The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Chesapeake Post Awards
2018 Scholarships

By Arthur Lee

The Chesapeake Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) held their annual scholarship banquet on June 21, 2018. Gina M. Hill, president of GM Hill Engineering based in Jacksonville, FL, sponsored the dinner meeting. Gina addressed the 55 students, parents and STEM professionals at the dinner meeting. Gina established her company in 2004, and has over 25+ years of structural engineering experience spanning across all aspects of the building industry. GM Hill staff have designed residential, educational, commercial, industrial, institutional, and government buildings.

Bill Baker, the SAME Chesapeake Post president, announced the 2018 scholarships totaled about $9,600 going to 22 students, which included 2 SAME engineering summer camp stipends. “Although we are a small Post, we have a very active scholarship program. The Post has awarded over $71,000 of scholarships in the past 10 years.” The individual dollar amounts of the scholarships are not large; however, the Chesapeake Post offers networking opportunities for paid summer internships, scholarships, job-hunting, and professional mentorship. Gina Hill said she sponsored the event because she supports STEM programs. One of her mentors, Tony Price, asked her to support our Post students by sponsoring the awards dinner. Tony is a member of the SAME Chesapeake Post Board of Directors and the SAME Academy of Fellows.

The scholarship awardees came from Cecil and Harford Counties. “I was glad to see the increased scholarship applications from Cecil County. In the past, the majority of applicants were from Harford County,” said Kim Watts, the Chair of the Scholarship and Mentoring Committees.
Matthew Patrick was the invited guest speaker. Matt is one of the Chesapeake Post’s returning student scholarship recipients and former SAME engineering camp attendee. He is currently a Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) scholar attending the University of Maryland. He interned this summer at the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), MD. Matt spoke about how SAME got him energized in STEM when he attended the SAME Marine Corps engineering summer camp at Camp Lejeune, NC in 2015. “SAME, especially the Chesapeake Post, has really supported my academic and future professional career.”

The SAME North Atlantic Regional Vice President, Sharon Krock, and Bill Baker (left and 2d from left) presented the scholarship certificates to the awardees, and introduced them to their SAME mentors. “I am excited to be attending the SAME engineering summer camp at the US Air Force Academy as a mentor,” said Sharon.

Stephanie D’Anna (far right), a former Chesapeake Post SAME scholarship awardee and a geographic information specialist with the Baltimore District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, is the mentor to Cassandra Price (second from right).
Clayton Cisar and Ben Martin were sponsored by the SAME Chesapeake Post to attend the week-long engineering summer camp in July at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. Clayton told his SAME mentor, Stan Childs, “The camp started out fast on the first day when we built concrete beams to withstand over 1,000 pounds of force. My flight, Foxtrot, excelled at building the doghouses and the water balloon slingshot, which we took first place. We also toured the USAF Academy campus, which was a good start for picking a military academy. Overall it was a great experience!”

The other summer camp attendee, Ben Martin reported, “Camp was great! Very busy and exhausting week. Got to work on a lot of cool projects. We built concrete beams (which when tested for strength with a hydraulic press on the last day, my flight won), water treatment systems, doghouses, water balloon slingshots, and cardboard boats. We played volleyball (my flight came in second overall), went to Garden of Gods, toured some labs at the Academy, and we had one morning of physical training. All of the people were awesome, I had fantastic mentors, and obviously you can’t beat waking up to the mountains every morning. Overall it was a great time!”

Anne Martin, Ben’s mother, said, “I was so impressed by the people there and the facilities. This was a top-notch camp full of smart kids that all seemed to get along really well, not to mention the mentors were excellent. It’s really humbling that Ben got to be a part of it. And this just fueled him even more to do well in everything because now he sees some of the competition out there!”

The Chesapeake Post assigns a mentor to all of the scholarship recipients. The mentors provide the students a link to the Post and access to the mentors’ network of professional connections.

Bill Baker, Chesapeake Post President, will mentor two students: Allison Rogers a graduate of the Cecil County STEM academy and an incoming freshman at Virginia Tech, and Allison Wissler a graduate of Fallston High and an incoming freshman at Penn State.

Stan Childs, Member of the Scholarship and Mentoring Committee, will mentor: Clayton Cisar and Ben Martin, the SAME summer camp attendees; Joseph Haire, a mechanical engineering major at Cedarville University; Matthew Patrick, a computer engineering major at the University of Maryland; Andrew Wood, a 3rd year mechanical engineering major at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; and Hunter Lidke, an engineering major at Geneva College.
Stephanie D'Anna, will mentor Cassandra Price, a graduate of Aberdeen High and an incoming civil engineering freshman at Drexel.

Tim Kluchinsky, SAME Scholarship Committee member, will mentor Abby Olah, a 2nd year student at Temple. Abby is a member of the U.S. Army Reserves and will be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation.

Art Lee, Board of Directors, will mentor 2 students: Ryan Wissler, a 3rd year mechanical engineering major at Penn State; and Natalie DePase, a senior environmental science major at the University of Delaware.

Kim McCarthy, Assistant Board Secretary, SAME Chesapeake Post will mentor Kaitlin Coughlin, a 3rd year electrical engineering major at Virginia Tech.

Teri Myers, Board Secretary of the SAME Chesapeake Post, will mentor Nia Hammett, a graduate of Edgewood High and a biology major at North Carolina A&T State University.

Karen Price, Scholarship Committee member, will mentor Ganiyatu Ashiru, a graduate of Elkton High and an incoming freshman at Johns Hopkins; Ryan Pavlitsa, a graduate of C. Milton Wright and an incoming freshman at Penn State; Rachel D’Anna, a 2nd year biostatistics student at the University of South Carolina; and Kurt Kunkel, a 3rd year bioengineering major at the University of Maryland.

Tony Price will mentor Jared Wagner, a senior robotics engineering major at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Brady Vickers, an engineer at the Army Test Center at APG and a former Chesapeake Post SAME scholarship awardee, will mentor Frank Shedleski, a 2nd year computer science and mathematics major at the University of Maryland College Park.

Kim Watts will mentor William Foy, an incoming freshman at Carnegie Mellon University, and Sarah Patrick, an incoming freshman at the University of Maryland. Both are graduates of Aberdeen High School Science and Math Academy.
Front row: Ganiyatu Ashiru, Clayton Cisar (summer camper), Kaitlin Coughlin, Kurt Kunkel, Rachel D’Anna, Natalie DePase, Ryan Wissler
Back row: Allison Rogers, Hunter Lidke, Joseph Haire, Ryan Pavlitsa, Cassandra Price, Ben Martin (Summer Camper), Frank Shedleski, Matthew Patrick.
Not shown in the picture of awardees are Abby Olah, who had US Army Reserve duty and Allison Wissler, who was at the Penn State freshman orientation on the same night as the scholarship award ceremony.

President Bill Baker closed the meeting, reminding everyone of the STEM student networking event at SURVICE Engineering in Belcamp, MD, on October 23, 2018 and another planned student networking meeting in December (date and location TBD) held during the winter semester break. At these events, students and parents can learn about scholarships, internship opportunities for the summer, or job opportunities after graduation.