





Spotlight on the District

Ronda James
Student Aide, Thomson Ranger Office

Story and photo by Denà McClurkin, Department of the Army Intern

Ronda James doesn't let anything stand in her way. When the 35-year-old was laid off her job at the Cordova power plant as an administrative assistant, she didn't give up.

"My life did a 180," said James. "I was laid off my job and I found myself wondering what I was going to do with my life. So I decided to go back to school."

But James' didn't stop there. A teacher at Clinton Community College noticed her enthusiasm and encouraged her to apply for a student aide position at Thomson Rangers' Office. In January, she accepted the position and hasn't had any regrets.

"If someone told me a year ago that I would be working for the Corps of Engineers, I would have told them that they were crazy," said James. "I have learned that you never know where you are going to end up in life. And so far, I'm happy with where I have ended up."

Jim Kelley, a park ranger at the Thomson office, thinks James is already making an impact.

"She is really helping us out in a number of ways," said Kelley. "Aside from her great personality, she is really eager to do a good job and that always helps."

James' main responsibilities are

greeting the public, selling passes, and designing, and maintaining bulletin boards in local parks.

"So far I love this job, because I am getting a chance to use the things that I am learning in school," said James.

Besides her duties at work and school assignments, she is a mother and wife.

"When I first told my husband I was

Though James strives to use all her time wisely, she makes an effort to set aside time for herself and her gardens.

"My gardens are like my heaven," said James. "Whether it's in dirt or water, as long as it is a garden, I am happy."

James, who is originally from the Quad City area, moved to Savannah, Ill., after high school and relocated to the Thomson, Ill., area five years ago.

"Even though I grew up in the city, I love the country," said James. "I think I have found my niche and the place for me."

Though many of James' peers can't imagine starting all over and going back to school in their 30s, she is enjoying every moment of it.

"It's really a lot of fun going back to college at this age, because it means more to you at this age than when you are younger," said James. "It's a challenge to do, but it is worth it in the end."

When life throws people in a new

direction, James encourages others to embrace change as she did.

"When something happens to you, whether good or bad, you have to make it work," said James. "You have to keep in mind that all things happen for a reason." 📧



Ronda James, student aide, Thomson Ranger Office, discusses a comment left in the Thomson Ranger Station suggestion box with Park Ranger Jim Kelley, Thomson Ranger Office.

going to go back to school and work, he wanted to know if I could really do it," said James. "And today I am doing it with no problem. The key is balancing everything and planning ahead. You have to plan your days, your weeks, and your months."

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District Engineer
Col. William J. Bayles

Editor
Mark A. Kane

Chief, Public Affairs
Ron Fournier

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May 2002

Tower Times

Contents

Corps Customers 5



Boating, Water Safety 6



Our Significant Waterways 8-9



On the Cover
Steve Slaught, formerly from Operations Division, practices casting a rescue-throw bag during a boating safety course held last summer. Boating and water safety are a priority in the Corps. More info. on page 6.

Photo by Mark Kane.

Corrections and Updates

The following corrections are noted from the April Tower Times. Page 8, "Sayorville Reservoir at 25" - The photo on the bottom of the page identified as being taken in 1970 was taken in 1974.

Page 9, the photo accompanying the "Sayorville Reservoir at 25" article was misidentified as Saylorville Lake. The photo is of Lake Red Rock.

By Col. William Bayles,
District engineer

Do you belong to a learning organization? If you do, how do you know? If you don't, how do you transform it? Do you care if yours is a learning organization or not?

Changes in our social, economic and governmental environment require us to adapt, while maintaining what is right with the Corps -- a focus on integrity and public service. Learning organizations are prepared, and constantly preparing, for an uncertain future -- one in which new challenges emerge and comfortable complacency fades into the past. Organizations that don't learn merely fade into the past ... that is why we should care.

Here are some of the challenges we in the Rock Island District are facing.

First of all, our political and economic realities are changing. Increasingly, Corps' actions are under increased scrutiny from the media and interest groups. In the meantime, we are engaging in diverse work characterized by many small projects with increasing focus on environmental restoration.

Next, these projects involve more stakeholders and increased public involvement and regulation, increasing our requirements for collaboration.

Finally, we are losing experienced people as many in our workforce become eligible for retirement. Our mission requires us to capture their experience and knowledge and apply it to this changing and challenging environment.

In summary, changing environment, changing work, and changing workforce -- essentially everything about our organization is changing. I believe the best approach to these changes is to manage this change -- not let it manage us. Do we need to become a learning organization? Yes!

But what is this? What does it look or feel like? A learning organization is simply one that learns from its collective experience. It knows and remembers what does and does not work in solving problems it has faced in the past. Moreover, it applies this corporate knowledge in the context of present and future challenges to solve new problems.

Here is what senior leaders are doing to address our changing environment:

- Identifying and improving true strategic problems of the District;
- Devoting more time to addressing strategic planning issues to better prepare for and address our changing environment; and,
- Devoting more time to learning new approaches to old problems—for example, increasing our use of performance data in our decision-making processes.



For example, our three strategic goals recently identified include:

- Improving our revenue/cost relationship;
- Improving the effectiveness of our District Management processes; and
- Ensuring a highly competent workforce in 2010.

How do you fit into this process? Senior leadership's job is to "connect the dots" and align all of our improvement efforts to address these significant challenges, but each employee is able to contribute to this success.

Here are some examples of contributions you can make:

- Use cost-benefit analysis or value-added considerations in decision-making;
- Collect and use customer-satisfaction data (consider who are your most important customers?);
- Use a process map for your business process to identify opportunities for improvement (if not, why not?);
- Understand your role on the team; and
- Conduct an after-action review at the completion of a project (or a project phase) to capture lessons learned and understand how to do the project better, faster, or more economically.

The goal of this learning is increased effectiveness, better performance, and innovation. Becoming a learning organization requires teamwork. It is a culture where leaders, managers and employees work together to develop competence in individuals, as well as competence in the organization as a whole. Leaders and employees connect individual competence -- accomplished by proper training -- with organizational learning -- capturing and disseminating lessons learned and innovative means to solve the organization's challenges.

Consider this:

Data, when organized and examined for trends and levels, yields information.

Information, when systematically analyzed becomes knowledge.

Knowledge, when collected and applied to a variety of situations, becomes wisdom. 📌

The Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers has made it abundantly clear that Corps' customers are an important part of the Corps team.

This point was further defined when he met with the Environmental Advisory Board April 11, in Rock Island, Ill., to discuss the Corps' Environmental Operating Principles and to review the preparation of guidance for incorporating sustainability within the Corps' Military Programs and Civil Works functions.

The EAB is a 30-year-old committee that advises the chief of engineers on environmental issues facing the Corps. It typically meets twice a year.

Flowers perked up many ears with a twist of words illustrating our interaction with customers.

"Starting in October we will no longer be customer oriented," said Flowers. "Because the customers will be on our teams."

He said that including the Corps' stakeholders early in the decision-making process and getting a consensus early on would shorten the entire planning cycle.

The Restructured Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study is a good example of how the Corps has already integrated its customers. While participation by the public, interest groups, states and other federal agencies has been extensive in the study to date, the Corps has developed a new structure for the study that will provide even greater and more immediate input and participation than before.

to lengthen the project-formulation process. "I am against any review that will add time and expense to a very lengthy process like the Navigation Study," said Flowers. "We pride ourselves on doing what is within the law with the best science and engineering possible."

During the meetings, Flowers also emphasized how important it is for the Corps to find a way to take care of "legacy"

Speakers included: Chris Neeld, Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri Rivers Association; Mark Beorkrem, Mississippi River Basin Alliance; David McMurray, UMIMRA; and Paul Rohde, Midwest Area Rivers Coalition 2000.

Attending EAB members included: Dr. Theodore L. Hullar, director, Higher Education Program for the Atlantic Philanthropic Service Company, Inc.; Virginia B. Wetherell,



Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers listens to EAB board member, Dr. Theodore L. Hullar, during a break in the meetings.

projects, or projects that have been authorized by Congress for many years, but have not yet been started.

"Legacy projects are projects held-up in limbo," said Flowers. "We need to pull together our partners and gain input on how to move these projects forward or get them

owner, Wetherell Consulting (previously served as the Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection, State of Florida); and Dr. Michael J. Donahue, president and chief executive officer, Great Lakes Commission.

Also present were retired EAB board chairman Jonathan W. Bulkeley, professor, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Michigan; Maj. Gen. Robert Griffin, Director of Civil Works; Dr. Jim Johnson, chief, Civil Works Planning and Policy Division; and Patricia Rivers, chief, Military Programs Environmental Division.

Ed Tibbetts, Quad-City Times, contributed to the article.

EAB on the 'Net

www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/hot_topics/eab.htm

Navigation Study on the 'Net

www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/umr-iwwsns/

Corps Customers

Story and photo by Mark Kane

Flowers said the study is making great strides.

"I think the results to date have exceeded our wildest expectations," said Flowers.

He said he looks forward to the study producing "top quality" results when it is finished, likely in 2004.

Although Flowers is positive about including the Corps' customers in its processes, he does not want their inclusion

off the books."

Only weeks after Flowers meetings with the EAB, the Corps announced that it is pausing an estimated 150 projects throughout the Corps. These projects represent the "legacy" projects that Flowers referred to during his discussions with the EAB. This guidance does not currently affect any projects in the Rock Island District.

The EAB meetings also included a time for public comments to members of the EAB.



John Punkiewicz, left, instructs Kate Soska, Coralville Lake, on proper backing procedures during a boating safety class held last summer. Photo by Mark Kane.

Boating, Water Safety ... Past to Present

By John Punkiewicz, Operations Division

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the largest provider of water-based recreation in the country, and Corps visitation is second behind the U.S. Forest Service.

We have more visitors than the National Park Service and what makes this even more amazing is that the Corps of Engineers only has 2 percent of the federal lands in its inventory. That translates into a lot of water-based recreation.

The Corps of Engineers ...

- Hosts 30 percent of visits to federal recreation areas on 2 percent of federally owned lands.
- Recreation areas are within approximately 50 miles of major metropolitan areas.
- Provides boating, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, hiking, and many other recreational opportunities in 43 states.
- Manages 456 federal lakes with ...
 - 56,000 miles of shoreline
 - more than 4,000 recreation areas
 - more than 2,000 miles of trails
 - 3,500 boat ramps
 - 93,000 campsites
 - and hosts more than 200,000 fishing tournaments annually.
- Is responsible for 25,000 miles of commercially navigable channels.
- In fiscal year 2001, the recreation program had 362,500,665 total visits.

These facts are pretty impressive, but what also is impressive is what the Corps has accomplished in the area of boating and water safety over the last 30 years. In 1971, the Corps had close to 500 water-based fatalities and from the period of 1971 through 1985 the Corps' average number of fatalities on its waters were 330. From the period of 1986 to the present, the Corps' average number of water-based fatalities is 181 per year.

What has happened to cause this?

To begin with, in 1971 the Federal Boating Safety Act was enacted and the states began working within the forum of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

A couple of the key items of the 1971 Boating Safety Act were that it authorized the establishment of national construction and performance standards for boats and associated equipment, and it encouraged the cooperation between federal and state governments in developing, administering and enforcing boating-safety laws. In other words, standards and communication were united throughout our country and everyone started reading from the same page.

The Corps also began promoting their program nationwide through an annual, unified safety and educational campaign, which includes informing the public about safe boating.

As part of this effort, the third annual

North American Safe Boating Campaign kicks off with the "Boat Smart from the Start" campaign on May 18. Visit their website for an enjoyable and "safe experience."

Always remember your lifejacket doesn't work if you don't wear it! Wear your life jacket, learn to swim, and take a safe boating class! Have a fun and safe summer! 🚤

On the 'Net

www.safeboatingcampaign.com



It Could Happen to You

Army News Service

The open season for enrollment into the new Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program opens this summer for federal employees and service members.

Although many people stereotype this kind of healthcare with senior citizens, the truth is that anyone, at any age, could require long-term healthcare.

"There are several people that have been enrolled in our leave-donor program who are in their late 40s or mid-50s who have encountered an unexpected illness," said Gretchen Leigh, team leader, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. "This insurance would greatly assist employees if they can't return to work due to their illness."

Despite the assistance the insurance offers it doesn't cover everything.

"I don't want people to get the wrong idea that this program supplements wages ... it doesn't," said Leigh.

Sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management, the new insurance is designed to help pay for services such as nursing-home care, long-term home care, or care in an assisted-living facility. OPM officials said most existing federal health-insurance policies do not cover this type of long-term care.

OPM selected two leading insurance companies, John Hancock and Metropolitan Life, as the carriers who are now offering the new Long-Term Care Insurance.

The two companies have formed a joint-venture company, LTC Partners, administrating the federal LTCI program.

Active and retired civilian employees and uniformed service members are eligible to enroll in LTCI. An estimated 20 million

members of the federal family are eligible for the insurance, according to OPM officials, including postal employees and annuitants, military retirees, and qualified family members.

The open season for enrollment into LTCI will run from July 1 through Dec. 31. At that time, all options under the program will be available and payroll deduction will be implemented, officials said.

Federal employees are eligible to enroll in LTCI if they are eligible to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, officials said. Unlike FEHB, the LTCI premiums are fully paid for by employees who choose to enroll.

OPM has determined that the provider, LTC Partners, is solely responsible for all core functions that support this program, including answering questions about the insurance.

"There are several people that have been enrolled in our leave-donor program who are in their late 40s or mid-50s who have encountered an unexpected illness."

- Gretchen Leigh

Counselors at the Army Benefits Center - Civilian, are not supposed to answer any questions regarding the insurance, other than to direct callers to the provider, officials said.

Questions about the insurance can be directed to LTC Partners by calling: 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337) or by looking at the LTC web site: www.ltcfeds.com.

OPM also has an informative and educational website about long-term care needs and insurance in general at www.opm.gov/insure/ltc. This site also provides information about LTCI tax issues, facts and legislation.

Postcards for requesting a subscription to a series of informational bulletins being produced by LTC Partners will be sent through normal distribution channels.

LTCI enrollments must be made directly through the provider and cannot be accepted through any servicing personnel office or the ABC-C, officials said. ■



Our Significant

By Ron Deiss, Programs a

For more than 1,000 years, the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers were important waterways for transportation and trade by the Native American tribes that settled nearby.

During the colonial period, French and British used these natural routes to conduct trade with these tribes for pelts, lead ore, and goods. The introduction of steamboat traffic in the early 19th century introduced a new era of commercial navigation, increasing pioneer settlement throughout the Upper Midwest.

Before the Civil War, commercial river traffic was dangerous due to rapid currents, obstructions, and fluctuating water, resulting in great loss of cargo and life. Grain and lead ore were shipped downriver, while supplies for the growing towns and cities along the river valleys were the recipients of this river commerce.

An impetus to river improvement came during the drought of 1864. This was the lowest water level ever recorded on the Upper Mississippi River, stranding even the lightest draft boats and halting river commerce. The low water became the record level against which future Corps improvements were measured. Reference to the existing depth of navigation channels can be literally translated as being above the low water of 1864.

The Civil War, and increased westward settlement, provided a military and economic justification for viable river transportation. Congress recognized that river improvements would unite the country by stimulating commerce between the North and South. As an adjunct to unification, railroad expansion and opposition to high railroad shipping costs played a role in the authorization of river improvements nationwide. The Corps was immediately put to work by Congress improving major inland waterways under authority of the Rivers and Harbors Act of June 23, 1866. Blasting and snagging the main channel for steamboat traffic improved many inland waterways.

Permanent congressional funding of the Corps in the Midwest was authorized under the Rivers and Harbors Act of June 18, 1878. On the UMR, the Corps was directed to construct and maintain a 690-mile-long channel with a minimum depth of 4.25 feet above the record low-water level of 1864, between the Falls of St. Anthony near Minneapolis, Minn., to the mouth of the Illinois River near Grafton, Ill. Other than federal dredging on the Illinois River, improvements focused on maintaining the Illinois and Michigan Canal for the growing metropolis of Chicago. By 1865, Chicago convinced the Illinois General Assembly to reverse the flow of the Chicago River, sending the urban and industrial sewage down the river into the canal, and eventually into the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.

During the initial period of river improvements, logging became the foremost industry on the UMR. The old-growth pine forests of Minnesota and Wisconsin supplied the lumber

necessary for building the Midwest. Great log rafts, acres in size, were floated down the St. Croix, Minnesota, Chippewa, and Wisconsin Rivers into the UMR. While lumber provided the construction materials for housing, St. Louis and New Orleans were the final destination for industrial supplies, commercial products, and agricultural commodities.

As the waterways improved, the hills and valleys of the Upper Midwest were stripped of timber for lumber, lath, shingles, and millwork, and the land was transformed into pasture and farm fields. Meanwhile, the extensive prairies of the Midwest were settled, drained and plowed for row crops or used for pasture. Enormous amounts of grain and livestock were moved by rail. In the larger towns and cities, hydroelectric power and coal-fired steam engines turned the gears of commerce. The use of the inland waterways waned and river commerce suffered greatly from railroad development and expansionism. The Corps' began construction of the Illinois and Mississippi Canal in the 1890s as an extension of the Illinois and Michigan Canal to increase river traffic through northern Illinois from the Great Lakes to the UMR. This plan was a dismal failure as both canals were too small for commercial traffic, which tended toward the larger Illinois River channel.

In an attempt to accommodate larger boats with deeper drafts, congress authorized the UMR six-foot navigation channel in 1907. The six-foot channel was a continuation of many of the practices carried out on the 4.5-foot channel, but with increased dredging and wing-dam height. Despite these improvements, commercial traffic was incommensurate with the work effort. Industry, manufacturers, and other long-haul shippers preferred the railroads due to speed, dependability, simplicity, and the fact that the largest industrial centers were located in the Great Lakes and eastern regions. By 1900, the Chicago Ship and Sanitary



In October 1978, the Keokuk Lock, Dam and Places. The aerial photo was taken Sept. 1,

nt Waterways

nd Project Management



nd Powerhouse Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990, by Carol Arney.

Canal was constructed providing a deep-draft channel connecting the Great Lakes and Chicago to the Gulf, through the IWW and UMR, which provided a commercially viable system.

In the 1920s and the 1930s, towboats and barges were developed to move bulk cargo. In an attempt to promote the commerce of barge traffic and stimulate the economy of the Midwest during the Great Depression, Congress authorized the UMR and IWW nine-foot channel projects in the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1930. The Corps proposed a slack-water navigation system, comprised of fixed dams with large "Ohio River standard" locks that would accept multiple barges pushed by towboats. The IWW and UMR nine-foot channel project formed the Upper Mississippi River System, which remains one of the most important and largest projects of the nation's inland waterway system.

At UMR Lock 19, in October 1978, the Keokuk Lock, Dam and Powerhouse Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This District was listed as a result of major modifications to the Corps' dry dock, determined to be a significant resource. A federal property is listed on the NRHP with support from the National Park Service, which formerly lists the property or a number of similar properties designated as a district.

The National Park Service is assigned the task of maintaining the NRHP list. The National Park Service formally determined the UMR Locks and Dams 3 through 10 eligible to the NRHP on Feb. 25, 1986.

As a result of the major rehabilitation program on the UMR and IWW, the Corps contracted with the National Park Service to complete an Historic American Engineering Record. This documentation records the most significant engineering and architectural history for posterity. The Library of Congress accepted the UMR HAER in November 1988. In 1992, the National Park Service and the Corps published the results of the HAER documentation as Gateways to Commerce, which includes history, setting, and the significance of the Corps' Nine-Foot Channel Project on the Upper Mississippi River.

Adjacent to the IWW, the Illinois and Michigan Canal was designated a National Historic Landmark in January 1964 and listed on the NRHP in October 1966. The Hennepin Canal (Illinois and Mississippi Canal) was listed on the NRHP on May 22, 1978. The Illinois and Michigan Canal was designated the Illinois and Michigan Heritage Canal Corridor in 1984. The T. J. O'Brien Lock, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Lockport Lock, Brandon Road Lock and Dam, Dresden Island Lock and Dam, Marseilles Lock, Dam, and Canal, and Starved Rock Lock and Dam are within the canal corridor boundaries. In July 1993, portions of the IWW were determined eligible for

listing as the Multiple Property Chicago to Grafton, Illinois, Navigable Water Link, 1839-1945.

In 1998, in support of the Upper Mississippi River System Navigation Study, the St. Louis and Rock Island districts completed the NRHP forms for the UMR and IWW. The Upper Mississippi River Nine-Foot Navigation Project 1931-1948 was completed in 2000. The nomination recognizes 25 multiple property historic districts and defines architectural and engineering significance. The NRHP form for the Chicago to Grafton, Illinois, Navigable Water Link, 1839-1945, has been drafted and identifies eight historic districts.

In 2002, both the UMR and the IWW will be submitted for formal listing on the NRHP. To complete this mission, the District will provide Corps Headquarters with the final nomination forms for the 33 historic districts. With the endorsement of Headquarters, the nomination forms will be formerly submitted to the National Park Service for evaluation and listing. If the UMR and IWW are listed on the NRHP, they will achieve much-deserved international attention. In this way, the Corps' contribution to the nation's engineering history will be ensured for our significant waterways. ■



Investing In Our People

Around the District

District Commander's Award



Bob Romic, District librarian, Information Management, received the **District Commander's Award for March**, by Col. William Bayles, District engineer.

Romic earned the award for the development and organization of the District's Library from its previous state a mere three years ago to what it is today.



Lake Red Rock Hosts "Outdoor Days"

Area fifth- and sixth-grade students at Lake Red Rock participated in "Outdoor Days," April 15 through 17.

The students rotated through five different stations: an orienteering/compass course, litter program, soils unit, pond study unit, and a wildlife unit.

An Iowa state conservation officer, staff from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Marion County Naturalist, assisted Corps staff with the various stations.

More than 480 students and teachers participated in the three-day event.



Congrats ...



Congratulations to **Tracy Street**, Programs and Project Management, and John Swan, on the birth of a boy, Payton John Swan, March 15. He weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long.

Sympathy ...

Hershel L. Mitchell, 73, formerly of Orion, died May 3, at Rosewood Care Center, Peoria, Ill.

Mitchell was a management analyst for the District in what is now known as the Resource Management Office, and retired in 1984.

He is an Army, Air Force and Army Reserves veteran and served in the Korean War.

Charles Gillette, died April 16.

Gillette worked for the District in the Ordnance and Explosives Section, Engineering Division.

Ronald L. Verstraete, 49, Davenport, died April 15, at Genesis East, Davenport.



Verstraete was the program manager for the Job Order Contract (JOC) for Construction Division, Rock Island Project Office.

Lottie I. Marven, 66, of South Holland, Ill., died April 6, at home.

Marven was a human resources coordinator for the District for 12 years.

Yvonne 'Voni' Leidenfrost, Davenport, Iowa, died March 29.



Leidenfrost worked in the District's Personnel Office until March 1997. She worked for the federal and county government.

Speakers Bureau

By Shannan Walsten, Public Affairs

Scott Whitney, Programs and Project Management, spoke with more than 40 members of the Izaak Walton League about the navigation study and ecosystem management on March 21, in Clinton, Iowa.

On March 25, **Bill Riebe**, Engineering Division, discussed the profession of surveying with more than 90 students at the Orion High School Math and Science Career Night in Orion, Ill.

East Central School District in Sabula, Iowa, held its annual science fair on April 9. **Larry Melaas**, Engineering Division, judged individual science projects created by more than 20 students.

Brad Palmer and **Cliff Artis**, Engineering Division, were judges at Davenport North High School's Science Fair, April 9, in Davenport, Iowa. They judged engineering projects created by middle-school students throughout the Davenport School District.

On April 11, Bettendorf High School hosted its annual career fair, attended by more than 1,500 high-school students. **Steve Johnson**, Programs and Project Management, and **Bill Riebe**, Engineering Division, both attended presenting information about professions in the biology and surveying career fields.

Civil engineering was the topic of discussion when **Roger Perk**, Programs and Project Management, spoke with more than 800 students at the Bettendorf High School Job Fair, April 11, in Bettendorf, Iowa.

On April 12, a student from Bettendorf High School job shadowed **Joanne Traicoff**, Engineering Division. Civil engineering was the topic of the job shadow experience.

A student from Rockridge High School, ☺

Notes from the Mississippi*

Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa

- ✓ Lock machinery flood doors completed.
- ✓ Perimeter fencing repaired.
- ✓ Four safety-block covers fabricated.

Lock and Dam 12, Bellevue, Iowa

- ✓ Newly painted ladder handles installed.
- ✓ Distance marker signs mounted.

Lock and Dam 13, Fulton, Ill.

- ✓ Lock machinery cleaned and painted.
- ✓ Lock machinery filtering system received.

Locks and Dam 14, Le Claire, Iowa

- ✓ Service-bridge rail cars replanked.
- ✓ Dam ring-buoy box brackets installed.
- ✓ Upper-dike brush removal completed.

Locks and Dam 15, Rock Island, Ill.

- ✓ Dam bulkheads removed.
- ✓ Government bridge safety blocks attached.

Lock and Dam 16, Muscatine, Iowa

- ✓ Number five tainter-gate limit switch repaired.
- ✓ Light pole base bolts lubricated.

Lock and Dam 17, New Boston, Ill.

- ✓ Monthly generator and compressor test performed.
- ✓ Lock scooters painted.
- ✓ Number four miter gate anchor bars replaced.

Lock and Dam 18, Gladstone, Ill.

- ✓ Damaged traveling kevel rail repaired.
- ✓ New windsocks installed.

Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, Iowa

- ✓ Rebuilt roller installed and adjusted.
- ✓ New manifold and hydraulic hose installed.

Lock and Dam 20, Canton, Mo.

- ✓ Number two valve painted.
- ✓ Number two miter gate limit-switch mounting renovated.

Lock and Dam 21, Quincy, Ill.

- ✓ Oxygen and acetylene tank “empty cylinder” signs installed.
- ✓ Burnt out dam-security lights replaced.

Lock and Dam 22, Saverton, Mo.

- ✓ Main entrance gate hinges readjusted and tightened.
- ✓ Ring buoy/safety-block post rebuilt.

*This is a small sample of work completed at District locks and dams throughout the month.

Speakers Bureau Cont.

who was interested in civil engineering, job shadowed **Kirk Sunderman**, Engineering Division, on April 15.

Karen Hagerty, Programs and Project Management, attended the Partners of Scott County Watershed monthly meeting in Davenport, Iowa, on April 17. Topics discussed at the meeting included: the rescheduled controlled burn, native plantings along the Duck Creek Parkway, storm-water management, and the Snapshot Water Quality Monitoring Project.

More than 40 students at United Township High School in East Moline, Ill., learned about river transportation when **Ernest Jackson**, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 13, spoke with them on April 19.

Charlene Carmack, Programs and Project Management, spoke with more than 40 University of Iowa students, April 25, in Iowa City, Iowa. She discussed lessons learned on the topics of the National Environmental Protection Act and Environmental Impact Statements.

A student from Rockridge High School job shadowed **Damon Barati**, Information Management, April 30. Web and graphic design were the topics of the job-shadow experience.

On May 1, Louisa-Muscatine High School hosted its annual riverfest in Letts, Iowa. Three Corps employees spoke to more than 30 eighth-grade students. **Justine Barati**, Public Affairs, gave a presentation on the history of the Mississippi River. **Charlene Carmack**, Programs and Project Management, spoke on the topic of wildlife habitat. **Mike Cummings**, Engineering Division, spoke about the Flood of 1993. **Joe Lundh**, Mississippi River Project, spoke on the topic of forestry along the Mississippi River.

Aldrin Junior High School held a science fair, May 3, in Barstow, Ill. **Thomas Gambucci**, **Richard Nickel**, and **Kevin Landwehr**, Engineering Division, participated as judges for the event. More than 25 students were interviewed and had their products judged.

Joni Redman, Information Management, hosted a job-shadow student from Sherrard High School, May 6. The student was

interested in database administration.

Also, May 6, four accounting students from Pleasant Valley and Sherrard High Schools job shadowed **Mike Bunch**, Resource Management.

A student from Sherrard High School, who was interested in conservation and shoreline management, visited the Mississippi River Project in LeClaire, Iowa, May 6.

Clifford Artis, Engineering Division, hosted two job-shadow students from Sherrard High School, May 6, who were interested in the field of engineering.

Water control was the topic of discussion when **Jim Stiman**, Engineering Division, spoke with more than 50 members of the Harvester Bass Club, May 8, in East Moline, Ill.

Brad Palmer, Engineering Division, spoke about his career in engineering with third and fourth graders at Lincoln Elementary School, May 9.

On May 10, more than 30 third- and fourth-grade students from Lincoln Elementary School met **Nic Davila**, Engineering Division, when he spoke to them about his career as a geotechnical engineer.

Ridgewood Elementary School hosted their annual Big Day of Science, May 10, in East Moline, Ill. More than 80 kindergarten through fourth-grade students were in attendance. **Laura Abney**, Programs and Project Management, **Don Bardole**, Mississippi River Visitor Center, and **Brad Palmer**, Engineering Division, all gave individual presentations regarding a river or science-related topic.

The Speakers Bureau is part of the District's outreach program. Through these programs, employees work to foster positive relations between the community and the Corps. Contact with our public provides an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the District's role in our communities, the Midwest and the nation. District employees interested in these outreach opportunities should contact Justine Barati.



Thursday, June 13

Arsenal Island, Memorial Field

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Corps Day 2002: Prepared to Serve the Nation

The 136th Anniversary
Rock Island District Program

Master of Ceremonies → Dave Hays

Retiree Program

Opening Remarks by Col. William Bayles, Conf. A, B & C → 8:30 a.m.

Tour of the remodeled Clock Tower (3rd Floor) → 8:45 a.m.

“Who Is That Retiree?” Activity → 9 a.m.

Proceed to Memorial Field → 9:30 a.m.

Awards Presentation → 10 a.m.

Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees; Employee of the Year - Professional Occupations, Technical and/or Administrative Occupations, Trades, Crafts and Laboring Occupations; Suggester of the Year; Large and Small Contractors of the Year; District Commander's Lapel Pins; Team Awards; Length of Service Awards; Sick Leave Recognition

Lunch → 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Activities and Games*

3-on-3 Basketball → Immediately after Awards

Volleyball → 1 p.m.

Bingo → 1 p.m.

Euchre Tournament → 1 p.m.

Horseshoe Tournament → 1 p.m.

Chess → 1 p.m.

Unorganized Softball (16-inch Mushball) → Throughout

*POC: Judy Walters, 309-794-5388

Door Prize Drawings → 1 p.m.

Closing and Clean Up → 4 p.m.