



Society of American Military Engineers  
Academy of Fellows

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023



### A Message from the AOF Chair

Capital Week will be held this year from March 27 through March 29 at the Bethesda North Marriott in Rockville, MD. In addition to the networking opportunities and DoD and Federal Agency Program Briefings, this year's event will be kicked off on Monday evening by an SAME Foundation Fundraising Reception, which will replace the Golden Eagle Dinner. Golden Eagle awards will be presented at the Society Ball during JETC in San Antonio. All the proceeds from the ticket sales for this event will support the SAME Foundation.

As we have in previous years, we will hold our Fellow's Luncheon on the closing day. In addition to updates from the SAME Foundation and the members of our Fellows XC, we are planning for presentations by participants in the National Leader Development and STEM Camps programs which the Foundation supports.

While it will be difficult to surpass the success of November's Small Business Conference in Nashville, we will be aiming for that this May at JETC in San Antonio. We will hold our Investiture to welcome twenty-six new members of the Academy of Fellows Class of 2023 and presenting this year's Gerald C. Brown Mentoring Award.

Following another successful Fellows selection process, the Executive Committee of the AOF is currently conducting an After-Action Review. We have solicited input from Nominators, and Regional Fellows POCs as we work to continually improve our selection process. Please feel free to share your input and suggestions. We are also continuing to analyze the results of our Fellows Participation Survey, looking for ways to increase the involvement and contributions of our active Fellows. A new effort we are beginning to develop is our "Guided Pathway to Fellowship". In addition to our Fellows Preparation Webinar presented every Spring/Early Summer, this program will focus on how prospective Fellows can prepare for membership starting at the halfway point or approximately five years before application.

Always remember that SAME relies on the members of our Academy of Fellows to be the bedrock of our society, relying on us for leadership, guidance and of course, mentoring. I encourage you to continue to look for ways to support our mission and Strategic Plan; to be a role model, a mentor, to be patriotic and respectful, and to support our posts.

Thank you,

 **Rad Delaney, AIA, LEED AP, F.SAME**  
SAME Vice President and Chair, Academy of Fellows



## Congratulations Fellows Class of 2023

The Academy of Fellows congratulates the 26 members newly selected as SAME Fellows. These individuals will be invested during the Fellows Investiture at the 2023 JETC, being held May 2-4 in San Antonio.

Additionally, two new members have been named Distinguished Fellows within SAME: Col. John Mogge Jr., Ph.D., RA, F.SAME, USAF (Ret.) and Col. Sal Nodjomian, P.E., F.SAME (Dist.), USAF (Ret.)

- Col. Jose Aguilar, F.SAME, USA (Ret.)
- Wendy Amann, P.E., F.SAME
- Joseph Bissaillon, AIA, NCARB, PMP, LEED AP, GGP, GPCP, CQM-C, F.SAME
- Donn Booker, F.SAME
- Maj. Karlus Cozart, F.SAME, USA (Ret.)
- Cdr. Roland DeGuzman, P.E., CEM, F.SAME, USN (Ret.)
- David Epperly, Ph.D., P.E., F.SAME
- Josh Graham, P.E., PMP, F.SAME
- Natasha Gromak, PMP, F.SAME
- Michelle Klouda, AIA, LEED AP, F.SAME
- Chief Master Sgt. Robert "Frank" Lovett, F.SAME, USAF (Ret.)
- Joshua McClure, Ph.D., P.E., PMP, CFM, F.SAME
- Lt. Col. Frank Mondo, P.E., LEED AP, F.SAME, USAFR (Ret.)
- Gerald Morris Jr., PMP, LEED AP, CCM, F.SAME
- Mark Ohlstrom, P.E., F.SAME
- Roberta Perry-Schlicher, P.E., F.SAME
- Anthony Petrocitto, P.E., LEED AP, F.SAME
- Mike Resty Jr., F.SAME
- Albert Romano, F.SAME
- Carlos Sanchez, LEED AP, F.SAME
- Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, P.E., F.SAME, USA (Ret.)
- Lt. Col. Pat Suermann, Ph.D., P.E., LEED AP, F.SAME, USAF (Ret.)
- Cdr. Colleen Symansky, P.E., PMP, F.SAME, USCG
- Col. Mike Ulekowski, P.E., CCM, F.SAME, USA (Ret.)
- Corey Weaver, P.E., F.SAME
- Rick Wice, PG, F.SAME





## Gerald C. Brown Mentoring Award

The Academy of Fellows of the Society of American Military Engineers is pleased to announce that **Lt. Col. Neal Wright, P.E., PMP, F.SAME, F.ASCE, F.NSPE, USA (Ret.)** of STV Inc. has been selected as this year's recipient of the Gerald C. Brown Mentoring Award, which will be presented during the 2023 Fellows Investiture at the Joint Engineer Training Conference, May 4 in San Antonio. The award is especially noteworthy as Wright personally was mentored earlier in his career by its namesake, the late Brig. Gen. Gerald C. "Jed" Brown, F.SAME, USA (Ret.).

A member of SAME since 1984, Wright became a Fellow in the Society in 2004 and served as Chair of the Academy of Fellows (2019-2020) while an SAME National Vice President. Professionally, he is a Senior Vice President with STV Inc. and Federal Business Director. Wright served 22 years as an engineer officer in the U.S. Army, followed by continued service to national security through his career in the private sector supporting military and government clients.

Mentoring long has been a passion of his, and he continues to give back through a number of initiatives, including teaching a course each semester at Old Dominion University. Neal led the development of a comprehensive credentialing program supporting transitioning engineer Veterans, serving DOD military and civilian members, and our Young Professionals cohort. Neal worked with SAME strategic partners, credentialing bodies, DOD leaders, and a variety of SAME members to build a credentials framework. The Warrior Transition Task Force led to the Credentials Committee and later the Credentials Community of Interest.

As a fellow in SAME, ASCE, and NSPE, Neal has been actively engaged with providing a variety of educational opportunities for young engineers. He has lectured at a SAME regional conference, been a panel member discussing professional growth for three Savannah Post events.

"Neal Wright has distinguished himself as Mentor within SAME through his multi-faceted engagement as Advocate, Advisor, Coach and Sponsor for Young Professionals - military and civilian – and member firms and other groups within the Society and other Industry associations-" commented Academy of Fellows Vice Chair for Mentoring, Philios Angelides, F.SAME. "He champions best practices to achieve success as a well-rounded professional and demonstrates such through his example of a distinguished career within SAME and more broadly within our Industry."





# Fellows Continuing to Serve

Congratulations to the Fellows class of 2023. Fellowship is a mark of distinction regarding efforts that benefited The Society over the course of at least 10 years. And is also a pledge to go forward with actions that benefit The Society. It was amazing to read the vast amount of efforts expended by this small group of new Fellows, and it was gratifying to see the high acceptance rate. The message on what it takes to become a Fellow, and what is required after being so honored, is becoming clearer to The Society as a whole.

In the past there were instances where people who were turned down quit after their first failed attempt. In recognition of the despair those applicants felt, SAME wishes to continue the current model of education about what it takes to be a Fellow. And to encourage people to look towards Fellowship early in their tenure with SAME in order to logically preplan their Society career! To get new members to look at becoming a Fellow "10 years down the path" a few Fellows were willing to share their thoughts about Fellowship.

- **John Hudson:** Applying for Fellowship was the appropriate next step, after being an active member for 20 years. SAME was a vital organization for him to meet his USACE mission.
- **Natasha Gromak:** Group of active Fellows is an accomplished and engaging group, which she wished to belong to. Recognition from her company regarding her Society involvement, and recognition from SAME that they valued what she was doing.
- **Mike Huffstetler:** Becoming a Fellow was a way to benefit his employer – allowed his participation in and connection to those at a higher level in The Society

## Others have said:

- They welcomed the opportunity to participate in Fellows Forums
- To network with senior folks in the industry
- The Ball !
- To showcase leadership skills and the ability to excel – in order to help career progression
- To help their Post - streamers

Obviously, the vast majority of you reading this article are already Fellows. I'd encourage you to reach out to the newer members of your Post and share this article: help them understand the benefits of being a Fellow! And then help guide them on the path to Fellowship.

For the next newsletter, we'd again like to include ongoing Fellow activities that benefit The Society.

**Fellows** - *please send me details of your activities such as mentoring, educating, program participation, conference planning, etc!* [Jeanne.LeBron@atkinsglobal.com](mailto:Jeanne.LeBron@atkinsglobal.com)





# January Town Hall Recap

In January, the Academy of Fellows held another great town hall where more than 50 fellows gathered to hear from the Academy's Executive Committee and one of our newest fellows as our speaker.

September's speakers and topics included:

- Class of 2022 Lisa Thoele Dugan, Jacksonville Post. Lista highlighted the Jacksonville Post Industry Day planning process, lessons learned, and path forward to continue this annual event

**Did you miss the session? Find the replay (and other town halls) on the SAME Fellows Page:**

<https://www.same.org/membership-communities/academy-of-fellows/>

Ideas for topics or speakers? Please reach out to Vice Chair, Post Outreach and Engagement Rick Rubin, PE, F.SAME at [rrubin1004@gmail.com](mailto:rrubin1004@gmail.com)

## 2023 Golden Eagle Awardees Announced

Congratulations to the 2023 Golden Eagle Award recipients: Lt. Col. Wendell "Buddy" Barnes, P.E., F.SAME (Dist.), USA (Ret.), for contributions to the engineering profession; and Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, P.E., F.SAME, USA (Ret.), for contributions to national security.

The awards will be presented during the Society Ball & Awards Gala at the 2023 JETC, being held May 2-4 in San Antonio.



# Distinguished Fellows

The fall season was busy for the Distinguished Fellows, most of us reviewed new Fellow packages. **Congratulations to the Class of 2023 Fellows - a great group of SAME leaders!**

Like other Fellows, the Distinguished Fellows provided nominations for **two Golden Eagle Awards**. In November after SBC, we met and reviewed many great nominations. We have the responsibility to recommend the top nominees to the AOF Chair and Society President the top nominees their approval.

**Our Golden Eagle Award nominations are:**

- **Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, P.E., F.SAME, USA (Ret.) for contributions to National Security**
- **LT. Col. Wendell "Buddy" Barnes, P.E., F.SAME (Dist.), USA (Ret.) for contributions to the engineering profession (I did not self-nominate, honest).**

We also reviewed Fellows who have distinguished themselves since becoming a Fellow. The **nominations for Distinguished Fellows** are made by active Distinguished Fellows, using similar criteria used for the Golden Eagle Award. The slate is voted on by all the active Distinguished Fellows.

**Our 2023 Distinguished Fellows are:**

- **Col. John Mogge Jr., Ph.D., RA, F.SAME (Dist.), USAF (Ret.)**
- **Col. Sal Nodjomian, P.E., F.SAME (Dist.), USAF (Ret.)**

The new Distinguished Fellows will join us at 2023 JETC at the Fellows Investiture Ceremony.

After the recommendations for Golden Eagle and selections of the new Distinguished Fellows, we all took some time with our families to enjoy the holiday season, as we hope all of you Fellows were able to do.

We are refreshed and ready to help with any issue you feel anyone of us, or the group can assist you with.

Let's have a great 2023! See you at the next Fellows event.

 Buddy Barnes, F.SAME (Dist.)

2023

# CAPITAL WEEK

MARCH 27-29 • 2023 • ROCKVILLE • MD

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As we have in previous years, we will hold our Fellow's Luncheon on the closing day. In addition to updates from the SAME Foundation and the members of our Fellows XC, we are planning for presentations by participants in the National Leader Development and STEM Camps programs which the Foundation supports.

**The Academy of Fellows Luncheon is on Wednesday, March 29 from 12 PM - 2 PM.**



## Important Dates

**MARCH 27-29, 2023: 2023 CAPITAL WEEK**  
**MARCH 29: AOF Luncheon**

**MAY 2-4, 2023: JOINT ENGINEER TRAINING CONFERENCE AND EXPO**  
**SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

**MAY 4: AOF Investiture Luncheon**

**MAY 4: Society Ball recognizing Golden Eagle Awardees**

### AOF 2023 Executive Committee

#### Chair

Rad Delaney, AIA, LEED AP, F.SAME

#### Deputy Chair

Ann Ewy, F.SAME

#### Vice Chair, Internal

Brig Gen Patrice Melancon, P.E., F.SAME, USAF (Ret.)

#### Vice Chair, Communications & Marketing

Carrie Ann Williams, F.SAME, CPSM

#### Vice Chair, Post Outreach & Engagement

Rick Rubin, P.E., F.SAME

#### Vice Chair, Awards & Recognition

Jeanne LeBron, F. SAME

#### Vice Chair, Events

Col. Shawn Moore, F.SAME, USAF (Ret.)

#### Vice Chair, Mentoring

Philios Angelides, P.E., F.SAME