, family, and community.

With more than 37 years of design and construction experience, Jim’s professional career has focused on water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure as well as environmental restoration. Jim has served in various leadership positions for the Omaha Post, and is currently its Vice President for Membership. In addition, he promotes the value of engineering through his active involvement as an Ambassador of the National Institute for the Certification of Engineering Technologies; the Design Build Institute of America – Nebraska Chapter; and as a member of the board of the Nebraska Society of Professional Engineers. Outside the engineering profession, Jim has dedicated much of his time to a variety of volunteer activities, ranging from coaching youth sports to cleaning up neighborhoods after flooding events.

“This award is a testament of Jim’s long-standing commitment to his profession, the SAME-Omaha Post, and the communities he’s served,” stated Michael Battle, EA’s Chief Operating Officer. “His zeal for life and compassion for others is evident in all that he undertakes, and we are proud of his accomplishments.”

The Golden Eagle Award is presented annually in honor of Doug Plack, former Chief of Military Programs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Omaha District. In honor and appreciation for Doug’s many years of volunteer assistance to SAME’s Omaha Post, the Golden Eagle Award is made to an individual whose values mirror those of Doug Plack. In addition, a monetary donation is made to the recipient’s charity of choice. “I selected the Frontline Faith Project to receive the monetary donation,” stated Jim, “because it is a tangible way to help the defenders of our homeland.”


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2013 Camps & Scholarships

Camps
The Omaha SAME Post sponsors a minimum of two campers to attend two of the four SAME Engineering and Construction Camps, the Army Camp in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Air Force Academy Camp in Colorado Springs, CO, Navy Seabees Camp in Port Hueneme, CA, or the new U.S. Marine Corps Camp in Camp Lejeune, NC. This year, both the U.S. Navy Seabees Camp and U.S. Marine Corps Camp were canceled due to sequestration. The Omaha SAME Post is sponsoring Mark Wathen a sophomore at Pius X High School in Lincoln, NE to attend the Army Camp and Giles McGillick a sophomore at St. Thomas More High School in Rapid City, SD to the Air Force Academy Camp.

If you know of a high school student who would be interested in attending these camps, please encourage them to apply next year. Applications will be due on March 1, 2014. Information on the camps can be found at http://www.sameomaha.org/Omaha_Post_Site/Committees_Scholarships.html.

Scholarships
The Omaha SAME Post’s SMP Scholarship is a renewable scholarship for a maximum of $8,000 over 5 years for one high school senior participating in the Omaha Post’s Student Mentoring Program (SMP). The scholarship starts out as a $1,000 a year scholarship for the freshman and sophomore years and increases to a $2,000 a year scholarship for the junior, senior, and 5th year if necessary. In order to have the scholarship renewed applicants need to:

- Maintain a 3.0 GPA
- Continue in an engineering/architectural program or a related field of study
- Participate in the SAME chapter at their university or college (encouraged)
- Have contact with their SAME Fellow mentor.

This year we made the following awards:

The $1,000 Freshman SMP Scholarship was awarded to Seamus Mulcahy, a senior from Creighton Prep who will be attending UNL or Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in the fall to study to be an architect. Seamus’ SAME Fellow Mentor is Kurt Ubbelohde.

The $1,000 Sophomore Scholarship was renewed by David Johansen, a freshman at UNL studying Civil Engineering. David’s SAME Fellow Mentor is Bob Roumph.

The $2,000 Junior Scholarship was renewed by Adam Crnkovich, a sophomore at UNL studying Construction Management. Adam’s SAME Fellow Mentor is Jeanne Lebron.

The $2,000 Senior Scholarship was renewed by Meagan Kurmel, a junior at UNO studying Architectural Engineering. Meagan’s SAME Fellow Mentor is Matt Harvey.

An additional upperclassman scholarship opened up this year. This $2,000 scholarship was awarded to Emily Sumner, a junior at South Dakota State University studying Civil Engineering. Emily’s SAME Fellow Mentor is Mike Baldino.

The Doug Plack Memorial Scholarship was also renewed at Industry Day. In appreciation of his many years of volunteer assistance to the organization, the Omaha Post established the Doug Plack Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship has been established in perpetuity and will provide education and training funds for a member of the Society, or for someone in their family. The goal of the Plack Scholarship is to raise a base of $20,000, from which the annual interest (approximately $2,000) will be given to one student per year. The first recipients of the scholarship were Doug’s children, Adam and Whitney, who have since graduated. The Doug Plack Memorial Scholarship was renewed by Jessica Braniigan in 2013. Jessica’s SAME Fellow Mentor is Kurt Ubbelohde. Next year this scholarship will be open to applicants again.

If you know of a student studying for an engineering/architectural degree who would qualify for these scholarships, please encourage them to apply next year. Applications will be due on March 1, 2014. Applications can be found at http://www.sameomaha.org/Omaha_Post_Site/Committees_Scholarships.html.

Mentors are needed for the Student Mentoring Program. Go to http://www.sameomaha.org to find out how you can get involved!
On May 6-8, 2013, the Omaha Post hosted an Industry Day & Golf Outing. The annual event kicked off with the golf outing on Monday, and concluded with the 2-day conference on Tuesday and Wednesday. Attendees from all over the country traveled to Omaha for this event. Over 100 golfers participated in the golf outing at Tiburon and over 300 attendees participated in the Industry Day at the Embassy Suites Downtown. An additional 40 exhibitors and over 50 sponsors contributed to the success of this event.

The Keynote presentation was delivered by Ron Magnus, a professional engaged in coaching executives who spoke to the group about Leading in a VUCA World. VUCA stands for Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous. VUCA also stands for Vision & Values, Understanding, Clarity, and Agility, important concepts for leaders to think about. Why are you in business and how are you committed to getting work done? Are you developing talent that can lead through change? Ron tells us to be very clear on what you do and why you do it.

The rest of the conference program included updates from the USACE Northwestern Division, Omaha and Kansas City Districts, and U.S. Army and Engineering Support Center, Huntsville. Public agency briefings were provided by the FAA and EPA Region 7. Training sessions covered GIS/CAD/BIM, USACE contracting, USACE hardened structures, and motivating the project team. We were pleased to welcome a representative from the Alfonza W. Davis Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. for a luncheon presentation.

Again, thank you to all of our attendees and sponsors for your support of the 2013 Omaha Post Industry Day & Golf Outing. The presentations and attendee list for the 2013 Industry Day can be found on the Industry Day website. We look forward to another successful event in 2014!
Student Mentoring Program Competition Day

By: Gail Frame

As expected, the 2012-2013 SMP program year closed with a memorable Competition Day and Award Ceremony. The 27 teams competing were entertained by engaging keynote speaker Tom Sanders, HDR, before learning their final ranking. **Post Presidents Awards went to Skutt High School and Bryan Middle School.** The Awards of Distinction provided by our sustaining member sponsors were earned by:

**High School**

- Westside High School
- Skutt Catholic High School Team #2
- Omaha Central High School
- Omaha North High School Team #3
- Mt. Michael Benedictine Team #2

**Middle School**

- Marrs Magnet Center
- King Science Center
- Woodrow Wilson Middle School
- Bennington Jr. High School
- Westside Middle School

Anne Peterson, VP of Student Mentoring, and Gail Frame, Program Administrator, made visits to teams throughout the school year that were very productive. Not only did the visits provide a deeper understanding of the needs of the SMP mentors and teachers, but they also made apparent a need for a new program offering: career workshops where students can learn more about specific engineering disciplines. The SMP Steering Committee is meeting over the summer to flesh out the idea but it’s already clear we will be seeking individuals willing to help out on a Saturday or two to talk with students about their line of work. Additional photos of the event can be found at www.Facebook.com/SAMESmp.

Interest in our 20th Anniversary year is already heating up with 25 schools confirming their intent to participate – even before the current school year ended! The schedule for 2013-2014 has been finalized with the Workshop falling on Saturday, October 19, 2013 and Competition Day is April 3, 2014. Plans are being made to make this a special celebratory year. Please consider being a Mentor or a Subject Matter Expert (a special one-time resource that teams can call on should they need additional help their mentor can’t supply).

Please contact Gail Frame at SAMEmp@gmail.com if you have any questions about SMP or would like to indicate your interest in helping!
Member Spotlight: Chris Langan, Lamp Rynearson and Associates

Position on the SAME Board? Newly appointed Vice President of Membership trying to fill the shoes of Jim Wathen. Other positions are or have been SAME Engineering Roundtable representative, Industry Day Planning Committee and Student Mentor.

What’s your “day” job? Senior Project Engineer with Lamp Rynearson and Associates where my projects have included commercial and residential development, various project at Offutt Air Force Base and infrastructure improvement projects.

Personal Life: I am single with no kids, but I do spend a lot of time with my 11 year old godson and his 8 year old sister.

How did you become involved with SAME? My Dad was a Civil Engineer with the Public Health Service, we never lived on a base, but we would spend time on different bases for the services they offered. Having that upbringing, SAME seemed like a natural fit for me.

What has been personally fulfilling/beneficial from your work with SAME? For me the best part of SAME happens on the competition day of the Student Mentoring Program. To see these future engineers and leaders so excited about the project they have been working on for the year and the positive feedback they get from SAME representatives is really fulfilling. If you have not been to a competition to see the work that these kids are doing, we would love to have you at the next one to assist or observe.

What project/task/endeavor have you been most excited/proud to work on in conjunction with SAME? I have been proud to be on the Industry Day for the past few years. The credit goes to Christie and Cybil for how smooth it runs, but to be a part of that and see how successful and well attended the event is have made me proud to be a part of it.

What are you looking forward to in the next year? 5 years? 15 years with SAME? I am really excited to see where the next generation of SAME members will take the organization. When meeting the younger members or student members I am impressed with their drive and ambition.

What are the goals you hope to accomplish during your time in your position on the board? I hope to do all I can to assist the Omaha Post in meeting the requirements for streamers and maintaining the post status as those before me have done.

What benefits do you see for our community through SAME’s work? I think the community benefits of SAME were evident during the 2011 flood. The relationships formed through SAME set the ground work for fast action between government and contractors and also amongst the contractors to really work together and coordinate the work to ensure local communities were safe.

What would you say to an individual thinking about joining SAME? Come join us for a meeting, talk to some of the members and I bet you will be back.

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2013-2014 Omaha Post Officers

Officers for the 2013-2014 Omaha Post Board were sworn in during the General Membership luncheon on June 13, 2013. A complete list of all Post Board Members/Officers can be found at www.sameomaha.org.

President
COL Joel Cross, USACE, Omaha District

1st Vice President
Jim Wathen, EA Engineering, Science and Technology

Secretary
Kimberly Collins, USACE, Omaha District

Treasurer
Paula Wells, The Wells Resource LLC

VP for Programs and Industry Day
Christie Murray, URS

VP for Student Mentoring
Anne Peterson, HDR

VP for Memberships
Chris Langan, Lamp Rynearson

Director for Young Members and College Outreach
Cybil Boss, URS

Director for Communications
Kandi Srb, HDR

Director for Awards/Recognition
Dave Packard, USACE, Omaha District

Director for Black Hills Field Chapter
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Continental Mapping Consultants

Ms. Stephanie Peterson
Encompass Architects, P.C.

Mr. Andrew Widman
Encompass Architects, P.C.

Mr. Jeremy Szynskie

Mr. Joe Riedel
Aerotek Government Services

Ms. Maureen McIntyre
EOTI

Ms. Courtney Ingersoll
Coastal Environmental Group, Inc.

Mr. Sorin Juster
Kirkham Michael

Mr. Michael Hanover
Kirkham Michael

Mr. Matt Tinkham
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc.

HDR EOC Adds New Munitions Response Group

HDR Environmental, Operations and Construction, Inc. is expanding its federal munitions response group under the leadership of Jack Foley, who agreed to join HDR as managing principal. The group has 60 employees located in Centennial, Colo.; Portland, Ore.; Seattle; and Boston, and includes scientists, GIS personnel, geophysicists and UXO specialists.

“Our new team members have great talents that will help us grow our munitions response program,” said Don Curtis, P.E., HDR EOC president. “They are currently performing several range assessments, including a large project at the former Lowry AFB.”

Curtis added, “We now also have access to cutting-edge geophysical assessment technology including LIDAR, Metal Mapper, and Digital Geophysical Mapping (DGM) capabilities, which allow extensive aerial, terrestrial and underwater mapping and characterization capabilities.

Omaha Post Recognized as Distinguished Post

The SAME Post awards have been announced and the Omaha Post has again been recognized as a Distinguished Post. Achieving this honor is a direct reflection of the service that the Post provides to our members. Thanks to all the Board/Committee members and the countless volunteers that make it all happen. Congratulations Omaha Post!
HDR Federal Highlights Afghanistan Program in ENR Magazine

HDR contributed to the April 8 issue of ENR magazine’s Federal and Military Construction special advertising section. The article and advertisement were developed to highlight HDR’s work with the Department of Defense and the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan to expand the Afghan National Security Forces facilities.

Building Afghanistan’s Security Infrastructure One Inspection at a Time

As part of a counterinsurgency strategy, the U.S. Dept. of Defense (DOD) is working with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan to expand Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) facilities. These projects include universities, training sites, barracks and other critical facilities necessary to train, educate, and house Afghanistan’s Security Forces.

HDR, a longtime partner of the DOD on projects at home and abroad, has been intimately involved in helping build Afghanistan’s security forces infrastructure.

Sean O’Brien, Program Manager for HDR’s construction inspection program in Afghanistan, says, “We’re very proud and honored to support the DOD and its counterinsurgency strategy in challenging parts of the world. In the last 3 years, HDR has provided construction oversight in Afghanistan on over 30 different construct projects with a construction value that exceeds $500 million.”

HDR is also supporting the U.S. Army in Kuwait, helping U.S. forces in repositioning efforts throughout the Pacific and supporting the U.S. Air Force Sustainable Infrastructure Assessments in Europe.

HDR Federal Highlights Afghanistan Program in ENR Magazine
Notable projects where HDR has provided support, include the Ministry of Defense (MOD) Complex in Kabul, the Afghan National Security University (ANSU), Runway Replacement and Airfield Expansion at Shindand Air Base, and the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC) basic infantry training center. Additionally, HDR has provided support throughout Afghanistan to include Police Recruiting Stations, and numerous Afghanistan National Army Brigade Facilities.

O’Brien adds, “Safety and security are a priority any time a U.S. company is operating in a country where there is conflict. Since beginning our work in Afghanistan in 2009, HDR has had no job related safety incidents or injuries as a result of hostile activity. That’s in large part due to our comprehensive security, health and safety plans that are in place at every site.”

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HDR is also supporting the U.S. Army in Kuwait, helping U.S. forces in repositioning efforts throughout the Pacific and supporting the U.S. Air Force Sustainable Infrastructure Assessments in Europe.
ARID Resources, Inc. Receives 2012 National Salute to Air Barrier Excellence Award

Omaha specialty construction company ARID Resources, Inc. is the recipient of the 2012 National Salute to Air Barrier Excellence Award. This outstanding recognition reflects the superior craftsmanship employed to achieve a perfect score on all quality control audits performed by regulating authorities. The award was presented by the Air Barrier Association of America (ABAA) at the 2012 annual conference in Chicago.

“Our company has been recognized as national champions in conjunction with ABAA’s on-site Quality Assurance program that provides a level of assurance that a specific product is installed correctly, or a specific service is being provided to the highest possible standards”, said Dan Taylor, ARID Resources Owner and President. “ABAA’s Quality Assurance Program is modeled in compliance of the standards laid out in the ISO 9000 program and consists of 9 components, all working together to provide the highest level of confidence that the air barrier will be installed correctly and to high industry standards”.

Founded by Taylor in 1997, ARID Resources, Inc. is a specialty contractor based in Omaha, NE. The company provides a wide range of facility construction services throughout the mid-western states. Applications of “air barriers” in building construction are used to make the building perform better. An air barrier system “wraps” the building shell and ensures that it protects the building from the effects of air leakage.

Air barriers can help designers meet changing building code requirements and accomplish U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for Optimizing Energy Performance, while minimizing condensation that can cause corrosion, decay and loss of insulation value leading to more building costs.

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HDR Welcomes Salva Resources

HDR has acquired Salva Resources, a global provider of key technical and commercial services for mining exploration and investment. The acquisition includes both Salva Resources’ exploration and mining consultancy and Salva Reports’ commodity analysis group. Salva Resources has more than 200 employees in Australia, India, Indonesia, Mongolia and the United Kingdom. Going forward, Salva Resources will do business as HDR|Salva.

“Salva professionals are greatly respected throughout the mining industry, and we couldn’t be more pleased they decided to join HDR. Their talents mesh perfectly with our goals of strengthening our mining/resources practice and global presence,” said Eric L. Keen, HDR Engineering, Inc. president. “Just as importantly, their values and commitment to their clients mirror HDR’s client-driven philosophy.”

Salva Resources’ managing director, Lachlan Broadfoot, said, “We are very excited that this acquisition solidifies Salva’s international growth strategy. Collaborating with HDR enables Salva to offer our clients additional services, including turnkey pit-to-port solutions. Moreover, this acquisition recognizes Australia being at the forefront of providing world-class mining capabilities.”

Broadfoot joins HDR as the Engineering operating company’s Mining Sector director. Lindsay Crutch joins HDR as HDR|Salva Operations director. Both of them will work closely with David Bell, HDR’s managing director in Australia. HDR’s other Australian operations include HDR|DKS, which joined HDR in July 2012.
SAME Sustaining Members are welcome to submit job opportunity advertisements for inclusion in the SAME Omaha Post quarterly newsletter. We require that your advertisement not exceed business card size and that you submit it in the form of an image (jpg, tif, etc.) or pdf. Please e-mail your advertisement to Gina.Raven@hdrinc.com.

Altus Architectural Studios, Inc., an Omaha-based planning, architecture and interior design firm continues our legacy of collaborating with our clients to achieve outstanding outcomes. This client-focused success has helped us win many new projects, and our workload is high. We are searching for a few good people to join our team – project architects and architectural technicians. We offer standard benefits, and even a few extraordinary ones – such as a workweek that ends at noon on Friday. Enjoy work; enjoy summer! If you are interested in joining us, please send your resume and a list of references to Jeanne LeBrOn at jlebron@altusstudios.com. (Job descriptions can be found at www.altusstudios.com on the NEWS page under the CAREER section.)