

THE CLASS OF 2010



DEP is accustomed to superlatives: New York City has some of the best drinking water on the planet. The Delaware Aqueduct is the longest continuous tunnel on Earth. DEP's employees are superlative themselves, successfully designing and operating amazingly complex facilities. To maintain the tradition of excellence, DEP recruited top talent from colleges and universities

from across the United States to participate in its 2010 Summer Internship Program.

DEP's 60 Summer College and Graduate interns worked in DEP's labs, wastewater treatment plants and offices, gaining critical experience on DEP's critical role. They worked under the watchful eye of DEP's current employees, because it's crucial that DEP's operators pass on their skills to the next generation to ensure that DEP's world-renowned legacy remains unbroken.

Last week, the interns gave PowerPoint presentations to **Commissioner Holloway** that summed up the work they did this summer. The presentations focused on topics such as watershed water quality tests, working on Environmental Control Board

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Spotlight on Safety

Safe Driving

Motor vehicle accidents are the most common cause of death. Listed are important safety issues that should be reviewed when driving any vehicle. To ensure a safe trip, field employees and all other authorized drivers should operate all vehicles in accordance with city policy.

Before entering the vehicle conduct a pre-trip inspection. Check for:

- Damaged windshield wipers
- Flat or deflated tires

Do not operate the vehicle with any of the below inspection violations. The vehicle must be taken in for repairs, using four way flashers to alert other motorists, before it is used for normal activities:

- Damaged windshield, rearview or side mirrors

Under no circumstances should a vehicle be operated with defective brakes. Call Fleet Services at (718) 610-0800 for assistance.

Avoid distractions while driving: cell phone use, eating, drinking. Driver distractions cause more collisions than speeding.

Finally, remember, seatbelts save lives, so be sure to wear yours! In the event of a collision, it will:

- Prevent crashing into steering wheel, dash, or windshield
- Keep you inside vehicle

For the full list of pointers, please click here 

Commissioner's Corner

Today, with some help from mother nature and \$280 million in capital work, water quality in New York Harbor took a major step forward as we launched a new Biological Nitrogen Removal process at the Hunts Point Wastewater Treatment plant in the Bronx. Nitrogen is a natural by-product of the sewage treatment process that is not harmful to people—but can seriously impair fish and other aquatic life because it contributes to the depletion of dissolved oxygen that underwater ecosystems need to survive. From now on, Hunts Point Deputy Superintendent **Jeff Weil** and his team will remove 10,000 pounds of nitrogen from the 200 million gallons of wastewater that they treat every day—which is great news for the East River and Long Island Sound. Designed by BEDC Chief **Matt Osit** and managed on the construction side by recently-retired Chief **Dennis Rizzo**, the project included a brand new electrical substation and emergency generators that look great. City Council Member **Maria del Carmen Arroyo** and **Eric Goldstein** from the Natural Resources Defense Council joined me at the announcement, which is only part of the almost \$1 billion for nitrogen reduction investments that Mayor Bloomberg has committed to meet the PlaNYC goal of opening 90% of our waterfront to recreation by 2030.

Yesterday, I witnessed the “transfer of the keys” to our newest Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent, **Zainool Ali**. Zainool will lead the team at Oakwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant on Staten Island. Zainool takes the helm from **Courtney Anderson**, who will become the new superintendent at the Jamaica Wastewater Treatment Plant—where we have roughly \$80 million in capital construction under way, including retrofitting



existing equipment and adding new nitrogen-reducing chemicals to the treatment process. Zainool and Courtney have served the agency with distinction so far, and I'm sure they'll do a great job in their new posts. (You can read more about Zainool in this week's *Focus on the Field*).

Last Friday our summer intern class gave presentations to our senior managers about their summer experience, including suggestions about how we can improve DEP. All of the presentations were impressive (particularly a video by **Jesse Fadis**, **William Devore**, **Samantha Adriaans**, **Ryan Mickelson**, and **Danielle Sanok** who spent the summer in BWS), which you can read more about in this week's feature. We're working hard to recruit the next generation of dedicated DEP architects, engineers, scientists, lawyers, and technical experts, and this summer's class shows how much talent is out there. Great work, everyone!

Tonight is the 27th National Night Out, a Citywide event that stresses drug and crime prevention awareness. Major crime is down an amazing 36% since 2001, but we still must remain vigilant. **Mayor Bloomberg**, Deputy Mayors, and Commissioners from across the City will be taking part events in all five boroughs. Be sure to visit the National Night Out Website  for more information about this great cause.

Event Calendar:

Fourth Annual Batavia Kill Stream Celebration – Ashland, NY – August 7, 2010 from 10 am-5 pm. Come celebrate the beauty and wonder of Catskill Mountain streams through interactive exhibits and a host of activities for children and adults. For more information 

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city.

CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH PIPELINE. HELP IS ON THE WAY. 



The Oakwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is a key component of the City's wastewater infrastructure. Serving a population of nearly 250,000 Staten Islanders and collecting flow from 10,779 acres of land, the plant treats 25 million gallons of wastewater per day. And effective August 2nd, Zainool Ali, the newly-appointed Plant Superintendent at Oakwood Beach, will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the plant's operations. Commissioner Holloway presented Zainool with the official key to the plant at a ceremony early Monday, which transferred leadership from out-going Plant Superintendent, Courtney Anderson, who will be heading the Jamaica plant in the same capacity.

Although Zainool is a new superintendent, he's an old hand in

the wastewater treatment business. Zainool began his career at DEP in 1996, and has been a real benefit to several of our WWTPs. Zainool started at the 26th Ward WWTP doing operations and maintenance. He later worked at the North River WWTP in Manhattan, operating engine-driven main sewage pumps, complex odor control units and distributed control systems. His technical and leadership skills earned him a promotion to Deputy Superintendent in early 2007, and he served at that capacity at both the 26th Ward and the Jamaica WWTP. But just because he's progressed through the ranks, Zainool is still willing to grab a wrench and get his hands dirty.

Zainool has completed a four-year apprenticeship program as an industrial mechanic in Trinidad. He also has two National craftsman Diplomas from the San Fernando Technical College in Trinidad in Industrial Maintenance and Plumbing Design and Application. In his spare time, Zainool coaches his two sons on a martial arts team and reads up on wastewater publications.

Milestones

Matthew Osit, P.E. of BEDC completed the Lake Placid Ironman (2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, and 26.2 mile run) that took place on June 25th.

DEP: Then & Now

Then:

This photo, dated September 15, 2009, is at the Croton Water Filtration Plant construction site. The construction project is 9 acres, which is about the length of two football fields by the width of two football fields. The plant will be situated largely under a portion of the 13-acre driving range.



Now:

This photo is from July 29, 2010 and shows the "topping off" of the Croton Water Filtration Plant as construction crews pour the last batch of concrete on the roof. The roof still needs waterproofing and then it will be covered by grass as part of a golf driving range in Van Cortlandt Park.



- Q. I noticed recently when I was walking down the streets of NYC, and also on a picture called NY Underfoot, that the manhole covers have different acronyms. Can you please explain what they stand for?
- A. The acronyms on manhole covers usually identify the NYC agency or company (such as Con Edison) that is responsible for placing the manhole and operating the associated underground infrastructure. So for instance, the acronym DPW stands for the Department of Public Works, an agency that existed between 1870 and 1898. The DPW was responsible for in-City water distribution as well as the operation of water supply projects completed by the Aqueduct Commission (1883-1910) including the New Croton Aqueduct (in service in 1891 and completed in 1893). The acronym DWS stands for the Department of Water Supply which existed between 1898 and 1901 and replaced the DPW when the City was consolidated in 1898. The DPW and DWS manholes that we see within the City are associated with in-City water distribution. A less obvious acronym is associated with sewer manholes. Sewers were originally the responsibility of each Borough President. In Brooklyn manholes with the acronym BPB are sewer manholes that were constructed under the Borough President and in Manhattan BPM stands for Borough President Manhattan. These sewer manholes are some of the oldest and are frequently located adjacent to corner storm sewer drains. If you think about it, manhole covers provide a glimpse into our City's history and the agencies that built our infrastructure.

An important deadline is approaching for NYC employees and retirees who participated in the World Trade Center (WTC) rescue, recovery, and cleanup operations. September 11, 2010 is the last date to register with the State to preserve your right to file for 9/11-related Workers' Compensation in the future, even if you're not sick now. September 11, 2010 is also the deadline to file a Notice of Participation with your retirement system under the WTC Disability Law. See here for details on both.

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cases, learning about DEP's role in the Queens West Development Project, and many more. You can see their presentations, including a video on the west-of-Hudson watershed here .

Miami University, Syracuse, and others—the interns will submit memos to Commissioner Holloway discussing their own ideas on how to improve DEP.

Apart from heading to work, the interns also volunteered at Water-On-the-Go Fountains at public events. They attended a "Brown Bag Seminar Series" to see presentations from the likes of **Carter Strickland**, the DC of Sustainability on the future of green infrastructure, among many others. By participating in NYC Service projects like the Pleasant Community Garden Project in Harlem, or the Cool Roofs Project in Brooklyn with the New York Mets, the interns gave back to NYC by volunteering their personal time. And before they return to their schools—including Columbia, NYU, Virginia Polytechnic, Cooper Union, Cornell,

Working for DEP this summer will impact how many of these interns plan their future. "This Summer Internship experience has definitely made me more likely to pursue a career at DEP," said **Henry Jones**, a junior at Columbia University studying Earth and Environmental Engineering. "The exposure to all of the different, interesting projects made me realize that I could easily see myself working here."

DEP will offer a summer internship program next year as well. The Agency is always on the lookout for the best and brightest—that's what the Agency needs, and what New Yorkers deserve.

Correction: Tom Stalter's name was misspelled in the Feature Article section of last week's edition of Weekly Pipeline.

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.