Crosscurrents

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

BUILDING STRONG®

On the Cover

Cheryl LaRose, operations, discusses her job as a lock and dam operator to a group of teens touring the Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis, Aug. 17.

Photo by Patrick Moes

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Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format for all written copy and photos should be no smaller than a 5 x 7 at 300 dpi. All photographs appearing herein are by the St. Paul District Public Affairs Office unless otherwise accredited.

The mission of *Crosscurrents* is to support the commander's internal information program for the St. Paul District and its stakeholders.

Crosscurrents also serves as the commander's primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies and command philosophy to the St. Paul District community and its customers.

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Photo by Patrick Moes

St. Paul District's Jim Maybach, left, retired annuitant, and Chris Botz, quality assurance reprensentative, talabout the temporary housing mission in Minot, N.D., Oct. 9.

Next month's *Crosscurrents* issue includes:

- **A look back at the diversion study**
- **Minot temporary housing mission is race against winter**

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Comments from the top

Col. Michael J. Price
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District Commander

Team,

We closed out another very successful year. The St. Paul District was recognized by becoming the only district in recent history to successfully execute two back-to-back Civil Works Review Boards without any additional requirements. I couldn't be prouder of the Fargo-Moorhead and Marsh Lake teams. This success is attributed to great people on great teams and teams that communicated, partnered and closed out the year in fine fashion.

The Fargo, N.D. /Moorhead, Minn., project is the largest project in the district's history. The study was completed in less than 36 months with the largest project delivery team, or PDT, the district has ever assembled. The team responded to numerous challenges along the way and coordinated across the valley, the Corps and with many other state and federal agencies. Overall, the team did miraculous things.

The Marsh Lake, Minn., Ecosystem Restoration study was equally impressive. The team presented a restoration project that has a cost-per-habitat-unit that is roughly three percent of the average of all ecosystem restoration projects. Again, the PDT coordinated up and across all boundaries to resolve all concerns and to keep the sponsors and public well informed.

As we start another fiscal year, we enter it with another continuing resolution. This is nothing new to the Corps or the Department of Defense. In fact, we have started the new fiscal year under a continuing resolution for the last 14 years. I spent some time on Capital Hill this past month and it was clear that it is going to be another challenging budgetary year. The two houses of Congress have not agreed on a supplemental funding bill to address the recovery requirements for the many emergencies the country experienced this past year, and we are looking at another year without a Water Resources Development Act. As a result, the Corps is self-financing the repairs of the damaged levees systems on the many river basins that experienced flooding. So far, district projects have not been impacted, and we will continue to deliver enduring and essential water resource solutions through collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

We also achieved another milestone this past month. The upper three districts within the Mississippi Valley Division celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Environmental Management Program, or EMP. The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works highlighted that the program has restored more than 100,000 acres of riverine habitat; it has also brought together numerous partners and stakeholders. Although the EMP is a Corps-led (funded) program, it also recognizes the importance of partners and stakeholders.

I have told many of you that an organization is successful if it has two things: great people and great relationships. St. Paul has both. I am continually impressed with what each of you do and what each of you bring to the team. I am also equally impressed with our relationships with the many partners and stakeholders. We are a great organization, and I feel extremely privileged to represent you. Keep up the great work!

BUILDING STRONG!

District attorney receives national award

Story by Patrick Moes

From bolognaise to curry, Steve Adamski, office of counsel, can be found preparing a variety of foods on the weekend. An avid cook and volunteer at his local church, Adamski said cooking and practicing law have one thing in common – creativity.

"Whether I'm cooking from a recipe or from what I have in the house, they both require problem solving skills, said Adamski."

He also said he uses these skills while working for the district. He said he gets to work with people who want to be really good public servants, who want to accomplish the district's mission well and do it within the bounds of the rules that we all took an oath to live by.

In recognition of Adamski's dedication and commitment to service, he earned the distinction as the recipient of the Corps' 2011 George Wolfe Koonce Award for outstanding attorney of the year.

"[Adamski] is one of the three finest lawyers I've worked with in [more than] 30 years of practicing law, and you won't find a lawyer with a better or broader reputation anywhere in the Corps," said Joe Willging, office of counsel chief. "I was thrilled to see his talent and dedication recognized by this national-level award"

Growing up in Markesan, Wis., a small farming community in south-central Wisconsin, Adamski said he once considered, albeit briefly, becoming an engineer. "I'm glad that my life didn't take that direction as my skill set and demeanor are much more suited to lawyering than to engineering," said the deputy district counsel.

His journey ultimately led him to the Corps of Engineers in 1985, and he said the district has been his home ever since. It is here that his 'family' began to grow. "I don't view my time here at the Corps in terms of big experiences or lawsuits or projects but more like an ongoing family relationship where I get to see, work with and help people that I like on a daily basis," said the Hamline University School of Law graduate.

Much like a family passing on their recipes to the next generation, Adamski said he likes to pass along what he's learned through the years to the newer employees, so they don't have to make the same mistakes he did. "It gives me an opportunity to help people in general, and often the opportunity to help them do the right thing for the right reason," he added.

"One of the things that makes [Adamski] so good is that he truly enjoys his clients and believes in the Corps' mission," said Willging. "There is nothing that gives him greater professional satisfaction than finding a solution that helps the district and the individuals assigned [to] accomplish their mission."

Courtesy photo

Steve Adamski, legal, is the Corps of Engineers' 2011 George Wolfe Koonce Award recipient for outstanding attorney of the year.

In addition to working with his clients, Adamski said he also likes working with particular Corps programs and getting to know their ins-and-outs so that he can give both legal advice and programmatic advice. "You don't just do the job because you have to," said Adamski. "You do it because you want to."

Willging said, "[Adamski's greatest strength is his attention to detail. Lawyers are risk managers for their clients and without attention to detail you're not going to be able to identify the risks and prepare for them. Nobody is better at this than Steve."

The skills Adamski uses to solve the Corps' legal issues are similar to those he uses for cooking – his attention to detail.

"I like to cook, not just because I like to eat, which I do, but because I find the entire process fascinating," concluded Adamski. "I love the equipment and tools that go with the trade, and I even like doing the dishes afterwards."

Current, former district employees gather to recognize 2011 hall of fame recipient

Story by Patrick Moes

Photo by Patrick Moes

Don Powell, retired program manager, speaks during the 36th Annual Retirees' Reunion at the Lost Spur Golf Course in Eagan, Minn., Sept. 8. Powell was selected as the 2011 St. Paul District Hall of Fame recipient for his work as the program manager for the Environmental Management Program.

Nearly 50 past and present Corps employees gathered recently for the 36th Annual Retirees' Reunion and to recognize the 2011 St. Paul District Hall of Fame Inductee Don Powell.

With picture collages of past retiree luncheons scattered throughout the room, the employees, to include the former district engineer Col. James Scott (1993 to 1995), had a chance to catch up on current work going on within the district.

"It's been a busy year for the district," said Tom Sully, executive assistant, during his briefing to the attendees about some of the current projects to include Devils Lake, N.D.; Fargo, N.D. / Moorhead, Minn., Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management Feasibility Report; and Lock and Dam No. 3, near Red Wing, Minn. He also talked about the disaster response missions the district has supported during the past year to include floods on the Mississippi, Red and Souris rivers.

After the briefing, Tom Crump, Regional Planning and Environment Division North chief, presented Powell with his plaque as this year's hall of fame inductee.

Thanking all the people that nominated him and the selection committee, Powell said he has always tried to be honest and give the American tax payers their monies worth. "I've really enjoyed working with all the agencies, stakeholders and employees," said Powell about his career with the district. During his tenure, he worked in the geotechnical section, Lake Superior Dredge Project and the Environmental Management Program, or EMP.

As the EMP program manager, Powell oversaw the design and construction of more than 25 habitat enhancement and rehabilitation projects within the district. Powell and his team received numerous awards for these projects to include the Corps' Chief of Engineers Award of Excellence and Design Team of the Year (2004) and the Seven Wonders of Engineering in Minnesota (2001, 2002).

Photo by Stefania Padalino

District retirees gather at the Lost Spur Golf Course in Eagan, Minn., to recognize the 2011 hall of fame inductee Sept. 8.

District employees learn about Native Americans during meeting

Story by Patrick Moes

The St. Paul District is one of the top three districts in the Corps of Engineers for the number of Native American tribes it deals with.

In recognition of the fact that the district works with 26 separate tribes within its boundaries, it held a tribal trust meeting at the district office in St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 14.

Jon Sobiech, tribal liaison, said the purpose of the training was to cover topics related to tribal trust responsibilities and to help employees better understand the issues and concerns facing Native American tribes within the region.

Photo by Patrick Moes

Georgeie Reynolds, left, Corps senior tribal liasion from Washington, D.C., talks with Fond du Lac Tribal Chairwoman Karen Driver about issues affecting her tribe and how the Corps can better work with Native American tribes. Reynolds and Driver were guest speakers at a tribal trust meeting Sept. 14.

Photo by Jon Sobiech

A Native American teaches Corps of Engineers employees native dances at an Environmental and Cultural Immersion Course in 2008.

Georgeie Reynolds, Corps senior tribal liaison, said, the Corps needs to remember that Native Americans signed their land away to the federal government in exchange for services such as health care and education. She added that the issues affecting Native American tribes are no different than those impacting every person's life.

"Facing these issues takes planning and detailed communication," said Reynolds. "Listening is better than speaking."

Fond du Lac Tribal Chairwoman Karen Driver said trust takes time. "It has to mean developing mutually respectful, mutually meaningful interactions."

District employees conducting these interactions or meetings with the tribes need to understand the tribes themselves. "You should meet people where they are at," said Driver. "You shouldn't expect them to meet you where you are at, and you need to adjust your roll accordingly."

One of the major concepts stressed during the training was the fact that Native American tribes are all different, but they are all sovereign nations.

"There is nothing more important to [Native American tribes] than sovereignty," said Driver. "It goes toward our self-determination and self efficiency."

Photo by Jon Sobiech

Corps of Engineers employees participate in a week-long Native American Environmental and Cultural Immersion Course in 2008. The district will host a similar course with the Lac du Flambeau Tribe in May 2012.

Photo by Patrick Moes

Fond du Lac Tribal Chairwoman Karen Driver talks to district employees Sept. 14 about her tribe and how the district can help build trust between each organization.

The Corps' six Tribal Policy Principles

- Recognition of Tribal Sovereignty
- Government-to-government relationships with each tribe
- Pre-decisional consultation
- Adherence to the Trust Responsibility
- Protection, when feasible, of cultural and natural resources
- Promotion of tribal economic capacity building and self-reliance

Teens tour lock and dam, gain career insight

Story by Patrick Moes

A group of 20 teens visited both the Upper and Lower St. Anthony Falls locks and dams in Minneapolis to learn more about the Mississippi River and job opportunities within the Corps of Engineers Aug. 17.

The group, an at-risk set of high school kids from Minneapolis sponsored by the Mississippi River Management Organization, toured both locks and dams to learn how they operate, their history and why they are important to navigation.

While the tour was a unique event for these kids, Josh Rockey, operations, said he conducts five to six tours per day.

Rockey said, he enjoys meeting new people every day, but the part that he likes most about his job is the boats. “I like to watch the ships come through the locks,” said the University of Minnesota student. “Just seeing the different ships from kayaks to canoes to ships up to 400 feet in length is pretty cool.”

With so many ships navigating the locks and dams, Rockey said he enjoys all of the different names for the ships. While he said he doesn’t

Photo by Patrick Moes

Josh Rockey, operations, explains how a lock and dam operates during a tour at Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis, Aug. 17.

Photo by Patrick Moes

The Patrick Ganaway enters the lock chamber at Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis, Aug. 17.

have a favorite ship; he did say the one he sees the most while giving tours is the Patrick Ganaway, a tow that travels daily from St. Paul, Minn., to Minneapolis and back.

During this tour, the Patrick Ganaway, was locking through with two barges filled with gravel. Rockey said the gravel within one barge can hold enough material to fill 58 semi trucks.

The tours, which are free to the public, are done at the Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. Rockey said they all begin with a brief history of St. Anthony Falls and the birth of the flour mills in Minneapolis during the 19th century.

Tim Tabery, Upper St. Anthony Falls lockmaster, said, one of the best things about the tours is teaching the public about the river and how a lock and dam operates. He added that it's also a great opportunity to teach people about the Corps' mission to protect the river.

Rockey also talks about protecting the river during his tours. He said he especially likes to point out the location of the old Eastman Tunnel before its collapse and the history of the industries that worked on the river. He said he learned a lot about the tunnel and the area's history during a geology class at college.

Currently, a summer-hire park ranger, Rockey said that when he got the job, he was handed a book filled with information on the area that he had to learn. He said it's been a challenge to learn everything, but he has enjoyed the opportunity.

Photo by Patrick Moes

Cheryl LaRose, operations, talks with at-risk high school students at Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis, Aug. 17, about about her career as a lock and dam operator with the district.

Rowing helps employee gain focus, team work

Story by Tammy Wick

The Mississippi River is a place to work, a place to play and a place to grow. Within the district, many Corps employees work on or around the river, and many more may find it a place to play. For one district employee, however, she has found the river to be both a place to learn and grow.

Vanessa Hamer, planning, said she's learned a lot about teamwork and self confidence while on the river as a member of the University of Minnesota Rowing Team. "To be an athlete for the University of Minnesota, you have to commit to more than just a sport," said Hammer. "On top of practicing 12 hours a week, you also have to commit to academic excellence and participate in community building through volunteering."

Hamer said her position as a coxswain on the men's rowing team has taught her to inspire and guide others while also being a part of a team – a skill that helps her in her daily work with the Corps. "For three years I was the on-water coach, the extension of the head coach when he was not present," she said. "I was in charge of my eight guys on and off the water in day-to-day business."

Photo by Tammy Wick

Vanessa Hamer, planning, prepares her crew for practice on the Mississippi River this summer.

Hamer said rowing has provided her the ability to experience rivers in ways few people have. Some of the places she's been because of rowing include: the San Diego Harbor, the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia; the Charles River in Boston and the Dunedin Harbor in New Zealand.

Of all the places Hamer has visited, she says the most amazing experience to her is rowing on the Mississippi river at six in the morning, before the sun rises. Hamer said she remembers, "Sitting in a boat on the water, everything pitch black except for your green stern and red bow light and the coach's red launch light. The only thing you hear is the sound of eight oars breaking the thin ice as they hit the water. Then slowly, everyone comes into view as the sun rises up on the river. The guys are surrounded in steam from their bodies being so much warmer than the surrounding air. You literally glide across the water. It is and unbelievable sight."

Through rowing, Hamer and her team have competed in the U.S. and abroad. She said the team's last competition was this summer at the American Collegiate Rowing Association petite finals in Gainesville, Ga. She said her team finished the 2,000-meter race with a time of 06:08.7, just behind third place with 6:05.5 and fourth place with 6:08.2. "Those times are

less than a bow ball, which means I was staring down the cox in the next lane over the entire race," said Hamer. "You can say that my boat finished with a bang."

Hamer said she will be going to Boston for the 47th annual Head of the Charles Race Oct. 22 to 23. The race is the world's largest two-day regatta and brings in more than 8,500 rowers and 300,000 spectators.

With her college rowing career over, Hamer said she now hopes to put the team skills she learned to good use with her new team members at the district. She added that it's a new crew with a new learning opportunity.

Photo by Tammy Wick

Photo by Tammy Wick

(Above) Vanessa Hamer, planning, guides her crew as a coxswain on the University of Minnesota Rowing Team. (Right) Hamer said she has learned a lot about teamwork while she was on the rowing team, and she hope to use those skills with her new job within the district.

From one Corps to another, district planner continues setting stage for future

Story by Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo

Troy Maggied, planning, has a distinctive qualification for constructing healthy communities.

From the sun-drenched Kingdom of Tonga to the amber Midwest plains, Maggied has assisted communities form a vision of the neighborhood they want to live in and advise leaders how best to make that vision come true.

The 2001 graduate of Ohio State's Bachelor of Science in construction systems management program joined the Peace Corps and served in Tonga, an archipelago in the South Pacific Ocean.

With the $7,000 grant he earned and the Tongan language he learned, Maggied started an industrial arts program that included woodworking and plumbing in a poor, rural school.

Although most Peace Corps terms of service are two years, Maggied stayed on an additional year to further develop the industrial arts program he founded and train newly arrived Peace Corps volunteers.

Immersed in Tongan culture, Maggied advanced his knack for listening to the challenges and dreams of people who differed from the folks the central Ohioan was accustomed to.

From his experiences in Tonga, Maggied said he gained much patience.

"I have a more holistic view of why people conflict," he said. "It's not that someone is stupid or dull or uninformed or block-headed, it's their experiences that have informed who they are."

From that perspective, one develops a deeper sense of empathy, he said.

Upon returning to the United States, Maggied worked as an assistant project manager with The Quandel Group, Inc. While there, he specialized in the

Troy Maggied, community planner, speaks with a resident of Ward County, N.D., during a public forum last month in which participants impacted by the Souris River flooding were encouraged to share their ideas, concerns and recommendations about how the long-term recovery of Minot and other cities within Ward County should be developed.

Photo by Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo

construction of local schools in Obetz, Ohio, just south of Columbus, Ohio.

Drawn to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers challenging, large-scale projects, Maggied accepted a position as a community planner with the agency's St. Paul District.

"The complexity and, frankly, the controversy surrounding some of the projects the Corps is charged with intrigues me," said Maggied. "I am intrigued by good governance and the process of making good decisions in the face of mixed parties and mixed interests. I think the Corps handles a lot of these controversies really well."

As a community planner, Maggied is responsible for identifying strategies by which a community can reach its goals.

Maggied has worked on such projects as the Fargo, N.D. /Moorhead, Minn., Feasibility Study, where he researched the social effects of flood risk reduction alternatives in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan and surrounding area.

Photo by Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo

A Ward County, North Dakota, resident posts her ideas about housing options on a poster at an open house at Jim Hill Middle School in Minot, N.D., Sept. 19 Among the topics open for discussion at the open house were housing, infrastructure, economic development, education, recreation, health and social services, nature, culture and community planning. Those attending the open house were given a chance to submit anonymous written comments on posters.

Photo by Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo

Troy Maggied, planning, is deployed to Minot, N.D., to assist in the regions' long-term community recovery planning.

In the summer of 2011, as the worst flood in North Dakota's history since 1881, displaced 11,000 people in Minot, N.D., Maggied was deployed to assist in Minot's long-term community recovery planning process.

At open houses in schools held throughout Ward County, North Dakota, in September and October, Maggied listened to concerns and recommendations of residents, elected officials and representatives from federal, state and local agencies that will be instrumental in helping shape the area's future.

Among the topics open for discussion at the forums were housing, infrastructure, economic development, education, recreation, health, social services, nature and culture.

Maggied is pursuing a master's degree in urban and regional planning at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and lives in Darlington, Wis., with his wife, Ela Kakde, a fellow Peace Corps volunteer and graduate of Ohio State's Master of City and Regional Planning program.

News & Notes

Retirements

Jon Ahlness, regulatory, district office
Larry Becwar, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam No. 9, Lynxville, Wis.
Carol Johnson, management analyst, district office
James Marquardt, surveying technician, Fountain City, Wis.

Newcomers

Robert Edstrom, student trainee, program management, district office
Ronald Kincaid, deckhand, Dredge Geotz
Pamela Nielsen, construction assistant, Grand Forks, N.D.
Abimbola Odufuye, student trainee, program management, district office
Dustin Rider, construction control representative, Grand Forks, N.D.
Nathan Rone, cabin attendant, Fountain City, Wis.
Daniel Teigen, deckhand, Fountain City, Wis.
Thomas Wasut, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 1, Minneapolis
Jennifer Wilmore, construction assistant, Fargo, N.D.

District uses boat in odd location

District personnel collect borings at Tolna Coulee, near Devils Lake, N.D, in September. The crew used the African Queen, a vessel normally used on the river, to collect the samples.

Courtesy photo

Mark your calendar

The St. Paul District annual Holiday Awards Ceremony and Pot Luck Luncheon is scheduled for Dec. 16, at the Great Hall in St. Paul, Minn. The awards ceremony will follow the lunch in the James J. Hill Theater.

District donates supplies to local school

Photo by Patrick Moes

District employees donated nearly 900 school supply items for local schools this past fall

Lupe Santos-Jensen, equal employment, said the supplies will help Washington Technology Magnet Middle School in St.Paul, Minn.

District team runs through mud to support MS

A six-person team from the district ran 10 kilometers through mud while facing 78 obstacles during The Mud Run MS Twin Cities at Trollhaugen Ski Resort in Dresser, Wis., Sept. 10. The event raised more than $500,000 for research and support programs in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Courtesy photo

District employees ran a 10-kilometer race Sept. 10 to raise money for multiple sclerosis.