Chair Message

Greetings Young Members! I am very honored and excited to take over as the Chair of the Young Member Council (YMC) for the next two years. Our Society is thriving and YMs are at the heart of every Post, Committee and National event…what a great time to be part of such an outstanding organization.

Before jumping into the coming year, I’d like to thank Ben Redding for all of his contributions as the YMC Chair for the past two years. Like all the great Chairs before him, Ben dedicated a lot of time and effort advocating for YM interests within SAME and we’re thankful to have him in an advisory role moving forward. I’d also like to thank our out-going Vice Chair for Mentoring and Recognition, Hector Hernandez…he was a champion for our CAAP program and we appreciate all of his efforts on behalf of the YMC.

I am thrilled to introduce the 2015-16 SAME YMC leadership listed throughout this newsletter. We have a great mix of accomplished public and private sector A/E/C professionals who have stepped up and volunteered to help out this year. If you have specific interests, ideas or questions about SAME, feel free to reach out to the respective contact on our leadership team. Here are a few of our focus areas this year:

- **Value.** Increase value to YMs by leveraging SAME HQ, Councils and Committees, and improving visibility on existing programs. SAME bends over backwards to provide valuable content and opportunities for YMs…we’re going to help make sure you’re aware of all that’s out there.

- **Participation.** Establish an effective battle rhythm. I invite you to join us on our monthly YMC calls, every second Thursday of the month at 1200 ET. This is the best way to get involved and learn about what’s going on throughout the society. The call-in number will always be 212-812-2800 (code: 4648 6713).

- **Communications.** Ensure robust communication w/in the YMC and across SAME. I am pumped that we have a full slate of Vice Chairs and Committee Liaisons and excited to see how we can find ways to leverage our robust team to benefit YMs and the Society.

- **Membership.** We plan to have several focused looks at membership throughout the year (i.e. NCOs, Public Sector YMs, Student Members, etc.). All YMs are encouraged to join in those discussions as we’ll need to learn from your experiences and ideas.

How can you help? This year, I’d encourage all YMs to do a few things:

- **Get involved.** Join our LinkedIn Group (SAME Young Members: [www.linkedin.com/e/gis/2633/363BDB4528E2/](http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/2633/363BDB4528E2/)) and join in the discussions. Call-in to one of our monthly YMC calls and see if there’s something you want to get involved in at the national level.

- **Provide input and share your successes.** Please consider sharing best practices or great ideas through LinkedIn, this newsletter, or simply by reaching out to our leadership team.

- **Recruit the future.** When was the last time you introduced someone to SAME? I encourage you to tap your co-worker or new employee on the shoulder and bring them along to a SAME meeting or event.

I’m looking forward to a great year!

Matt
JETC 2015: Speed Mentoring Session

By MSgt(s) Amanda Wakefield, USAF

One of my favorite JETC sessions was the Young Member/Fellow Speed Mentoring session. I had the pleasure to meet with other Young Members and get to know them a little bit better. Most importantly, the session afforded me and others the opportunity to network in a controlled environment with a specific goal in mind. It was intended to afford Young Members the opportunity to sit one on one with a SAME Fellow and discuss goals and receive insight on how to achieve them. Through this valuable session, I was able to express my goals and roadblocks to more than one Fellow/mentor that has a broad breadth of experience and has seen many of the issues I face and was able to get more than one perspective. I was able to inform them of my goals and where I stood in achieving them. I met one or two in particular that I have chosen to stay in touch with as mentors in the future.

I highly encourage SAME to continue speed mentoring sessions. I would even encourage them to try it in a virtual environment as the value added was significant to me and I know others would benefit from this opportunity as well. I appreciated also the lead mediator provided quick insight and refreshed our memory on the importance of having a mentor. Mentors don’t make decisions for us. They don’t tell us what we should or should not do, how to do or provide specific instructions. Instead, they lead, guide, and mold us into who we want to become. They took our goals and what we wanted to talk about and turned it into a quick lesson with advice from an expert that we could immediately apply to our situation and continue to grow. SAME is always affording me the opportunity to grow and not only by providing me the tools I need, but by providing me opportunities, such as this to learn and grow!

Thank you SAME for allowing me to provide feedback, but also for the opportunities you afford me in my personal and professional career. I look forward to attending future SAME events and next year’s JETC too.
The 2015 Joint Engineering Training Conference (JETC) in Houston, TX was a week of many first time experiences. This was my first formal attendance to a professional conference. In fact, this was my first event since joining the Society of American Military Engineers (or since becoming active again since signing up as a second lieutenant at the West Point Chapter as a cadet). That isn’t to say that I have never attended a professional conference; I’ve been to Society of Hispanic Professional Engineer conferences as a student and attended Engineer Week at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, as a new lieutenant, but this time I attended as a contributing member of the community with some experience and knowledge. Nonetheless, I was still a little anxious yet excited to be attending.

Upon arrival, the thing that struck me the most was the number of civilians at JETC. In fact, I think there were more civilians than uniformed military present. I’d assumed they were here for another conference, but as time progressed I learned of the extensive number of active civilian members of SAME. Furthermore, the spectrum of civilians varied from engineers to vendors to scientists. Whereas I’d thought that this event would mostly be Army Engineers, I was pleasantly surprised to learn of how the different Uniformed Services (including Uniformed Health Services) as well as civilian constituents all form important parts of SAME.

The events I attended further cemented my observation of the diversity of SAME as an organization; I walked into the Young Member Council meeting and was immediately greeted and warmly welcomed by the Air Force, Army, and civilian attendees. In the “Engineering Force Sufficiency for Meeting Combatant Command Requirements” session, I learned how each branch contributed to meeting the current threat and how we are constantly evolving to meet a future threat, including the importance of early integration of civilian contractors into planning efforts. The myriad of professional sessions each discussed important topics with the leading decision makers and policy influencers for anyone affiliated with Military Engineering.

Still, this event’s most important first time experience was probably as a Transitioning Junior Military Officer. Having just recently committed to hanging up my uniform, this conference opened my eyes to the countless opportunities ahead to continue to be part of the military community and as a servant to our nation. I met mentors, friends and colleagues that all offered the support I will need as I move onto the next chapter of my life.

All in all, I learned a lot, had a great time, met a lot of great people, and cannot wait for the next one!

PHOTO SOURCE: https://www.flickr.com/photos/militaryengineers/albums
By Ann Ewy, F. SAME

Emerging Leaders Alliance

You may have heard of The Emerging Leaders Alliance, or ELA. The ELA began in 2008 and is now a partnership between 10 engineering and science-based organizations that provides leadership training. SAME has been a proud part of ELA for the last four years. The annual ELA conference is an interdisciplinary leadership conference held in November in Reston, Virginia. Each of the organizations that are part of ELA has its own criteria and selection process for attendees. For SAME, the main eligibility criteria are as follows:

1. Young Member (Civilian or Military) who is age 39 or under as of November 12, 2014.
2. A join date before January 1, 2013 [Note: Stipend recipients are expected to have at least 18 months of membership in SAME prior to being awarded a stipend]
3. Active member of an SAME Post, Field Chapter or National Committee or Council for the past year (as reflected in the nomination form).

This is an exciting year for SAME as we have increased the number of attendees to 16 (1 person per region). This is a remarkable opportunity, thanks to SAME and the Academy of Fellows.

This year’s ELA conference will be held 8-11 November. Registration fees and 3 nights in the hotel are covered by SAME for selected participants. Other travel expenses are not covered but typically can be picked up by local Posts. In addition to the conference, attendees receive access to ELA On Demand, an online library of recorded training sessions from past ELA conferences. Having had the honor of attending ELA in 2013, I can say this is the best leadership conference I have attended. I have explained to people that SAME provides leadership workshops through the Post Leaders Workshops but those are really geared toward SAME and our operations and mission. ELA offers more general leadership training, and is an all around fantastic conference.

If you’re interested in attending ELA, contact your Post President or Regional Vice President quickly to find out the specific process for your region. Each Post may submit one Young Member for consideration to their RVP. The RVP, in concert with the Regional Fellow POC, will review applications and select the regions nomination. The RVPs must submit their nominations and ensure their nominees’ application are submitted to SAME HQ no later than 31 July 2015, so hurry and apply today! More information can be found at

http://www.same.org/index.php/component/content/article/201-uncategorised/826-emerging-leaders-alliance-ela-stipends

Want to Get Paid? No Problem!

All you need to do is sit for your professional credentialing exam, pass it, and then seek reimbursement from SAME via the YMC Credentialing Achievement Awards Program (CAAP). The YMC is committed to promoting the professional development for SAME Young Members in order to support the SAME Strategic Plan. If you are a Young Member, the CAAP serves to fulfill an objective to provide financial support for professional development, education, and mentoring initiatives which benefit SAME members.

SAME will support the cost of credentialing by reimbursing Young Members for exam sitting or registration fees. The full program details and application are located on the SAME HQ website.

Applications for this cycle are due October 9, 2015.

For questions regarding the program, please visit the SAME HQ Website http://www.same.org/index.php/committees-a-councils/councils/young-members or contact Michelle Gill at michelle.gill@dsca.mil.
A few weeks back, I had the pleasure of serving as a mentor for the SAME Engineering and Construction Camp held at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This was my second year as a mentor; last year I spent a week at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina with the camp hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps. Though wildly different in some regards, both offered an incredible opportunity to interact with future engineers in a very unique setting. The Field Engineering and Readiness Laboratory (FERL) site at USAFA offered a great backdrop to the camp. Over the course of the week, 96 high school sophomores and juniors from across the globe worked as teams to construct concrete beams, doghouses, and water balloon launchers. Each camper also had the chance to serve as a project manager; leading their team, gathering input from teammates, and testing assumptions.

I could go on and on about the lessons they learned, the importance of STEM in our schools, and the details of each event. But why does this matter to SAME Young Members? Why be a mentor for a week in the summer? It sounds cliché, but it’s a very rewarding experience that will likely give you back more than what you put in. For first time mentors, the biggest question is, “what am I here for?” There are flight commanders that make sure the campers are at the right place on time, logistics cadets that make sure we have what we need, and camp directors that plan everything for months in advance. The mentors, however, are there to provide engineering advice as the students work through their different challenges.

A sentiment I heard repeated throughout the camp was how much more accomplished high schoolers are nowadays as compared to when we were in school. It almost makes you feel like you have little to offer at first. But as polished as the campers appear, they still have many lessons to learn, some in engineering and some in simple life skills. I found myself enjoying doghouse building more than any other event because I got to pass on carpentry tips my dad taught me years ago. It’s a great feeling to watch the campers make the connection between the engineering principles you suggest and their own ideas. When they suddenly state, “we should put the rebar near the bottom of the beam because it will be in tension,” they look to you for affirmation.

In addition to our technical knowledge, we serve as “experienced friends.” We’re there to answer questions about engineering as a career, life in the military, or in some cases both. Surprisingly, we get the chance to support them on tougher issues as the week goes on and our relationships strengthen. I’ve discussed a wide range of concerns with campers looking for an outside ear. Things like:

- “My dad was in the Army, but I’m thinking about the Navy. Is that ok?”
- “I don’t know if I want to go to an Academy.”
- “I think I’d rather be a doctor than an engineer.”
- “What’s it like getting yelled at your whole freshman year?”

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It’s because of questions like these that we need a wide range of SAME Young Members to serve as mentors. Though we hope that our camp will serve as a springboard to future engineering careers, it’s important that we have mentors in place to help the campers make the decisions that are best for them. We had a great range of mentors and staff this year which further demonstrated the depth and breadth of our industry: a civilian environmental engineer new to SAME with a fresh outlook on engineering education, a senior fire protection engineer in the Public Health Service, a RED HORSE NCO, and college students studying construction management.

Interestingly, our camp was held on an Air Force Base and was organized by a bunch of retired Army Corps Engineers! My point is that it takes all kinds to have a successful camp. The diversity is critical in accomplishing our mission.

On top of benefitting the campers, being a mentor is simply a lot of fun. It’s nice to just relax for a week and get away from work. For most of our mentors, the time off from work was free and expenses were covered by a local post. In addition to goofing off with campers, we enjoyed constructing our own masterpieces (Scrap house anyone?) and getting to know each other in our off time. It was a great opportunity to build our networks and establish friendships that will endure past the week we spent in Colorado Springs.

Finally, there is no doubt in my mind that we made a difference in these kids’ lives. Our camp director has already received numerous emails from parents and campers alike, singing the praises of our camp. Personally, I was reaffirmed of my role a month ago when I received a text from a camper from last year’s camp. He wanted to let me know that he was heading to the Air Force Academy and to thank me for talking with him last summer while he was trying to piece together his future. Coincidently, I ran into another past mentee at the Denver airport as we were both headed to Colorado Springs; me for another year as camp mentor and him as a new freshman at the Academy. The opportunities you have as a mentor are limitless. I highly encourage every SAME Young Member to consider serving as a mentor next year. I promise you won’t regret it.

“Engineers…Lead the Way!”
Air Force Academy Engineering & Construction Camp Scholarship Committee – Needs YMs!

The SAME/Air Force Engineering & Construction Camp Scholarship Committee needs mentors who are willing to check in with the students. The check-ins have two purposes: 1. to make sure the students still meet the scholarship requirements and 2. to be a resource for the students. The second part is the most fun as you get to answer questions about what it’s like to be an engineer, what should they do after college, support their research projects, and a host of other things a college student may ask. The Committee needs at least one Young Member immediately to do the annual scholarship verifications so the checks can be sent to their schools. If you are interested, please contact Dave Pratt at dpratt.gb@gmail.com.

Join the SAME Young Members LinkedIn Group!

Through the members-only SAME group, you can leverage the power of the SAME network to find and reach the new business contacts you need, accelerate your career through referrals from SAME members, know more than a name by viewing profiles from fellow SAME members, and let other SAME members know what you have to offer professionally to them and their contacts. Access to the special SAME group features on LinkedIn is free, and is available to SAME Members only.

Recent Discussion Board Topics Include:
- In Episode 69 of The Engineering Career Coach podcast I interview Read Admiral (ret.) Mike Giorgione of Leading Leaders on “How to Deliver Impact Leadership in Your Engineering Career”
- Talent Shortage Survey reveals 38% of global employers are having difficulty filling jobs in 2015
- 8 Beliefs That Increase Your Leadership Potential
- Understanding and Surviving Project Complexity

SAME Members are encouraged to join the SAME network.
JOIN HERE: www.linkedin.com/e/gis/2633/363BDB4528E2/

Upcoming YM Professional Development Call

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our next YM Professional Development Call.

When: Wednesday, 2 Sept 15, 1100-1200 EST

Topic: YM New Business Round Table

Description: We’re excited to have a panel of YMs who have recently transitioned to establish their own companies. Dial in to hear their stories and learn from their experiences.

Admin: To join the call, go to https://www.spiderphone.com/75303076 OR dial +1 212-812-2800 and enter 7530 3076.

Professional Development Hours: The YM Council will award one PDH for participation in this call.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact our Programs Vice Chair, Erin Weatherly, at erin.weatherly@us.af.mil.

Ideas for a PD Call or interested in being a guest speaker?

We welcome your input and appreciate your help! Please contact our Programs Vice Chair, Erin Weatherly, or Assistant Programs Vice Chair, Madhu Karri.
Joint Engineer Contingency Operations Committee Bi-Monthly Call
Operation UNITED ASSISTANCE: AFRICOM's contingency operation in Liberia in response to the Ebola Epidemic
**Date:** July 29 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm Eastern Time
**Guest Speaker:** Maj. Patrick Kolesiak, USAF
**Call In Info:** 1 212-812-2800 and enter 1409 8290

YMC-Sponsored Negotiation Skills Webinar
**Date:** August 18 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm Eastern Time
**Info:** [http://officeprou.com/products/negotiation-skills](http://officeprou.com/products/negotiation-skills)
SAME is offering $50 off with the coupon code "same50"

Conference Call/Webinar
**Info:** The SAME Facility Asset Management (FAM) Committee's next quarterly conference call/web meeting is planned for Thursday, August 20th from 2:00 -3:00 pm Eastern Time. We will start with a 45 minute webinar on "ISO 55000 Overview and Implementation" presented by Dr. Navil Shetty who is the Director & Technical Chair for Asset Management with Atkins. We will be offering 1 PDH for your participation. Additional information on the presentation and the call in/web address will be provided in early August. I hope you will be able to participate!

YMC-Sponsored Performance Management Webinar
**Date:** September 15 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm Eastern Time
SAME is offering $50 off with the coupon code "same50"

Post Leaders Best Practice: How to start a regional STEM Camp: The Exploring Engineering Academy Webinar
**Date:** September 16 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm Eastern Time
**Info:** [https://membership.same.org/cgi-bin/eventsdll.dll/EventInfo?sessionaltcd=15_581_eea](https://membership.same.org/cgi-bin/eventsdll.dll/EventInfo?sessionaltcd=15_581_eea)

Additional events can be found online at [http://www.same.org/index.php/events/calendar-of-events](http://www.same.org/index.php/events/calendar-of-events)

SAME has teamed with RedVector to provide SAME members with exclusive access to technical training for the A/E/C industry and related professions. Courses are designed to meet state licensing board continuing education requirements.

**Get started now!**
[https://same.redvector.com](https://same.redvector.com)

To begin, you must create your personal username and password.

Please create your account in line with your SAME membership. As such, you should create your login as:

- **Username:** use your e-mail address tied to your SAME membership
- **Password:** use your SAME member number

Visit us on the Web!
[www.same.org](http://www.same.org) | [www.same.org/youngmembers](http://www.same.org/youngmembers)