

## 2019-2020 Leader Development Program Inaugural Class

### **Ilana Almquist, Marketing Coordinator, Coffman Engineers, Inc. (Pacific Region)**



Ilana Almquist is a marketing coordinator for Coffman Engineers' Honolulu and Guam offices. As the marketing lead for Coffman's Pacific Team, Ilana strengthens relationships through interaction with her local community as well as through the professional societies with which she's engaged. As a remote employee living in Guam, Ilana's work is fundamental to the interoperability of Coffman's Pacific Region, where she supports go-to-market strategies, facilitates company engagement with professional associations, and develops marketing information promoting the Coffman brand.

Over the last 3 years, Ilana has maintained a Board of Directors position with the SAME Guam Post while serving on multiple committees and chairing events throughout the year. Her support and leadership have helped the Guam Post grow tremendously, achieving record growth in both scholarship-fundraising and membership. In 2018, her involvement with the Guam Industry Forum committee was instrumental for its success in netting over \$100k, while also chairing the Charlie Corn Scholarship Golf Tournament and netting over \$42k, both of which proved to be critical to the success of the local SAME Guam Chapter. As a growing leader, Ilana continued her 2018 involvement by volunteering for the inaugural SAME Air Force STEM Camp at Scott AFB, IL as the logistics coordinator.

Born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska with her 6 siblings, Ilana's family relocated to Liberty Lake, Washington during her high school years. Ilana married her husband, Master Sergeant Jamie Almquist in 2007. In their spare time, they enjoy golfing, scuba diving, traveling, and hiking with their three children Akayla (11), Collin (8), and Graeme (4). Over the last decade she has been appointed as a Key Spouse, serving as a liaison between unit leadership and hundreds of families while being stationed at Fairchild AFB, Washington, Scott AFB, Illinois, and Andersen AFB, Guam. Ilana was awarded the Joan Orr Award for 2016 & 2017 at the 11th Air Force PACAF AOR level for her dedication to assisting families as they adapt to the transitions and challenges of military life.

### **Holly Bigelow, Program Manager, Wood (European Region)**



Holly Bigelow is a Program Manager for Wood where she leads their U.S. Army-Europe Program. In this role she manages Wood's portfolio of U.S. Army contracts throughout Europe and supports 15 Project Managers.

Prior to entering this role in 2017, Holly worked as an Environmental Engineer and Quality Control Professional on a large DoD construction project for Wood where she reviewed technical engineering submittals and conducted construction inspections.

Holly entered the private sector in 2016 after serving on active duty in the U.S. Air Force for seven years. During her time in the Air Force she held various civil engineering positions including: Project Manager and Operations Support Manager, 30<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California; Contingency Planner, 7<sup>th</sup> Air Force/A7, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea; and Flight Commander, 435<sup>th</sup> Construction and Training Squadron,

Ramstein Air Base, Germany. During her active duty service, she also deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn in 2011 and to Liberia in support of Operation United Assistance in 2014.

Holly is a native of Barker, New York. She attended the U.S. Air Force Academy, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering in 2009. Additionally, she attended Johns Hopkins University where she received a Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering and Science in 2015. She is a registered professional engineer in the state of Colorado.

Holly is an active SAME member having served as the Kaiserslautern Post Secretary from 2015 to 2018. More recently, Holly was an active member on the planning committee for the 2019 NAVFAC EURAFSWA-SAME Industry-Government Engagement Forum.

In her free time Holly is a hobby homebrewer and an avid NY Yankees fan.

### **MAJ Craig Bryant, P.E., Operations Officer, Fort Hood, TX (Texoma Region)**



MAJ Craig W. Bryant is the Operations Officer for the 8th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. MAJ Bryant joined the Society of American Military Engineers in 2014 and currently serves as the President of the Fort Hood Post

A 2004 graduate of the United States Military Academy, MAJ Bryant has served in a variety of staff and command positions throughout his career. From 2004 to 2007 he served as Platoon Leader, Battalion Construction Officer, Company Executive Officer, and Battalion Adjutant with the 46th Engineer Battalion at Fort Polk, LA. During this assignment MAJ Bryant deployed to Ramadi and Fallujah, Iraq. In 2008, MAJ Bryant attended the Engineer Captain's Career Course at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, where he was the SAME Award Winner as the top General Engineering Studies student in his class. Following the Career Course, MAJ Bryant served as an Assistant Operations Officer and Company Commander with the 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC from 2008-2012. During this assignment, MAJ Bryant deployed to Baghdad, Iraq. Upon completion of company command MAJ Bryant attended Advanced Civil Schooling at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA from 2012-2013. In 2014 MAJ Bryant attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. From 2015-2016, MAJ Bryant served as a project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Baltimore District. In 2017, MAJ Bryant joined 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team as the Brigade Engineer, deploying with the brigade to the Republic of Korea prior to returning to Fort Hood and assuming his current position in 2018.

MAJ Bryant holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from West Point and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering (Transportation and Infrastructure Systems) from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia. MAJ Bryant's thesis, titled "Study of Truck Driver Behavior for Design of Traffic Signal Yellow and Clearance Timings" was published in the *Transportation Research Record*, No. 2488.

MAJ Bryant's award and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal (4 Stars), the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

MAJ Bryant is married to the former Megan Nicely of Cumberland, VA. They have two sons, Gavin, 6, and Jonah, 3.

**Mark DeSouza, Civil Site Design Project Manager, Thomas & Hutton (Carolinas Region)**



Mark DeSouza grew up in Columbia, SC and earned his Civil Engineering degree at Clemson University. While in college, he enlisted in the Army Reserves as a Combat Engineer and later commissioned as an Engineer Officer through ROTC. Mark moved to Atlanta, GA to start a position as a site design project engineer in 2005 and focused on residential projects with an emphasis on stormwater management.

Mark married Shannon in 2006 and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007. In Anbar Province, Mark led a platoon of 41 combat engineers in 185 Route Clearance patrols in which they searched for, and eliminated, Improvised Explosive Devices. This provided freedom of movement for Coalition forces.

Upon his return to civilian employment, he obtained his professional engineer license in 2009 to include GA, SC and AL. He continued to enhance his skills in civil engineering by providing support to his team in commercial and municipal projects.

In 2010, Mark deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as a Route Clearance Company Executive officer. He was responsible with leading the company's staff including personnel, intelligence, operations, supply and medical staff sections. He planned, coordinated and sourced Route clearance missions in support of the 101st, 2nd Brigade Combat team.

Upon return, Mark's civilian occupation expanded to include Civil Site Design Project Manager with a focus on national retail clients and mixed-use projects. He led project teams including organic designers and external consultants while managing contracts, budgets, quality control, permitting and construction assistance.

In 2011, Mark took command of the 323rd Route Clearance Company and led 178 Soldiers for 27 months. This included three 21-day annual training missions and his unit was the first Army Reserve Unit to be fielded a full set of Route Clearance Vehicles in the states. He was accountable for over \$20 million dollar worth of Vehicles, weapons and equipment, as well as its maintenance and storage.

In 2014, Mark deployed to Iraq for a second time as a technical engineer in a Forward Engineer Support Team. In this capacity, Mark served as a civil engineer in a small forward deployable team which was an extension of USACE. His team supported the department of defense by providing technical engineering support in austere locations.

Currently, Mark is living in Columbia, South Carolina working as a Civil Site Design Project Manager. He leads a project team in design, permitting and construction of commercial and industrial projects. He also serves as a plans officer in an Army Reserve Engineer Brigade Staff. In his spare time, he enjoys playing with his two sons, Ethan (9) and Sloan (5). He plays adult soccer and is active in his kid's soccer leagues as an assistant coach.

**Angela Gomez, Business Manager, KOMAN Construction LLC (Southwest Region)**



Angela Gomez was born in Waukegan Illinois, the middle child of three. Growing up there, she met her future husband while they were both still in high school. During this time, Angela was faced with a hard decision and chose to leave school to start a family with her high school sweetheart. After he graduated, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, which presented new challenges and opportunities.

Angela married her high school sweetheart and moved with him to his first duty station in South Carolina. During his enlistment she learned to juggle being a military spouse, a mother of three, and a full-time employee. She found herself an entry level job and moved through the ranks quickly to manager. After her husband's enlistment concluded, their time in South Carolina was ending and they had to move on. They decided to move their young family to Florida.

In the Sunshine State, their family transitioned from city life to rural country life by establishing a little farm, with horses, cows, chickens, pigs, donkeys, goats, and many more. There was a little culture shock going from the city life to a small-town life, but it was a great environment for their little ones.

During her time in Florida, Angela found inspiration to thrive and returned to school where she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology and a minor in Non-profit Organization from the University of Florida. In between, going to school, crazy work hours, and making a home for her husband and three beautiful children, Angela still found time to volunteer.

Angela volunteered at numerous non-profit organizations. Some of her roles were Fundraiser Chair, Event Coordinator, Cheerleading Director, Vice President, and anywhere else the need arose. She was very influential as a Girl Scout leader, Cheerleading Coach, Soccer Coach, Team Manager, and T-ball Coach providing guidance to young people and serving her community. She also served as the President of a non-profit youth organization and co-founded a competitive youth soccer club, another non-profit organization.

Angela and her family lived in Florida for many years. After the family became older, opportunities started to present themselves for her husband in the Southwest. Once again, their family decided it was time to follow a new path and make another move. Angela was able to make the most of the change and was able to secure a position with KOMAN. She started out as an admin and worked up to her current position of Business Manager, making use of her unique talents and abilities she learned throughout her journey. It is in this position that she began her newfound relationship with SAME, to network with its many prestigious members. She is committed to striving for greater excellence and achievement, not only for herself, but for her post as well.

**Patricia Graham, Project Geologist, EnSafe Inc. (New England Region)**



Patricia, a project geologist located at EnSafe's Londonderry, New Hampshire office, has more than 11 years of environmental consulting experience at known or suspected petroleum and hazardous waste sites located throughout New England. She provides consulting services to a broad spectrum of private, commercial, and municipal clients, with the goals of ultimately minimizing or eliminating: environmental damage, risks to human health or the environment, and, client liabilities associated with the conditions at these sites.



Patricia has been a part of EnSafe since 2014, with her primary focus on the technical requirements and field management responsibilities associated with successful completion of environmental assessment and remediation projects. Technical requirements include: design and implementation of subsurface investigations into the nature and extent of impacts to environmental media; operations and maintenance activities to optimize performance of various types of active and passive remediation systems; design and execution of environmental site assessments associated with property transactions; design and execution of building materials surveys to evaluate suspect building materials for the presence of regulated hazardous materials; design and implementation of investigations for vapor intrusion into indoor air at petroleum and hazardous waste sites; assistance with Spill Prevention, Control, Countermeasure (SPCC) plans; and, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Tier II reporting. Management responsibilities include: budget estimation; project staffing; work flow management; subcontractor oversight and management; property access; and client updates.

Patricia holds a bachelor degree in Earth and Geographical Science with hydrogeology certification from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Fascinated since childhood by physical features ranging from mysterious cave and canyon formations to beautiful snow-capped mountain ranges, the study of hydrogeology and geomorphology was a natural path for Patricia. Patricia also grew up close to a Superfund site that had been ranked 14<sup>th</sup> on the list of immediate priorities when it was added to the Superfund roster in 1982. Her commitment to help protect public human health and well-being began when she learned of this 'ugly truth' impacting her local community, hidden in its soil and water.

Patricia has been actively involved in her local community as a former member of the conservation commission and a registered member of the Boys Scouts America. For the last seven years, she has been an assistant scout master with the Boys Scouts America, with the goal of guiding boys ages 11 to 18 through the program. When not on a job site or camping with the Boy Scouts, you can find Patricia enjoying the outdoors with her two sons, hiking to new heights or traveling to new locations.

#### **LT Mike Guaigua, Civil Engineer Corps, U.S. Navy (International Committee)**



Lieutenant Mike Guaigua reported to Public Works Department Camp Lemonnier Djibouti on June 2018. LT Guaigua joined the Navy and attended Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes, Chicago in November 2001. After graduation, he attended Engineering Aide "A" School training in Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He reported to Naval Mobile Construction SEVENTY-FOUR in June 2002, where he completed deployments to Guam, Kuwait, Iraq, Spain, and Okinawa. In June 2007, he transferred to NAVFACEURAFSWA – PWD Bahrain and assumed duties as the Facilities Maintenance Specialist Leading Petty Officer. LT Guaigua was selected for the STA-21 program in 2010.

During his junior officer tour with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR, LT Guaigua served as Charlie Company Platoon Commander, Construction Civic Action Detail – Cambodia Liaison Officer, and as the Assistant Operations Officer. He most recently served as a Construction Manager for NAVFACEURAFSWA – PWD Rota.

LT Guaigua is a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Pennsylvania. He is a member of ASCE, SAME, and Tau Beta Pi. He is a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare Officer. His personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (5), and other unit and service awards.

LT Guaigua holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from The Citadel. He lives in El Puerto de Santa Maria, with his wife Agneta Guaigua, daughter Mikaela Adonai (7), and son David Andres (4).

**Erin Krug, P.E., Structural Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Great Lakes Region)**



Erin Krug is a Professional Engineer, a LEED Accredited Professional in Building Design + Construction, and a certified Facilities Engineering Acquisition Professional who has served as the Junior Vice President of SAME, Minneapolis-St. Paul Post since 2017. In addition to her role as Junior Vice President, she has contributed to the success of several Post programs as the Scholarship Committee Chairperson, the Engineering and Construction Camps Point of Contact, and the Social Media Manager. Erin is also active in the SAME National STEM and National College Outreach Committees.

In 2011, Erin graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Vermont, and in 2013 earned her Master's degree in Civil Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. While completing her graduate coursework, Erin advanced novel applications of control theory in the field of experimental methods in earthquake engineering in order to dynamically control force in hydraulic actuators. This work, which Erin presented at technical and professional conferences throughout the country, was published in multiple peer-reviewed academic journals.

As a structural engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District, Erin specializes in the design and inspection of flood risk management and navigation projects. As the team leader for multiple designs and inspections of locks and dams, Erin determines project scopes and provides mentoring and guidance to junior staff, and conducts quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) review of project work, which includes structural calculations and models, technical design and inspection reports, and construction documents. As the technical point of contact for the National Sign Program Mandatory Center of Expertise, Erin fields inquiries from manufacturers, engineers, and operations personnel about engineering, manufacturing, support structures, and layout to aid safe navigation through the locks and dams.

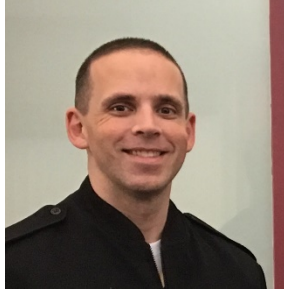
Outside of work and SAME, Erin plays sports such as softball, tennis, broomball, soccer, and curling, as well as taking part in other outdoor endeavors. For the past two years, Erin has officiated matches in regional, national, international, and Olympic curling competitions as a U.S. Curling Association Level II Official. Erin also enjoys bicycle commuting, British crime dramas, cat videos, and the Minnesota United Football Club.

**Sean Lebel, P.E., Operations Manager, AECOM (Mid-Atlantic Region)**



Sean Lebel serves as the Operations Manager for AECOM's Design and Consulting Services group in Norfolk, VA. He supports team staffing and management of internal and external resources to achieve successful project completion. His technical areas of responsibility include management of multi-disciplinary services including civil, environmental, electrical, mechanical, structural, architectural, and fire protection / life safety. In addition to his responsibilities as Operations Manager, he serves as both a Program Manager and Project Manager on contract Task Orders; and serves as a senior Fire Protection Engineer for local, state, and federal clients. Sean is a registered fire protection engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia and is a 2005 graduate of Clarkson University.

**LCDR Sam Lee, Civil Engineer, U.S. Navy (Northwest Region)**



LCDR Sam Lee P.E. is a Navy, Civil Engineer Corps officer. He received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Brigham Young University and was commissioned after completion of Officer Candidate School in November 2007. His past assignments include Assistant Public Works Officer, Public Works Department China Lake, California; Officer in Charge of Detail Andros and Detail Kunduz, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40; Construction Manager, Public Works Department Maine; Officer in Charge, NAVFAC Pacific-Site Philippines; and Personnel Exchange Program Officer, U.S. Army 555

Engineer Brigade. LCDR Lee is currently assigned to the University of Washington and is pursuing a Master of Science in Civil Engineering. He will be reporting to NAVFAC Northwest in June 2019 to serve as the Director of the Facilities Engineering and Acquisition Division Bangor at Naval Base Kitsap. LCDR Lee is a registered professional engineer in the State of Washington, and a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare Officer. He has been a member of SAME since 2008 and is currently serving as the Programs Co-Chair for the Mt Tacoma Post, Student Chapter Mentor at the University of Washington, and National Young Member Council Vice Chair for Military/Government Engagement.

**Melissa Lewis, Supervisor Project Management, Scott Air Force Base (Missouri Region)**



Melissa E. Lewis is a Civil Engineer and Project Management Team Lead for the 375 Civil Engineering Squadron at Scott AFB. She leads 20 engineers overseeing infrastructure design, programming, construction and maintenance for an installation encompassing 46,000 daily population, 3,500 acres and 826 facilities valued at \$4.7 billion. Melissa's diverse team of project managers executed a \$200 million facility maintenance portfolio, ensuring the success of the Department of Defense's (DoD) global mobility operations.

Melissa Lewis received her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at the University of Arkansas. She met her husband, Major Allen Lewis, while at the University. She then began work as a Corporate Management Trainee (CMT)/Assistant Road Master for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad in Denver, CO. After Major Lewis commissioned in 2009, they got married and moved to their first duty station at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii. There she began her government service working for Naval Facilities and Engineer Command as the lead engineering tech in the Facility Maintenance Division. She was first introduced to SAME at Hickam in their STEM outreach program. In 2012 they moved to Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, AZ where Melissa set up Requirements and Optimization for the 355 Civil Engineer Squadron. They had their first son, Nathaniel in 2013. She became heavily involved with SAME by serving as the post Vice President and then Co-President. Later in 2015, they moved to Scott AFB, IL. They had their second and third child, William (2015) and Penelope (2017). Melissa continued her government service as a Civil Engineer Project Manager for the 375 Civil Engineering Squadron and later moved on to her current position at SAFB. As a member of the Scott Post Melissa has held positions including government membership, young member chair, and currently Secretary. Additionally, Melissa took on Assistant Camp Director to help pioneer the inaugural STEM Camp at Scott AFB.

### **Capt Brendan Maestas, Instructor, Wright-Patterson AFB (Ohio Region)**



Capt Brendan J. Maestas is an instructor at The Civil Engineer School, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, where he directs the BUILDER Sustainment Management System courses and teaches lessons in many other resident and satellite broadcast courses.

Capt Maestas commissioned in 2012 from the United States Air Force Academy. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. His first duty assignment was with the 5th Civil Engineer Squadron, Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, where he served as the Officer in Charge of the Programming Element, the Asset Accountability Element Chief, Deputy Installation Management Flight Chief, Section Commander, and Officer in Charge of the Requirements and Optimization Element. Prior to his current assignment, Capt Maestas was a student in the Air Force Institute of Technology's Graduate of Engineering Management program, earning a Master of Science in Engineering Management with focuses in both Asset Management and Construction Management.

In 2015, Capt Maestas deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in support of Operation FREEDOM'S SENTINEL. While deployed as the Operations Flight Commander for the 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, he led 41 Airmen at the United States Central Command's busiest combat air logistics hub. Additionally, his leadership was vital to the planning and execution of a Four Million dollar beddown project and conversion of a parallel taxiway into an alternate runway.

### **Ben Nichols, Project Executive, Harkins Builders, Inc. (North Atlantic Region)**



Ben is currently the Project Executive at Harkins Builders and is charged with leading the division of the Company focused on new construction and renovation work for Local Municipalities, County, State, and Federal Government clientele. Ben has built more than \$100M worth of work in the last two years for clients including NAVFAC, USACE, Army National Guard, US Secret Service, State of Maryland, and Howard County, MD.

Prior to coming on board at Harkins, Ben was the General Manager of Construction Operations at Allen & Shariff, Inc. In that role, he managed construction projects in both government and the private sector. Contracts included commercial, healthcare, industrial, retail, renovations, and ground up building construction.

Prior to his civilian work experience, Ben graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering and subsequently was commissioned as a Marine Corps Combat Engineer Officer. In his first tour of duty in Okinawa, Japan, Ben was a platoon commander for 44 Marines and had the opportunity to deploy to Marjah, Afghanistan where he spent the vast majority of the deployment building patrol bases, guard towers, and improving force protection for Battalion. Additionally, as the senior engineer for 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines (an infantry battalion composed of 600 Marines), he advised the commanding officer on all engineering issues to include sourcing the right engineer units and equipment to accomplish the engineering priorities of the commander in Marjah, Helmand Province.



Following a two-year stint in Okinawa Japan, Ben took a special billet which assigned him to a "Seabee" battalion, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE (NMCB 5) in Port Hueneme, CA. As a Company Commander, he successfully managed construction projects on a 7-month deployment in Rota, Spain in support of base improvement / maintenance operations. Following the Spain deployment, Ben became the Assistant Operations Officer for NMCB 5 and deployed again to Okinawa. In Okinawa, he managed base maintenance & humanitarian service construction projects spread throughout Asia (Korea, Mainland Japan, Okinawa, Diego Garcia, Cambodia, Thailand, and The Philippines).

**Zakary Payne, Associate, Matrix Design Group, Inc. (Rocky Mountain Region)**



Zakary Payne is an Associate with the Matrix Design Group, Inc. in Colorado Springs, CO. He is a member of the Government Consulting Services directorate currently supporting clients in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the States of Florida and Michigan, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Zakary began his career in 2004 as a newly commissioned Civil Engineer Officer in the United States Air Force. His first and only Active Duty assignment was at McGuire AFB, NJ. Zakary separated from Active Duty in 2006 and transitioned to the Inactive Ready Reserves. He joined Toll Brothers, Inc. as an Assistant Land Development Manager responsible for overseeing planning, design and construction of all utilities, earthwork and transportation networks in multiple residential subdivision. In September 2007, Zakary moved to San Antonio, TX where he served as a Project Engineer with Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc. While working for Pape-Dawson Engineers, Zakary earned his Professional Engineer license and served as the lead engineer on multiple residential and commercial projects, including Morgan's Wonderland – the world's first ultra-accessible theme park for special needs children. In 2010 Zakary returned to the Air Force as a civil servant at Randolph AFB where he served as the Engineering Flight Chief and Deputy Base Civil Engineer. Zakary left Randolph in 2013 to stand-up the Planning & Integration Directorate of the newly formed Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC). While in that position, Zakary was directly responsible for developing the risk-based scoring model used to prioritize facilities and infrastructure investments across the Air Force and he was the co-creator of the Centralized Tasking Order which is still in use today. Zakary departed AFCEC in 2017 and spent 12-months as the Deputy Base Civil Engineer at Misawa Air Base, Japan. He followed that assignment by serving as the Engineering Flight Chief at Schriever AFB, CO prior to joining Matrix.

Zakary received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the United States Air Force Academy in 2004. He also received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2015.

Zakary is married to Verna Payne and together they have five children: Brenna (23), Brayden (22), Zachary (19), Hadleigh (6), and Keegan (4).

**Claudia Penny, Assistant Project Manager, HCR Construction, Inc. (South Atlantic Region)**



Ms. Penny is a construction management professional with over 10 years of construction project supervision and property management experience. Ms. Penny has experience in all aspects of the design, development, and construction process. She is also familiar with the marketing, sales, business administration and financial aspects of the business. She is currently employed by HCR Construction, Inc. as the Assistant Project Manager on multiple contracts throughout the southeast including Navy, Air Force, Army Installation, and USACE projects. She has been working on an

ID/IQ MATOC at Fort Benning for over 5 years and has been with HCR for over 6 years. She has been actively engaged with SAME since 2011. Ms. Penny serves as the Camper Coordinator and Alumni Liaison for the SAME Marine Corps Engineering and Construction Camp. She currently serves as a member of the Atlanta SAME Post Board of Directors as the Young Member Chair and STEM Camp Committee Chair. She received a BS in Construction Management with a concentration in development from Southern Polytechnic State University in 2010.

I hope to improve my leadership skills and use them to motivate and engage the people around me to form effective teams. As a construction professional, I also hope to learn ways to bring designers, engineers, and builders together, so that they work more efficiently as a team, or a true strategic partnership.

**Jorge Rodriguez, Senior Engineer, M.S. Hatch Consulting, LLC (California Region)**



I'm Jorge, a problem solver with a curiosity of how things work that lead me to become an engineer who found a passion for environmental consulting. I started my career at GE Energy & Environmental Research (EER) Corporation, immediately after graduating from the University of California Irvine in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. I spent one year working at EER, supporting design engineers on emission control retrofit systems for large power plants. The retrofits were focused on reducing oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), a precursor to ground-level ozone. Unfortunately (or fortunately as I view this in hindsight) GE was under a hiring freeze and my one-year employment under a technical contract was over. My career then took a turn to a position with URS Corporation (now AECOM) with a wonderful and diverse team doing environmental compliance. At URS I found my passion for problem solving, team work and client interaction for a variety of clients ranging from the U.S. Navy to Universal Studios Hollywood.

Throughout my 13 years at URS and then AECOM after the 2014 acquisition, my career grew from an entry level engineer, to a supervisor and my final position as a department manager prior to my departure in 2016. As a department manager, our environmental compliance group was involved in air quality, hazard materials and waste management, auditing, health and safety, and stack source testing. In 2016 I took a turn from an 85,000-person firm, to a small 4-person woman-owned business. This change allowed me to return to central passion, a client focus and doing strong technical air quality work.

When I'm not crunching away on spreadsheets or talking with clients, I spend my time with my family. My wonderful wife Melissa of 13 years, who is also an engineer working in transportation. We keep each other balanced at home, at work and in life. Our two amazing kids, 7-year-old son Isaac and 5-year-old daughter Kaiya, well they keep us busy the rest of the time. The kids are beginning their trials into sports, which has already given me the opportunity to coach baseball, referee and coach soccer, and currently coach flag football. I enjoy the time I can spend with them during their extracurricular activities or during the weekly volunteer time in my son's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class for reading groups. Watching them learn and grow is a wonderful thing, moments I will always cherish.

**Stephen Shattuck, Civil Engineer, formerly with LandMark Engineering (South Central Region)**



Stephen Shattuck graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU Boulder) in December of 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, emphasis in Construction Management.

After graduation from CU Boulder, Stephen earned his Commission as a Naval Officer and moved from Colorado, to Pensacola, Florida, to begin his career as a Naval Flight Student. He worked for the United States Navy (USN) as a Flight Student, Administrative Assistant, and Civil Engineer for just over two years (2013-2015). Unfortunately, he did not complete the flight program, however, he began working as a Civil Engineer at the Public Works Department (PWD) aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola. He

worked amongst the Facilities Management Division within PWD, providing a wide variety of technical services for many aspects of the installation.

After his time with the Navy, he began working as an Engineering Technician for Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast (NAVFAC SE). He worked for just under two years (2015-2017) amongst the Public Works Department (PWD) aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola providing technical guidance to supported commands for facility construction/ maintenance.

From NAVFAC SE, he began working as an Engineering Aide and Staff Engineer for NOVA Engineering and Environmental Inc. (NOVA). He worked for just over a year (2017-2018) amongst the NOVA Pensacola Branch where I provided a wide variety of Geotechnical Engineering, Construction Materials Testing, and Environmental Consulting services.

After his time with NOVA Engineering LLC, he began working as a Staff Engineer for LandMark Engineering where he provided design-build consulting engineering services focused on residential and commercial projects including designing and managing several construction projects.