

**Gibson Conference**  
**Talking Points**  
**Given by Colonel Peter J. Rowan**  
**Nov. 18, 2004**

I'm pleased to introduce the keynote speakers for the 7<sup>th</sup> Gibson conference. This seventh conference focused on the Mississippi Watershed: Past, Present and Future Challenges. I hope it has been an opportunity to think about the Mississippi River in a comprehensive manner. The 8<sup>th</sup> Gibson conference sponsored by the New Orleans District will be held in the fall of 2005 and will focus on planning the Mississippi River watershed.

We are very glad to have the opportunity to work closely with Tulane University this year. We thank all of the Tulane participants, particularly our primary contact with the University, Dr. Colin MacLachlan, the John Christy Barr Professor of History. John McLachlan, the director of the Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research, and his staff including Doug Meffert and others have been instrumental in this conference.

I would also like to thank John Saia, my deputy district engineer and chief of planning and project management. We have recently learned that John is retiring before the end of the year. I appreciate very much his contribution to the New Orleans District during his time here and his 36 years of service to the Corps of Engineers.

The organizers of the conference would like to personally thank him for his support of the Gibson conferences. (Introduction of the organizers: Colin MacLachlan of Tulane University, Ed Lyon and Joan Exnicios).

Our keynote speakers are Robert Tannen and Dominic Izzo.

Robert Tannen: Regional Land Use and Transportation Planning, Economic Development Consultant and Urban Designer; Bachelor of Industrial Design, Pratt Institute, NY, 1961, Master of Fine Arts, Pratt Institute, NY, 1963.

Robert Tannen's professional career began in 1963 with the planning of a new college in New Hampshire, Franconia College. His work continued in Cambridge, Massachusetts with the Lazy Eight, Inc. and MetaSystems on research and development assignments for the Expo '67 Geodesic Dome by Geometrics, Inc. and R. Buckminster Fuller, followed by an innovative economic development project for the San Luis Valley of Colorado, and, in 1969, an emergency Master Plan for the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Camille. In 1966, he joined The Rand Corporation New York City Institute and The TransCentury Corporation in Washington, D.C.

In 1971 he joined the Curtis and Davis architectural and planning firm as vice president for planning which subsequently was acquired by DMJM and in 1990 Frederick R., Harris, Inc and DMJM merged to form DMJM+Harris. His first assignment in New

Orleans was Project Director of a series of studies to determine the need for and subsequent location of a second Mississippi River Bridge in the city, followed with a study to identify and conserve all neighborhoods of New Orleans and determine the need for and location of Historic Districts. During a period of more than thirty years in New Orleans, he directed several large-scale planning efforts including regional land use and transportation planning, riverfront planning, siting of Expo '84 the Arena and RiverSphere, planning major developments such as Riverwalk, New Orleans Centre, the Contemporary Arts Center, and renovation of the Union Passenger Station.

Among his favorite undertakings are the designation of the lower Mississippi River as an American Heritage River, the Wolf River Conservation Program, the America's Wetland Campaign, and the Friends of the Great River, an advocacy organization.

Dominic Izzo is the Vice President, Marine Engineering Business Line, U.S. Gulf Coast, for DMJM+HARRIS, Inc., in Houston, Texas. A project manager and civil engineer, he has served extensively in the public and private sector. President Bush appointed Mr. Izzo as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and he served in this position from July 2001 to November 2002. In addition, during this period Mr. Izzo served as the Chairman of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council and a member of the White House Natural Resources Policy Team. He began his career as an Army Engineer officer and served in various command and staff assignments in Germany before leaving active duty as a lieutenant colonel in 1992. Prior to his appointment in the Bush Administration, Mr. Izzo was responsible for the design, construction, and start-up of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal and Harbor in Dabhol, India.