

DAU Alumni Association Celebrates Anniversary

Twenty Years of Value and Service to the Acquisition Community

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For 20 years, the DAU Alumni Association (DAUAA)—a world-class association of acquisition professionals—has been actively working to provide value and service for its members. This year DAUAA will be celebrating its 20th anniversary during the Annual Symposium, to be held June 17-19 at DAU Headquarters, Capital and Northeast Regional campus, Fort Belvoir, Va. This year's theme—Delivering Warfighting Capabilities Today and Tomorrow through Evolutionary Acquisition—will serve as a review of the acquisition initiatives of today and tomorrow now foremost in the minds of the acquisition community.

Describing the value of the symposium, Frank Varacalli, DAUAA President said, "We'll use the symposium to bring life to the policies and emerging practices of Evolutionary Acquisition by exposing the attendees to DoD and Congressional leadership and to successful practitioners. As we have in the past, we'll present a series of workshops to complement the distinguished speakers."

2003 Symposium

This year's symposium will bring together a large diversified group of professionals from government and the defense industry, representing many career fields: program management, contracting, logistics, engineering, manufacturing, software, and test and evaluation. Also participating will be financial professionals, information technologists,



Senior acquisition executives attending the 2002 DAUAA Acquisition Symposium. From left: Michael Wynne, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics); Frank Anderson Jr., DAU President; and John Phillips, Vice President for After Market Growth, Honeywell.

and senior defense and government executives as well as many distinguished speakers and panelists.

These include Heather Wilson, Congressional Representative, N.M.; Michael Wynne, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; Deidre A. Lee, Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy; Army Gen. Paul Kern, Commanding General, Army Materiel Command; Claude Bolton Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology;

John Young, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research, Development and Acquisition; Dr. Marvin Sambur, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition; Dr. Ronald M. Sega, Director, Defense Research and Engineering; Louis A. Kratz, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics Plans and Programs; Frank Anderson, DAU President; Army Col. Ronald Flom, DAU Commandant; and many others.

The two-day event will provide a wide variety of workshops, seminars, and panels on several relevant topics:

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Suzanne D. Patrick, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Industrial Policy) at the 2002 DAUAA Acquisition Symposium.



- Contracting for Evolutionary Acquisition
- Congressional View on Evolutionary Acquisition
- Performance Based Logistics
- Research and Development and Evolutionary Acquisition

The DAUAA Annual Symposium is a great opportunity to network, to share and promote ideas, and to stay current with acquisition policies.

- Interoperability for the Future Combat System
- DoD Initiatives for Software Productivity
- The Defense-wide Information Assurance Initiative.

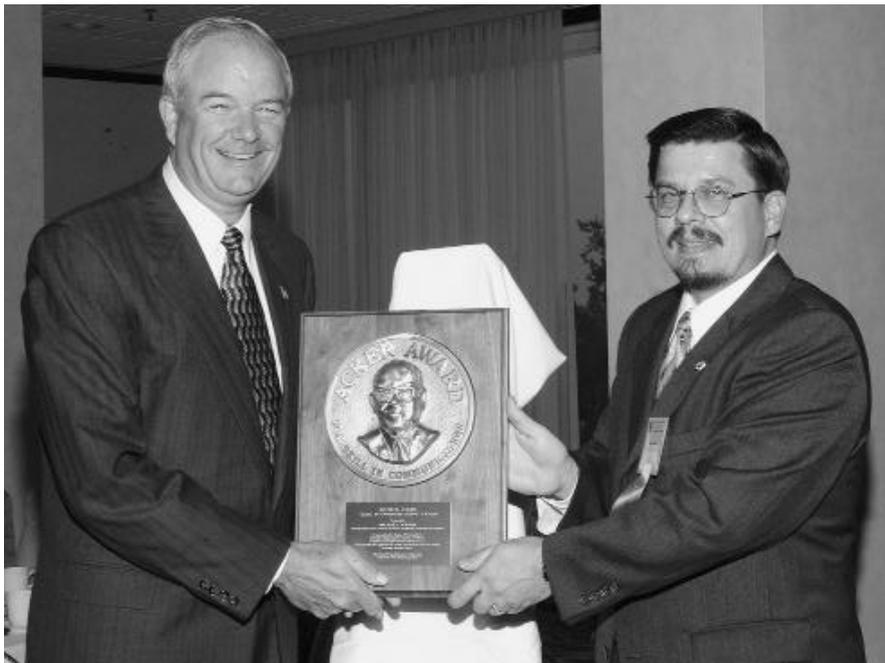
According to DAU Professor Wayne Glass, who is the current DAUAA Vice President for Operations, the symposium is a great opportunity to network, to share and promote

ideas, and to stay current with acquisition policies. "It's all about evolutionary acquisition and spiral development," Glass said. "These concepts are crucial to preserve the ability of systems to adapt to the changing needs of today's acquisition environment. It's all about capability—how to improve and how to sustain."

Other highlights of the annual event will include a special presentation to DAUAA Corporate Sponsors; the Acker Award presentation; a 20th Anniversary cake-cutting ceremony; and a Golf Tournament on June 16, which is a voluntary kick-off event, traditionally held in the afternoon on the day before the symposium.

About the DAUAA

Today, with the membership now over 1,250, the association is headed by Varacalli, an ardent supporter and friend of the Defense Acquisition University. Working closely with Glass, Varacalli runs the association with advice and counsel from elected officers, a board of



Mark Salesky (right), 2001 DAUAA President, presents the David Acker Award for Skill in Communication to Wynne at the 2002 DAUAA Acquisition Symposium.

directors, board of advisers, Service representatives, and a DAU Liaison.

DAUAA Goals

The main goal of the association is to focus on providing value and service to its members, on establishing and maintaining interpersonal networks, and on growing as the primary association of Defense Acquisition Professionals. "The goals for the future depend largely on what our membership tells us is important to them," said Varacalli. "I hope to maintain a continuing dialogue through improvements in our Web site and by working with the DAU regional centers and local chapters."

Of course, within those broad goals, the association has two primary objectives:

- To provide a means for continuing professional growth within the defense acquisition community.
- To promote DAU's reputation as a world-class acquisition learning center.

Corporate Sponsors

One of the greatest successes to date has been getting the Corporate Sponsor program off the ground. This initiative provides the broadest possible outreach in strengthening the partnership between the defense acquisition workforce and the defense industry.

"By becoming a sponsor," Varacalli explained, "companies can help us advance reciprocal learning opportunities, and can participate in developing the government and industry acquisition workforce to meet the accelerating needs of Evolutionary Acquisition." To date, the association has four Corporate Sponsors: Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and Northrop Grumman. Several more companies have indicated intent to become Corporate Sponsors.

Why Join?

DAUAA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

As one of the most significant events organized by DAUAA, and held annually at the DAU Headquarters, Fort Belvoir, Va., the symposium provides opportunities for DAUAA members to learn and

grow professionally. It also emphasizes the importance of networking, sharing knowledge, and learning from other's experiences in meeting the needs of the Continuous Learning workforce.

MONTHLY BROWN-BAG SEMINAR

The Capital Area Chapter (CAC) also sponsors monthly brown-bag seminars with leaders in defense acquisition. The association is also exploring the possibility of sponsoring smaller symposia in conjunction with the DAU regional centers.

"We are working with the DAU regional centers and campuses," said Varacalli, "to organize and support local chapters to enhance the Distributed Learning experience." This could also occur, he added, "at our new local chapters as they are established, as a means of strengthening our acquisition community."

THE ASSOCIATION HOME PAGE

The official DAUAA Web site at <http://www.dauaa.org> provides a source of information for its members and an opportunity to network with other members in the defense acquisition community. "Today, a wealth of information is available from the Internet through extremely powerful search engines," Varacalli noted. "Our mission is to try and focus some of that information for our members and to promote an exchange of ideas. We're far from that goal, and we're seeking input on how we might best succeed."

One of the new items on the DAUAA site is the *Employment Opportunities* link, which posts selected job opportunities available only to association members. The association is also exploring the possibility of a resume or job search feature.

ACCESS TO DAU'S ACKER LIBRARY

The DAU Acker Library supports the curriculum of the DAU and its research in defense acquisition. The library maintains an extensive collection of books, newspapers, and journals in the field of management, with special emphasis on defense systems acquisition management. Full borrowing privileges

DAU Alumni Association— In The Beginning

On Oct. 20, 1983, graduates of many Defense Systems Management College courses met at the College to establish a DSMC Alumni Association. Army Brig. Gen. Benjamin J. Pellegrini, then DSMC Commandant, enthusiastically endorsed the idea and expressed the support of DSMC management. The 60 graduates at the initial meeting received endorsements from many graduates unable to attend.

A draft of the constitution was presented by the organizers for review and comment by attendees. Based on comments received, the constitution was completed and approved by the first Board of Directors of the DSMC Alumni Association on Dec. 9, 1983.

Professor Joanne L. Barreca, a graduate of PMC 83-1 and member of the DSMC Policy and Organization Department faculty, was named the first president. Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Frederick W. Wynn, a graduate of PMC 71-1 (the first class), and later a DSMC faculty member, was the first vice president.

The Alumni Association planned to conduct a symposium annually, normally in June, to discuss changes to the acquisition process and its management as well as DSMC matters. A yearly business meeting of the association would be held in conjunction with the symposium.

By the end of 1985, the membership was approaching 1,000. Today it numbers over 1,250 members.

In 2001, the DSMC Alumni Association (DSMCAA) officially changed its name to the Defense Acquisition University Alumni Association (DAUAA).



Frank Varacalli (second from right), current DAUAA President, accepts a \$2,500 sponsorship check on behalf of DAUAA from Raytheon, DAUAA's first corporate sponsor. The presentation was made during a Defense Industry Training Roundtable, held at DAU Headquarters, Fort Belvoir, Va., on Nov. 20, 2002. Presenting the check is Raytheon representative Curt Newell (second from left). Also participating in the presentation are Frank Swofford (left), DAU Industry Chair; and DAU Professor Bill Bahnmaier (right), who serves as the current Vice President for Membership, DAUAA.

are restricted to current faculty, staff, and students; however, alumni may register for weekend borrowing—a privilege extended to few others.

The library is also available online at <http://library.dau.mil> and is an open Web site, which offers a complete selection in the catalog. Additionally, the site offers helpful library-type services such as help desk, links to the most common databases, learning resource center, and many other library links.

NEWSLETTER

This monthly online publication keeps the association membership informed of current happenings in the acquisition community, current events at the Defense Acquisition University and its Regions, and other activities of interest to members of the organization. Emphasizing the importance of the newsletter, Glass said, "We've started an electronic news update and our focus there is to give our members a 'heads-up' on important events and activities within the acquisition commu-

nity, as well as provide news from DAU Headquarters and regional campuses."

Along these lines, the association is also facilitating the subscription process for *Program Manager* and *Acquisition Review Quarterly*. The DAUAA Web site provides a link to the DAU Web site, where postage-free subscription forms are available at http://www.dau.mil/forms/subscribe_form.pdf.

DAUAA AWARDS PROGRAM

The awards program established by the association is linked to its objectives and recognizes success and initiative in promoting and advancing the acquisition profession. The awards program recognizes three constituencies: the members of the association, the directors who manage its daily affairs, and the broader acquisition community from which the association draws support and to whom it provides support.

The David Acker Award is the most prestigious of the association awards,

and is presented annually to the individual who, in the opinion of the 16 elected directors, has most influenced the course of acquisition innovation and excellence by his or her skill in communication.

The award consists of a bronze full-face relief of David Acker, encircled by a ring bearing the name of the award and the association's name. Recent recipients include: Michael W. Wynne, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (2002); Dr. George R. Schneider, Director, Strategic and Tactical Systems, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (2001); and Chuck Cochrane, Department Chair, Acquisition Policy Department, DSMC (2000).

DAUAA MEMBERSHIP

The *Regular* membership category is open to graduates of all DAU courses (and respective faculties of DAU). The *Associate* membership category is for those in government and industry who are currently serving, or who have previously served, in defense acquisition program management positions, but who do not qualify for Regular membership. More information on becoming a member is available at <http://www.dauaa.org>.

We Invite You to Join

From the Alumni Association's rich beginnings, it has worked hard to provide services that reflect the needs and concerns of acquisition professionals. As described in this article, the DAUAA Annual Symposium is just one of the resources and benefits made available to association members.

You are invited to become a part of this fine organization, and DAUAA is looking forward to seeing all of you at the symposium. In an appeal to current and potential members, Varacalli said, "We need ideas and the energy that new members bring. We're always searching for ways to make the symposia relevant and for committee volunteers to make it happen."