

# Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

VOLUME LXIII ISSUE 2 | September 2016

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## Our Executive Board:

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### President

Launa Klimowicz-Brown

### Vice President

Carolyn Hudson

### Treasurer

Jessica Gregris

### Secretary

Laurel-Lee States

### AEMA Chairperson

Erica Shaw

## Hello AESC Members!

As I sit down to write my very first "Gavel" thoughts are zipping through my mind of all the things that happen in September. I can't seem to get the song "I'll See You in September" by Gary Lewis & the Playboys out of my head, so I decided to listen to it on Google radio and it is playing as I begin to write this...can you hear that sound of a record player when the needle is taken off a song in a hurry!!!!



Even though that song isn't quite right for this occasion it is still playing in my mind. I'll see you in September at our New Comers Welcome Luncheon on the 14th (details in the flyer in this edition). Our Vice President Carolyn Hudson is working diligently on a bunch of fun events for us to do on our monthly get togethers. Look for the notices in the Castle Gram and on our Facebook page as well as our website. If you are in the Washington DC area, please join us!!

As September rolls on into October we are ready for fall to consume us. We are looking forward to hosting our Army Engineers Memorial Awards (AEMA) Annual Cocktail Party at the Chief of Engineers' home, which LTG and Mrs Semonite have so graciously offered for this fabulous event!

If you know an Army Engineer Spouse or family member, please forward our newsletter on to them, and share our website and FaceBook page, we love connecting with Engineer families everywhere!

**"Keeping our worldwide Engineer family connected through the years and across the miles"**

# *A&S6 Cocktail Party*



*The Army Engineer Spouses' Club  
cordially invites you and your spouse/guest  
to join us at our annual*

## *Welcome Cocktail Party*

*Saturday, October 15, 2016  
5:00 to 7:00 PM  
at the home of*

*LTG and Mrs. Todd Semonite  
Quarters 7 Fort McNair  
Washington, DC*

*Coat and Tie*

*Please RSVP by October 9th to:  
[RSVP@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:RSVP@armyengineerspouses.com)*

*Voluntary donations to Army Engineer Memorial Award Fund  
accepted at event.  
Suggested: \$20 per person*

# *A&S6 New Comer's Lunch*

*Army Engineer Spouses' Club*



**NEW TO THE DC AREA?**

**“LET’S DO LUNCH”**

JOIN US AT

~ SINE IRISH RESTAURANT ~

*(SINEIRISHPUB.COM)*

PENTAGON CITY MALL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

11:30 A.M.

*CHANCES ARE, YOU’LL SEE A FAMILIAR FACE  
FROM A PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT*

OPEN TO ALL ENGINEER SPOUSES OF ACTIVE DUTY,  
RETIRED, RESERVE, NATIONAL GUARD, AND SES

PLEASE RSVP BY SEPT. 9

HOSPITALITY@ARMYENGINEERSPOUSES.COM



*2015-2016 Army  
Engineer Memorial  
Awards Recipients*

**Emma Chamberlayne**  
University of Virginia

**Lindsay Hrbovsky (GKM)**  
University of Louisiana at Monroe

**Thomas Gaines**  
Mississippi State University

**Lindsey Williams**  
Carson-Newman University

**Katherine Koprowski**  
Duke University

**Kayla Toy**  
University of California, Berkley

**Kayla Master**  
Rutgers University

**Margaret Anderson**  
Auburn University

**Kelsey Anderson**  
Washington & Lee

**Ryan Sullivan**  
Texas A&M

**Kathryn Graham**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

**Daniel Sparks**  
University of Texas, Austin

**Peter Finley**  
Linfield College

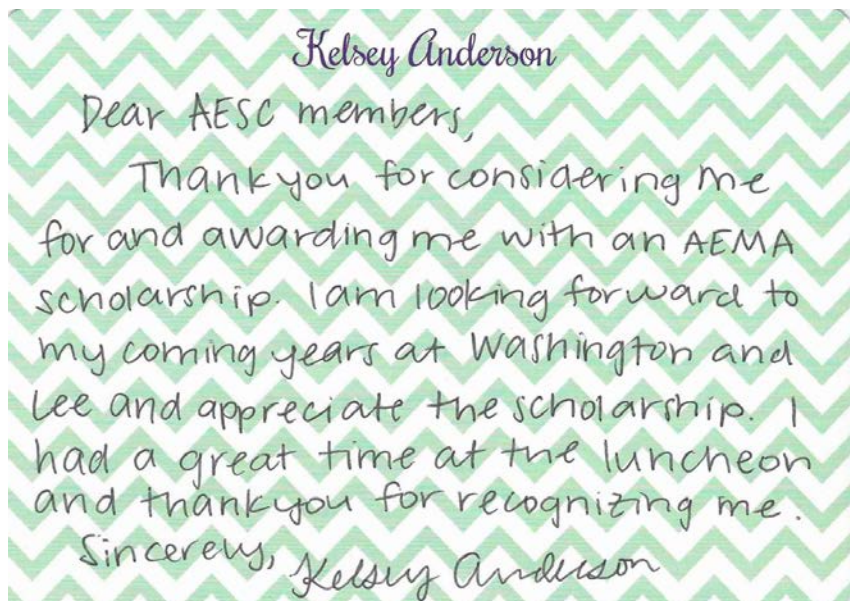
**Army Engineer  
Memorial  
Awards**



A major portion of our AESC mission is to support the education of our Army Engineer young adults. The lamp in our crest remind us of our commitment to education and the quest for knowledge. Since 1978, the Army Engineer Memorial Awards program has been honoring that mission in a way that pays tribute to the lives of our fallen Army Engineers.



We love hearing from our award recipients! Kelsey Anderson, daughter of COL(R) Dave & Kara Anderson received an award of \$500. She was a graduate of Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA. Kelsey is attending Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Good Luck, Kelsey! Have a great first year!



# 2016-2017 Volunteers

## Parliamentarian

Roz Riley

## Membership

Jackie Caldwell

## Hospitality

Terri Stevens

Lynne Jackson

## Historian

Lisa Stevenson

## Castle-Gram

Allison Chamberlayne

## Webmaster

Laura Putnam

## Circulation

Kara Anderson

## Castle Boutique

Sheila Kelly

## Welfare Services

Open

## Retirement Residences

### Liaison

Kay Burlin

## Knollwood Bake Sale

Pricilla Noah

## Nominations

Bette Meuleners

## Scholarship Committee

Marguerite Theissen

## Volunteer Spotlight

My name is Kara Anderson and I have been a member of AESC for 15 years. I am originally from Dallas, TX, and am a proud graduate of Texas Tech University (Get your guns up!). I have been a teacher or classroom aide for the past 20 years. Prior to that I was an executive meeting planner at EDS, back when Ross Perot ran the company. My husband, Dave and I have been married for 28 years and we have three children: 1LT (P) Katy, 25, is a Quartermaster officer at Fort Riley; Kurt, 21, is a senior at SMU; Kelsey, 18, is a freshman at Washington & Lee University.



Dave retired after 26+ years on active duty. He currently is CEO of Bay West LLC, an environmental consulting company in St. Paul, MN. We have had 19 houses in 11 different states. While we enjoyed every duty station to which we were assigned, I found the our time at Fort Benning a bit ... challenging. Dave attended the Infantry Officers Advanced Course so we started out as “outsiders” to the infantry community. I got involved in as many activities as I could; over time we made many lifetime friends there and celebrated the arrival of our first baby (Katy) with them.

Music? Zac Brown band songs play routinely on my device whether I am going for a run or cleaning the house. I LOVE Mexican food so Pioneer Woman Chicken Enchiladas are being served for dinner. We love to play the word game “Boggle” when we get together with family.

I love to watch college football regardless of who is playing. My favorite sport since I was a child is soccer. We loved watching our son play for two college seasons and look forward to Kelsey playing at Washington & Lee.

You might be surprised to learn that I use to go to church with two members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame (Roger Staubach and Mike Ditka – I was VERY young, OK?!?...). A fun fact about me is that I was once a contestant on “The Price Is Right” – even making it to the Showcase Showdown. I lost, so we did NOT honeymoon in Monaco.

Like you, we enjoyed serving on active duty and cherish the friendships we made and continue to nurture. I have enjoyed being a part of AESC and remaining connected with the Army Engineer family.

# AESC Honorary Advisors

It is with great joy that we welcome BOBBY BUXBAUM back to our AESC Executive Board! Bobby has agreed to serve this year as an Honorary Advisor to our club. Bobby will be our Honorary Vice President (a position in which she has served in the past) for the new board year.

*WELCOME BOBBY!*

## WHAT IS an HONORARY ADVISOR?

Advisors are generally spouses of the Command's senior leadership (military or civilian). These 'seasoned' spouses have valuable military life/life experiences and are invited and willing volunteers to offer guidance to private organizations and to be actively involved in the organization's events. Should the spouse of a senior leader be unable to volunteer, a willing volunteer may be asked to serve in that position.

Honorary advisors are not required to pay annual dues and, if not paying dues, have all privileges of membership except voting and holding office.

The role of an advisor, when needed, is to assure compliance with existing Army/Installation regulations and/or restrictions for private organizations, to interject alternative ideas, to stimulate thought, and to be a cheerleader for the private organization, which supports the military unit. The advisor supports the final decisions made by the club.

## WHO ARE AESC's Honorary Advisors?

Our AESC Constitution (Article IV. OFFICERS, Section 2. Honorary Advisors) identifies the USACE senior leader spouses who may be invited to serve as Honorary Advisors to the club.

*"The spouses of the following shall be honorary advisors to the Club: the Chief of Engineers, the Command Sergeant Major, the Director of Civil Works, and the Director of Military Programs."*

### **AESC 2016-2017 Honorary Advisors are:**

- Honorary President: Connie Semonite
- Honorary Vice President: Bobby Buxbaum
- Honorary Advisors: from Military Programs – Jackie Caldwell  
from Civil Works - Vacant

Again, welcome back, Bobby and THANK YOU to all of our Honorary Advisors.

Honorary President, Connie Semonite with Honorary Advisor for Military Programs, Jackie Caldwell



Honorary President - Connie Semonite, Past Honorary Vice President - Vicky Groniger, Current Honorary Vice President - Bobby Buxbaum





# Local Events

**Sept 17**  
Annapolis Craft Beer & Music Festival

**Sept 17-18**  
Virginia Wine Festival

**Sept 17-18**  
Alexandria King Street Art Festival

**Sept 17-25**  
Walking Town DC

**Sept 23-25**  
Capital Home Show

**September 24**  
Grand Opening  
Smithsonian African American History Museum

**Sept 24-Oct 1**  
DC Beer Week

**Sept 24**  
National Book Festival

## Around Town

Hains Point is at the southern tip of East Potomac Park, and offers beautiful views of the Potomac River, Anacostia River, and the Washington Channel. Surrounded by beautiful greenery



and trees, the area is a popular destination for a delightful picnic and relaxation. Hains Point Picnic Areas are a convenient spot to have a picnic near the water. Other popular activities on Hains Point include fishing, bicycling, running, and playtime for the kids on the playground.

Hains Point is named in memory of Peter Conover Hains, Major General, United States Army, who is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He designed the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., thus solving the drainage problems and foul smell of most of the Washington area marshlands. He served as the chief engineer for the Norfolk Harbor and River District and then as chief engineer for the Eastern Division. He left active duty in the Fall of 1918.

Hains was the oldest officer to serve on active duty since Major General John E. Wool retired in 1863 at the age of 79. He was also, probably, the only person to serve on active duty with the U.S. Army in both the American Civil War and the First World War.

General Hains died at Walter Reed Hospital in 1921 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



# Do You Know...

The Directorate of Civil Works is a major component of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Civil Works programs include water resource development activities including flood risk management, navigation, recreation, and infrastructure and environmental stewardship. Their mission also includes emergency response.



On September 1, 2016 leaders from the ASA(CW), White House NEC, USACE and The Port Authority of NY & NJ (PANYNJ) gathered in Bayonne NJ with various dignitaries and elected officials to celebrate the completion of NY/NJ Harbor Deepening. COL Dave Caldwell and the USACE New York District partnered with the PANYNJ to put on this event with over 200 people in attendance, the USMA Hellcat band, and a neo-panama ship and container terminal in the background. Five Congressional Members and other dignitaries lauded USACE's delivery of the \$2.1B project with global and National significance, \$800M in cost savings, and beneficial use of dredged materials to enhance the environment.



This ceremony officially recognized that the Port of New York and New Jersey can support shipping vessels requiring 50 feet of draft. This is a significant accomplishment for the Corps of Engineers and our Nation as the Panama Canal has been recently widened so it can pass these large vessels - called Post-Panamax or New Panamax. Larger container ships will now call on ports all along the East Coast of the North America due to this canal widening. The Port of New York and New Jersey join the Ports of Baltimore, Norfolk (Hampton Roads), and Miami as other ports that support ships needing 50 feet of draft. The Port of Charleston has been approved to deepen their harbor to 52 feet with construction starting in the next few years.





# Photo Gallery

Please enjoy these photos of our recent events!

These are some pictures of our events this month.

Want to see more? check out our web site

[www.armyengineerspouses.com](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com)

Or like us on FaceBook

[www.facebook.com/  
ArmyEngineerSpousesClub](http://www.facebook.com/ArmyEngineerSpousesClub)



Here are a few pictures from our September board meeting as well as a few shots from the Castle Ball in August.

# Army Engineer Spouses Group - Europe

The Engineer Spouses Group - Europe hosts a monthly coffee on the third Tuesday of each month from September to May. For more information on joining this active group, contact Michelle Tyler at [mtyler1015@aol.com](mailto:mtyler1015@aol.com) or request to join them on Facebook - AESG-Europe. Here are a few pictures of what they have been up to so far this year!

AESG-Europe is gearing up for October Fest! They have tables reserved at the Mainz Oktoberfest on October 9th. Contact Stacy if you'd like tickets. Look at the fun that was had last year!



I look forward to seeing pictures from their September coffee!





# Chit Chat

## Get to know our members!

This section is all about you! Tell us where summer PCS season took you, fun summer plans or vacations you enjoyed.... We'd love to see what you, your Engineer unit or Coffee Group is doing. Send all pictures and submissions to Allison Chamberlayne [newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com).

There was a Civil Works dinner party at Quarters 7 the other evening and all of the guests raved about SGT Strait's Cobb Dip.

SGT Strait is the enlisted aide for the chief of Engineers. Connie had so many requests for the recipe that she thought it might be a good idea to publish it in the Castle Gram. It's absolutely



## SGT Strait's Cobb Dip

### Ingredients

- ♥ 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- ♥ 1 c. sour cream
- ♥ 1 package Hidden Valley Ranch Dip mix
- ♥ 1 c. chopped Romaine lettuce
- ♥ 1 Roma tomato, chopped
- ♥ ½ c. shredded cheddar cheese
- ♥ ½ c. grilled corn
- ♥ ¼ c. bacon, cooked & crumbled
- ♥ ¼ c. blue cheese crumbles

### Instructions

1. Combine cream cheese, sour cream, and Ranch Dip mix and mix until smooth.
2. Spread into the bottom of a 9-inch pie plate or other similarly sized pan.
3. Top with lettuce, tomatoes, cheddar cheese, corn, bacon, and blue cheese.
4. Enjoy with your favorite tortilla chips, crackers, or pita chips.

**WANTED! Send in pictures of your Coffee group or FRG!** If you don't want to go to the trouble of sending me pictures, just invite me to join your Facebook Group and I'll snag them myself! You can find me on Facebook as Allison Thorborg Chamberlayne or click <https://www.facebook.com/allison.chamberlayne>

There is always the option to send any submission to: [newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com)



# Membership

Join online at  
[www.armyengineerspouses.com/membership.html](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/membership.html)

Questions?

Contact our  
Membership Chair

Jackie Caldwell  
[membership@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:membership@armyengineerspouses.com)



## AESC 2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PRINT NAME as you would like to be listed in the Castle Directory (The Redbook)

Last \_\_\_\_\_

First \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact phone:  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Birthday (month/day only) \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  New member  Returning member  Rejoining member

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: Is Spouse:  Active  Retired  Reserve/National Guard  Deceased

Spouse's title/rank/job assignment or firm:  
\_\_\_\_\_

By sending this application, you agree to have the above information listed in the Castle Directory.

Membership runs from July 1, 2016 until June 30, 2017.

Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2016 will be included in the 2016-2017 Castle Directory. Thank you!

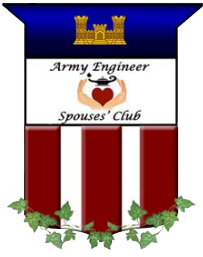
Annual dues + 1 copy of the Castle Directory \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Castle Directory: Each \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to AESC and mail to:

AESC MEMBERSHIP  
P.O. Box 6332  
Alexandria, VA 22306-6332



AESC  
P.O. Box 6332  
Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

