Greetings and salutations,

I am honored and proud to serve you as President of the Omaha Post. Omaha Post members are all about quality and integrity—what makes this such a vibrant and dynamic organization.

I have been overwhelmed with the efforts of the outgoing committee members and equally impressed with the caliber of leaders who are stepping into new roles for the coming year.

The Missouri River Region is growing closer and we will be collaborating with the St. Louis Post to facilitate the 2012 Joint Engineers Training Conference.

I challenge you to get even more involved this year in SAME. There are a multitude of opportunities and challenges ahead and I will be looking for your support. We have a great post due primarily to the quality individuals who seek to improve and expand knowledge and capabilities.

It’s been reported that natural disasters have increased dramatically over the last two decades. And just look around the world in the past year…floods, fires, earthquakes, tsunamis…the intensity and frequency of extreme events are increasing.

As most of you know, states in the Missouri River basin are experiencing flooding of epic proportions. We have been engaged in flood fight duties for the Army Corps of Engineers for weeks and that will continue for some time. I am surrounded by committed, dedicated hard working people who are intent on saving lives, livelihoods and property. It’s been a 24-hour, seven day a week flood fight, and I am inspired and proud as I watch these great people in action.

We can all agree that national missions, like flood risk management, is a shared responsibility among Corps district, federal, state, local governments, stakeholders, partners, societies and associations. As valiant, committed, determined and resilient teams, we will continue to foster collaborative relationships to ensure effective management of our nation’s resources and infrastructures.

I think it’s important to keep in mind that we all need to be at a heightened state of readiness and be prepared to execute. As budget funds become available, the Corps and contractors need to be ready to collaborate, communicate and answer the call of the nation by executing at a high level.

You may not see a lot of me in the next few weeks, but I am sure members of the Post will drive on and accomplish great things—that is what the Omaha Post is all about.

Have a safe summer.

Col. Robert J. Ruch
Omaha Post President
The Omaha Post is currently accepting press releases, members in the news, job opportunities, etc., for the Fall 2011 newsletter. Please e-mail your articles by September 1, 2011 to Angela Ullman at angela.ullman@hdrinc.com.

Calendar of Events

July 14, 2011
General Membership Meeting: “Levee Construction”

August 4, 2011
General Membership Meeting: “Baseball Stadium Tour”

September 1, 2011
General Membership Meeting: “Facility Management”

For information regarding local flooding issues, the USACE District Facebook page remains a great way to track events and see critical inundation mapping. Go to http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/OmahaUSACE for more information.
Member Spotlight: Jodi Vaccaro

SAME Board Position: Readiness Committee and Industry Day Planning Committee
I serve on the Omaha Post SAME Readiness Committee and Industry Day Planning Committee. This year I assisted Bruce Little in planning the Golf Tournament and volunteered to help run the event at the course.

What I do (for my “day” job):
I have worked for COASTAL for over two years, now serving as the corporate Business Development Manager, managing the Sales and Bid & Proposal teams nationwide. My focus is on the federal market and since I began with the company, COASTAL has secured prime contracts with six USACE districts, USFWS, NPS, EPA, NAVFAC, and ANG.

Personal Life:
Before entering this industry, I received my Bachelors degree in Music – Vocal Performance and spent five years performing musical theatre based out of New York City. I continue to be involved in local professional theater, having performed with Opera Omaha, Omaha Symphony, Omaha Community Playhouse, and The Rose Children’s Theater. Until June 19, you can find me at The Rose starring as Maria in “The Sound of Music!” I am also engaged to be married and mother to a Jack Russell Terrier. We are busy planning a week-long backpacking trip to the Tetons in August!

How did you become involved with SAME? Fellow member Dave Henney suggested that I attend an Omaha Post luncheon and I’ve been involved ever since.

What has been personally fulfilling/beneficial from your work with SAME? As someone new to the A/E/C industry and federal market, SAME was a great classroom. By attending luncheons and many, many conferences nationwide I was introduced to the firms that are key players in government contracting as well as personnel from the federal agencies themselves. Many of these contacts have served as mentors and teaming members. Through the presentations given at these events I was able to quickly assimilate: learning the lingo, familiarizing myself with the breadth of work tackled, and becoming aware of upcoming opportunities. The information I continue to walk away with from each and every SAME event is invaluable to the work I do.

What project/task/endavor have you been most excited/proud to work on in conjunction with SAME? I’ve really enjoyed helping plan Omaha Industry Day – it’s great to be able to consider the strengths and weaknesses of other conferences I’ve attended and try to pinpoint the elements that can make our hometown conference the best. After two sold-out years, I think the committee has excelled at creating a great event for their target audience. I’ve also had the privilege of planning COASTAL’s hospitality event in conjunction with Industry Day. We always look forward to this opportunity to share our gratitude with others in this close-knit industry and simultaneously raise funds for a good cause. I’m excited to scope out a new location for next year’s party!

What are you looking forward to in the next year? 5 years? 15 years with SAME? I look forward to increasing my involvement in SAME in the years ahead. I see many opportunities for personal and professional growth through volunteering for leadership roles in this organization.

What benefits do you see for our community through SAME’s work? The SAME Readiness Committee has determined that the Post could provide emergency contractors during times of need and assist in protecting the community’s existing infrastructure. The money SAME raises to provide high school students with scholarships is a remarkable contribution to the community and future engineers!

What would you say to an individual thinking about joining SAME? Don’t hesitate to join! No matter what your job, it’s a great way to integrate the part you play with the larger whole and the camaraderie is the best!

Any other info you wish to share. I also regularly attend local meetings of The Society for Marketing Professional Services.
Student Mentoring Competition
By: Elizabeth Hallgren

On April 28 the Student Mentoring Program concluded its 17th year the Annual Competition and Awards Ceremony. This year 13 middle schools and 16 high schools from the area participated in the program, supporting 29 teams for a total of 275 students. Each team’s project summary can be viewed at www.pki.nebraska.edu/simp.

The High School Division Post President’s Award of Honor winner was Omaha North Team #4. Their project was titled “Reduction of Deforestation in Third World Countries: Optimizing Sustainable Biofuels” and it focused on developing and implementing an alternative to the use of forest destroying wood stoves on the island of Madagascar.

The Middle School Division Post President’s Award of Honor winner was McMillian Magnet Center Team #1. Their project was titled McMillian Access Cards (MACs), which developed a system to monitor school security and student attendance.

Five teams in each division won Awards of Distinction sponsored by area companies who generously support our program. In the High School Division, Daniel J. Gross won the HDR, Inc. Award, Mount Michael won the DLR Group Award, Omaha North Team #1 won the URS Corporation Award, Central High School won the Lamp, Rynearson & Associates Award and Omaha North Team #3 won the Leo A Daly Award.

In the Middle School Division McMillian Team #2 won the Schemmer Associates Award, Bennington Middle School won the Kelly Klosure Systems Award, Westside Middle won the Olsson Associates Award, Bryan Middle won the Woolpert Award, and Marrs Middle won the Enterprise Precast Concrete Award.

Award winning teams received a cash prize and a crystal plaque. Omaha North Team #4, the overall high school winner also received a $1,000 scholarship for students pursuing further education in engineering or architecture. All teams were given a plaque mounted with their team photo and any gold or silver medals earned in the merit categories of Applied Science, Innovation, Research, Teamwork, Technology, Sustainability, Writing and Presentation.

I would like to thank all of our mentors and their firms; it is their dedication and enthusiasm for the program that makes the SMP a success. I want to thank the teachers and students for all of their hard work, the volunteers for both the competition and the workshop for their time and expertise, the steering committee for continuing to offer their input and support, and the sponsors and SAME-Omaha Post membership for funding the program so we can offer this great opportunity to the future of engineering - the kids!

Industry Day & Golf Outing
By: Christie Murray & Cybil Boss

With 144 golfers and over 350 conference attendees from across the nation, the Omaha Post Industry Day and Golf Outing was another success! The events started on May 2, with the golf outing and Icebreaker. The conference was held on May 3 through May 4, with the Reception on the evening of May 3. The conference was hosted at the Embassy Suites Downtown in Omaha’s Old Market, with the golf outing at Tiburon Golf Club.

The attendee list and copies of the presentations are posted on the Industry Day Web site (http://www.sameomaha.org/2011_Industry_Day/).

The Omaha Post would like to extend a special THANK YOU to our sponsors and exhibitors! Please watch the Omaha Post Web site for details on the 2012 Industry Day.
Jimmy Brasch, 2011 Golden Eagle Award Recipient

By: Dave Packard

Jimmy Brasch, Program Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District Fueling Systems Center of Expertise (POL-DX), was presented with the 2011 Golden Eagle Award by Mr. Bill Stutz, President, S&A Environmental Consultants, LLC during the SAME Omaha Post Industry Day, May 3, 2011. Jimmy is a Licensed Professional Engineer and has been a member of SAME since 1988.

Each year at Industry Day, Mr. Stutz presents the Golden Eagle Award in honor of Doug Plack, the Omaha District’s former Chief of Military Programs, who was killed in 2006. The award criteria mirror Doug’s values in life including:

- Dedication to God and country
- Dedication to the engineering profession (the recipient is not required to be an engineer)
- Dedication to and love of family
- Strong support of community programs (church, civic functions, neighborhood activities, etc.)
- Support of youth programs (coaching Little League, etc.)
- Willingness to respond to those in need (disaster recovery, food bank, etc.)
- Well-known in the engineering community either locally or nationally

Jimmy played a significant role in establishing the POL-DX in 1999 and under his leadership, the POL-DX has developed at a steady and rapid growth rate with projects throughout the world. Over the last five years, the average annual program has flourished from $145 million in FY06 to over $700 million in FY10 with 250 projects located in CONUS and 40 projects OCONUS, including 25+ projects in Southwest Asia supporting the Global War On Terrorism combat operations. It is noteworthy that many projects were executed by Mr. Brasch in adverse conditions within the combat theater.

Jimmy is not just another pretty face in the Corps of Engineers, either. He has received the Omaha District Commander’s Award for Civilian Service in December 2004 and was the recipient of the Army Petroleum Command Coin of Excellence in September 2008. In 2005, the National Petroleum Management Association awarded Mr. Brasch the “Fuel Systems Engineer of the Year”. Yet, in addition to his professional accomplishments, he has been devoted to meaningful family and community activities. Jimmy has been a member of Greater Omaha BBQ Society since 1993. He accomplishes logistics (design and assemble water and other systems) for the annual State BBQ Contest. Mr. Brasch was a Boy Scout Troop Leader for 12 years and currently supports the BSA Council level as a member of the Property Committee and Conservation Committee. He supported the Logistics Committee for the recent BSA Jubilee (7,000 Scouts). As a member of the Green Thumb (gardening group), he mentors people in home gardening techniques and produce grown by the Green Thumb goes to elderly Church members and the local Food Pantry.

Keep an eye in the sky for this year’s Golden Eagle, Jimmy Brasch. He’s the one with whiskers! Thanks for your contributions, man!
Omaha Post President’s Award to Chris Langan
By: Dave Packard

Chris Langan, Senior Project Engineer with Lamp, Rynearson and Associates, Inc., was presented with the 2011 Omaha Post President’s Award by Omaha Post President Gary Krupa during a break in the SAME Student Mentoring Competition held at Peter Kiewit Institute on April 29. The annual award is usually presented during the annual E-Week Banquet, but poor weather precluded the presentation this year. The E-week Banquet would have been a very appropriate venue for Chris’ award as he was the Omaha Post Representative to the 2011 E-Week Committee and is the Chairman of the 2012 E-Week Committee. Chris has contributed to other Omaha Post activities through participation in strategic planning sessions and he recently attended a Post Leaders’ Workshop where he was exposed to the big picture of SAME and had the opportunity to rub shoulders with SAME President LTG Robert L. Van Antwerp and Dr. Robert D. Wolff, SAME Executive Director.

Chris is an energetic volunteer and was a key team member in Industry Day 2010. He will begin his fourth year of Student Mentoring at Mount Michael and recently joined the Readiness Committee…good timing! Chris is a regular at monthly general membership meetings and Board meetings.

Please join in the recognition of Chris’ valuable contributions to the Post and the Society. Congratulations to Chris!

Industry Day Coastal Party
By: Jodi Vaccaro

Over 120 fellow contractors, teaming partners and government personnel attended a Pre-Cinco de Mayo event hosted by COASTAL at Roja in Omaha. The menu featured Tex-Mex cuisine and COASTAL blue margaritas, embellished with COASTAL blinking light-up ice cubes that were a huge hit! The highlight of the evening was the breaking of the piñatas – thanks to all who participated and took a swing at them!

Due to the generous donations of all in attendance, COASTAL was able to present a check at Omaha Industry Day to benefit the SAME Omaha Post Scholarship Fund in the amount of $1,459. A good time was had by all and we look forward to doing it again next year!
Sand in the City®

Sand in the City® returned for its eighth year, June 3 through June 5. For the event, corporate and community groups teams worked with professional sand sculptors from across the country and local architects/engineers to participate in a sand sculpture competition, which was followed by awards.

The goal of Sand in the City® is to raise awareness and funds for Nebraska Children’s Home Society, which provides statewide pregnancy and parenting, adoption, foster care, community and neighborhood based services, and early childhood programs and services to children of all ages.

Several SAME members’ teams participated in the event, including CLH Architects, DLR Group, HDR, Inc., Kiewit, Lamp Rynearson, Leo A Daly, Olsson Associates and Schemmer.

Lamp Rynearson assisted NorthStar’s team at the 2011 Sand in the City® event

HDR’s team at the 2011 Sand in the City® event
SAME Omaha Post Scholarship Program

The Omaha SAME Post has changed their scholarship program to 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) and the other four to current college students enrolled in an engineering/architectural program or a related field at any accredited university/college. The scholarship starts at $1,000/year for the freshman and sophomore years and increases to a $2,000/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
- Have contact with their SAME mentor
- Are encouraged to participate in the SAME chapter at their university or college

In 2011, we made the following awards:

- $1,000 Freshman SMP Scholarship - Adam Crnkovich, a senior from Gross Catholic who will be attending UNO in the fall for Construction Engineering
- $1,000 Sophomore Scholarship - Meagan Kurmel, a freshman at UNO studying Architectural Engineering with an emphasis in Structures
- $2,000 Junior Scholarship - Mikael Penaherrera, a sophomore at UNO studying Architectural Engineering
- $2,000 Senior Scholarship - Luke Ritz, a junior at UNO
- $2,000 5th Year Scholarship - Holly Brink, a senior at UNO studying Architectural Engineering

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 are due on March 1st. Applications can be found at http://www.sameomaha.org/Omaha_Post_Site/Committees_Scholarships.html.

SAME Omaha Streamer Awards

Each year, the Posts of the Society of Military Engineers compete for Streamer Awards in recognition of outstanding performance and achievement in five categories. The Post Streamer Awards are presented at the Post Awards Breakfast (PAB) at the Joint Engineer Training Conference and Expo held the following calendar year for which the Post met the criteria for the award.

The SAME Omaha Post was awarded four out of five Streamer Awards for the 2010 calendar year. The Post was awarded the following Streamers for 2010:

- Education and Training Streamer
- Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Streamer
- Outreach and Communication Streamer
- Relationships and Recognition Streamer
- Membership Streamer

Missouri River Region Post award recipients pictured with MG Tim Byers, SAME 2010 National President & Jerry Adams, Missouri River Regional Vice- President
HDR Architect Receives SAME Medal for Distinguished Performance in Architecture

Junjian “J.J.” Tang, AIA, LEED AP, a lead architect and designer in the HDR Federal group based in the Chicago, Ill., office, has been awarded the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Urbahn Medal. The Urbahn Medal is awarded to a SAME member for distinguished performance in the field of architecture. Tang was selected to receive the award in recognition of his work, particularly during the past five years, leading the design of over three dozen military barracks, headquarters, training and support facilities across the U.S. and Europe. These projects have employed various delivery methods, with a combined construction value of over $1.4 billion.

Tang is a 21-year architecture professional, and a member of SAME Lake Michigan Post since 2002. His work has received numerous design awards and has been published in many professional magazines. Tang has lectured extensively about both architectural design and design/build, and he is well-known for his tireless work to promote high design quality for Department of Defense facilities.

The award was presented to Tang in May at the 2011 Joint Engineering Education and Training Conference and Expo in Grapevine, Texas.

Welcome New Members

Joe Combs, B2 Environmental, Inc.
Warren Digman
Allison Brucker, Iowa State University
Lt. Col. James Illingworth

Doug Plack Scholarship Fund

Please help us remember Doug and continue his legacy of mentoring, assisting and participating. Please donate to the Doug Plack Memorial scholarship by sending your check, made payable to SAME-Omaha Post, to Box 24804, Omaha, NE 68124. Please note on the memo line that the check is for the Plack Scholarship Fund. Thank you to those who have donated so far!

Smart People Solving Hard Problems

SAIC provides government and commercial clients with environmental, energy, construction management, homeland security, and engineering solutions.
Sullivan Honored at Environmental Industry Summit IX

Sullivan International Group, Inc. was chosen to receive two Environmental Business Journal (EBJ) awards and recognized at the Environmental Industry Summit IX held at the Hotel Del Coronado, California, in March. Sullivan was honored for both Business Achievement; Gold Medal award in the mid-sized category as well as for Project Merit for superior performance on an environmental remediation project in Indiana.

“Although 2010 was a difficult year, there was some noteworthy business activity in the environmental industry in 2010,” said Grant Ferrier, president of Environmental Business International Inc. (EBI), who singled out renewable energy development, environmental information technology, remediation, and mergers and acquisitions as growth areas. Sullivan’s Business Achievement recognition was for more than doubling revenue during 2010, to more than $41 million from about $18 million in 2009. Sullivan opened a new office in Indianapolis in order to support the needs of a rapidly growing U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 Remedial Action Contract (RAC), and it is expanding in New England as well as adding staff in San Francisco, Chicago and its headquarters in San Diego. In 2010, Sullivan hired over 25 new employees to support its rapid growth.

Ziegenbein is New Board Member for Lamp Rynearson

Lamp, Rynearson & Associates recently appointed Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein as an “outside the firm” member of its board of directors. Since 1983, Ziegenbein has been with the Peter Kiewit Foundation, serving first as Associate Director before being named Executive Director in 1986. She has served as an Assistant United States Attorney for Nebraska and has practiced law privately.

In addition to her role as a Lamp Rynearson board member, Ziegenbein also serves on boards for the Greater Omaha Chamber, U.S. Council on Foundations Independent Advisory Group, Creighton University College of Business Advisory Board, and Filmstreams.
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