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Battalion Staff

Battalion Commander  MIDN Mickelson
Battalion Executive Officer  MIDN Wessel
Battalion Operations Officer  Midn Smith
Physical Training Instructor  MIDN Pattullo
Adjutant/Academics Officer  Midn Sabath
Logistics/Financial Officer  MIDN Kulas
Assistant Operations Officer  MIDN S. Garces
Platoon Commander  MIDN Brachfeld
Squad Leaders  MIDN J. Garces
MIDN Crabdree
As we finish our last commissioning and cut loose a number of new Ensigns and Second Lieutenants to the Fleet while also sending the remainder of our Midshipmen off to summer training, I send you the best from the world famous NROTC unit here on Northwestern’s beautiful campus in Evanston. It is the end of one journey for our new officers but is the beginning of the next one which I am sure will be a rewarding challenge for them all. I thought my previous article would be my last opportunity to address this audience, but we decided to go for one more edition before I departed the pattern at the end of June for my final tour at the Naval War College as Director, Maritime Advanced Warfighting School. That will be the end of my journey in uniform but hopefully lead to the beginning of my own new journey living the non-uniformed life. I will surely miss my time here as it was as rewarding for me as I hope it was for our Midshipmen. My replacement is CAPT Tom Brasek who is a nuclear-trained surface warfare officer. He will be remarkable.

We continue to thrive as a unit and had our usual busy Spring. I don’t know how the Mids keep up with the combination of academics and their unit requirements, but they always hit the ground running without complaint. The only thing they do express disappointment about is not being able to do more. We kicked things off at the start of the semester with an awards ceremony to celebrate our top achievers from the Fall term. Then it was time for our AMOI Challenge which pits our NU Mids against those at our unit at IIT in series of physical and mental challenges. You readers will be happy to know NU pulled out a squeaker by winning the last event.

The ages old Navy tradition of a Dining-In was held in downtown Chicago with dazzling views of the city. It was a blast and was followed closely by the 20th annual Notre Dame Leadership Conference at which we had a large contingent. This was the highest ranking panel they have ever had with three 4-stars. I encouraged our Mids to ask questions given the opportunity, and they purported themselves well. That was followed by another panel here at NU with members of the Kellogg Veterans Association. Great discussion, and the panel break-out sessions afterward were invaluable.

Then we hit the road for real. First stop was the University of Michigan Drill Meet where our guys and girls were awesome. The Mids performed even better at a Field Training Exercise at the University of Missouri shortly thereafter which was an excellent primer for summer training and OCS. We also had an opportunity to send motivated and capable Midshipmen to a Seal Training Weekend at Notre Dame where they gained valuable knowledge about expectations in the Special Warfare Community. After that marathon of activity, we capped things off with our Spring Review Ceremony where we recognized high achievement and were honored to host a slew of organizations supportive of the unit. In particular, the NU Naval Scholarship Fund broke their own record for grants given to deserving students. We also had our battalion change of command with MIDN 1/C Hannah Brachfeld relieving now ENS Thomas Mickelson.

Our staff will have a few new faces for the Fall semester. As mentioned, I will hit the road with CAPT Brasek taking over. Continuity will flow through CDR Keith “Keebler” Holihan which is appropriate since he does all the real work anyway. LT Phil Dunsford (aviation) as well as LT Graham Van Hook (SWO) will remain, but LT Adrian Lai (subs) will be replaced by LT Alexander Duffy and Capt Daniel Cartica will take over as Marine Officer Instructor from Capt Colin Boynton. MSgt Donald Hughes has fit in perfectly as Asst Marine Officer Instructor and has the Mids hopping. Mr Mike Dalluge still excels on the supply and logistics side, and Mr Tarza Donegan is officially onboard as our Human Resources Assistant and is simply awesome. I am proud of our new officers and current Midshipmen. They are the future of our Navy, and it has been my honor and privilege to have played a part in their development. They are the quality people we will all count on to protect our future, and instead of farming their talents out to the highest bidder, they all chose to serve our nation. I will always value the relationship I’ve enjoyed with them.

So I say good-bye for real this time. All the best to you all and thank you for the support.
It gives me great satisfaction to say that the each midshipman in the Northwestern Battalion has exceeded expectations in academics, physical fitness, and leadership growth. From my perspective, it is obvious to see in our daily activities, at physical training and in Naval Science classes, that everyone is putting forth their very best efforts. The result of this hard work has been a rewarding semester with several highlights that I would like to point out.

Being a very small Battalion with only 21 midshipmen and 2 Marines, allows us the flexibility and opportunity for underclassmen to obtain leadership positions. In fact, sophomores MIDN 3/C Kulas and MIDN 3/C Kearney organized two of our major Battalion events this semester, the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI) Challenge and Dining-In, respectively. Certainly, these team efforts require significant planning and coordination to be executed as smoothly as they were. This further demonstrates just how capable the Battalion as a whole has been throughout the semester. I am particularly pleased with the performance of the 4/C midshipmen who are thriving with the experience of one semester already under their belt. Additionally, the success of the Battalion would not be so without the perseverance, leadership, and proactive approach the Battalion staff members and fellow 1/C have put forth. I am continually impressed and inspired by the talent and work ethic of the students that the Northwestern NROTC unit attracts. It is considerably beneficial to have perspectives from midshipmen at both Northwestern and Loyola University.

The Northwestern Battalion is truly fortunate to have exceptional leadership from the class advisors who go above and beyond their duties of keeping us on track to graduate and commission. All of them have been exceedingly helpful whether they are giving academic advice to 4/C midshipmen or helping the 1/C midshipmen select what ship they will be going to upon commissioning. I am thankful for their continued mentorship and support throughout my 4 years in NROTC. I would also like to thank the Executive Officer, Commander Holihan and the Commanding Officer, Captain Koehr for their significant involvement and advice during our NROTC activities. I will always be grateful for the genuine consideration that all of these individuals have provided and I am excited for the upcoming midshipmen and their future endeavors in the Northwestern NROTC program.
My name is Sergeant Gerald Victa and I was born in Chicago, Illinois in May of 1987. I have a younger sister and am a first-generation American. My family is originally from the Philippines. I grew up on Chicago's north side and graduated from Lane Tech High School in 2005. In 2007, I was fortunate enough to meet the love of my life, my wife Jessica, and we have two amazing boys, Lucas age 8, and Zachary age 2. My family is the most important thing in my life and the Marine Corps has been good to us.

I enlisted into the Marine Corps in 2009 and it has been such a blessing. After Boot Camp at MCRD San Diego, and MCT at Camp Pendleton, I attended my MOS training in 29 Palms, California. From there I earned the MOS 2821 Technical Controller and was sent to 8th Communication Battalion, in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. At 8th Communication Battalion, I was fortunate enough to deploy to Afghanistan in the summer of 2011 and again in the summer of 2013. It was during my second deployment that I was selected for MECEP.

To complete my program as a MECEP, I chose to go to a world class school in a world class city, Loyola University Chicago. I am very impressed with the quality of midshipmen the Chicago NROTC Consortium has to offer and am looking forward to teaching them, as well as learning from them. My goals are to graduate with honors, major in computer science, and earn a flight contract as a Marine Aviator. I know that the Chicago NROTC Consortium, Northwestern Battalion, is the right place to make it happen. Semper fidelis.

Sergeant Sergio Morales

I reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego, CA on 3 September 2008. After completion of boot camp and Marine Combat Training (MCT), I was assigned the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of 6123, CH-53 engine mechanic. My first duty station was Okinawa, Japan and after 18 months on the island, I requested orders for Marine Security Guard (MSG) duty.

While on MSG duty, I was assigned to Geneva, Switzerland; Baghdad, Iraq; and Sao Paulo, Brazil. Each tour was a year long and I was fortunate enough to be a part of the security detail for many important political members: Vice-President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry, and Hilary Clinton. I knew I wanted to become a Marine Officer someday, so I decided to take my opportunity while in Brazil. I submitted a Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Package (MECEP), and was selected for OCS training in June 2014.

Loyola University has been a great experience. I’m majoring in International Business with a minor in Italian, and should be complete by the summer of 2017. My main goals after commissioning are to ensure I become a well-rounded leader at The Basic School (TBS), attain the MOS of 0302-Infantry Officer, and receive orders to a deployable unit in California.
Dining In

MIDN 3/C Lauren Kearney

On a cold Chicago night, the staff and midshipmen of the Chicago Consortium gathered together for the annual Dining-In at Loyola University Chicago’s Water Tower Campus. The night was filled with camaraderie and was an enjoyable experience for everyone who attended. Since Dining-In was held earlier than normal this year, planning began in early November. In the end, it was a very rewarding experience seeing everything come together for the event.

The Officers of the Mess for the night were MIDN 1/C Herras, from the IIT battalion, who was the Madame President of the Mess, and MIDN 1/C Wessel, who was Mr. Vice. Together, they successfully ran the evening’s challenging period. Some of the challenging highlights from this year included a midshipman walking into a sign and another having a sandwich delivered during Dining-In. Mr. Vice, with the help of Mme. President, did a fantastic job of dealing out fines, which were not limited to just drinking grog, a repulsive concoction that left a distinct aftertaste. Some midshipmen were forced to wear breadbaskets as personal protective equipment, while another was forced to say, “You know what I mean, bro?” after every time he addressed the mess.

Following a break, the evening continued with class skits, revelry, and a final fines period for those who broke the Rules of the Mess. More than a few disgruntled midshipmen and staff had to drink several cups of grog. The night ended with a few words from the CO, and everyone left in good spirits. Overall, this past Dining-In was a great event, and I’m excited to see what next year has in store!
Last fall I was given the amazing opportunity to study abroad in Rome, Italy for an entire semester. Before this I had never travelled outside North America and going to Europe for over three months seemed exciting and daunting. Fortunately I had my twin sister with me to share in this experience and be my travel companion. When I first arrived in Rome I was immediately immersed into the Italian culture and many of the differences from American culture became quickly engrained in my mind. I learned that tipping was not normal to do at restaurants, you cannot flag down taxis but you have to flag down the bus and that personal space was a luxury in public areas. Rome was by far one of my favorite places in Europe because I was able to experience the city in its entirety. A cappuccino and cornetto (croissant) in the morning was part of my daily routine and every week I went into the city and studied the works of Michelangelo, Caravaggio, and Bernini for my onsite Art in Rome course. I also was able to learn the Italian language on a conversational level because I used it everyday. I spent much of my trip in Italy and my favorite memories are seeing the Pope at the Papal Audience, cooking with an acclaimed Italian chef, and swimming in the blue grotto at the island of Capri.

Aside from Italy I also travelled to Barcelona, Greece, Prague, Paris, and London. Each place was unique and beautiful in its own right; Barcelona was vibrant and lively, Prague was quaint and old-fashioned, and London was a diverse bustling city. Out of all of them, ten days in Greece was the most memorable trip during my study abroad experience. I studied art history with a group of my peers and toured with our Greek guide who was an art historian as well as a food and wine critic. We visited museums and ancient ruins, explored the cities on our own and every day had a multicourse meal that lasted for many hours and was accompanied by live Greek music and dancing. Ultimately these trips culminated to most enriching experience of my life thus far. My study abroad experience was everything I could have hoped for, filled with learning and adventure.
On 27 and 28 February, 11 Midshipmen and 1 MECEP from the Northwestern and IIT battalions attended the 20th Anniversary Naval Leadership Weekend at the University of Notre Dame. The conference was the largest to date, with almost 170 Midshipmen from over 30 units around the Nation. Midshipmen listened to symposia from some of the most elite leaders in the Navy and Marine Corps, participated in Ethical Decision Games, and had time to spend with midshipmen from other units and get to know one another.

The symposia were given by SgtMaj William Sowers, the Training Command Sergeant Major, Quantico, VA; VADM Jan Tighe, the Commander of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet; Professor Joseph Holt, a distinguished Associate Professional Specialist in the Management Department of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame; ADM William Gortney, the Commander of U.S. Northern Command; RDML Scott Stearney, the Commander of Navy Warfare Development Command; and ADM Michael Rodgers, the Commander of U.S. Cyber Command and Director of the National Security Agency. The Keynote speaker for the conference was ADM Michelle Howard, the first African-American woman to command a ship in the U.S. Navy and current Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

The conference was an incredible opportunity for midshipmen to hear about leadership and developments in technology and warfare in the U.S. Navy. Each speaker gave insight regarding what careers in the Navy entail, the future of the Navy, and how to be effective leaders for our Marines and Sailors. The Ethical Decision Games helped us to understand on how we would deal with complex scenarios that posed ethical dilemmas, and reminded us that we will have to make ethical decisions as leaders in the Navy. Activities such as the Team Building Activities, the barbecue, and MIDRATS allowed midshipmen to network with one another and build relationships with others that we may someday serve with as Officers in the fleet. The conference was very meaningful to me and I felt that I gained a lot from the experience. This was my second time attending the conference and I got just as much, if not more, out of this experience as I did the first time I attended. ADM Howard is one of my greatest role models and she really inspires me. I was fortunate enough to speak with her and to hear how she challenged people to be better, rather than giving simple answers to their questions. I am grateful that I had this opportunity and I hope that I can use this experience to be a better leader and inspire others.
Ship Selection
MIDN 1/C Lucien Wessel

For a Surface Warfare Officer, ship selection is regarded as one of the most anticipated events of one’s career, and as a Naval ROTC midshipman, it establishes the foundational framework for what we aspire to one day be. Upon service selecting as a Surface Warfare Officer, the next step I had to take was deciding on what type of ship I wanted to serve on and where I wanted to live. However, once I came to the decision that I wanted to serve onboard a destroyer out of San Diego, California, I knew there was a possibility that I would not select my first choice. The reason being that ship selection is similar to the NFL draft, where you are ranked amongst your peers (in our case nationally), and based on the subsequent standing, you can choose any available ship you want. Knowing this information, I knew that I had to prepare to select another class of ship in a different homeport. When the finalized national rankings were released, it was officially game on! I had about two weeks to research and prioritize my top ship choices. With the help of my classmate and fellow first-class midshipman, Thomas Mickelson, we searched for any piece of information that would give us insight as to what ships are in the yards, deployed, or those that will deploy. Piece by piece, we constructed our ship lists, and when they were done, we had our top choices set and ready to go. I was designated to select on the first day, Wednesday, February 26th, at high noon, and with my top three ships in place (USS Spruance, USS William P. Lawrence, and USS Wayne E. Meyer), I was ready. Finally, it was decision day, and with selection beginning at 10:00 AM sharp, I eagerly watched those in front of me pick their first ship. Initially, I was not nervous, for I thought I would get one of my top ten ships (all destroyers) out of San Diego, but as the clock rang closer and closer to 12:00 PM, the nerves started to settle in. As the 11:00 AM block concluded, there were good number of the ships on my list taken, but there was still one billet left open on my first choice, the USS Spruance (DDG 111). With three people in front of me, I was sure the Spruance billet would get filled for two reasons: it has a high hull number (indicating a newer ship), and it’s based in San Diego (a presumably popular homeport). Nevertheless, as the clock ticked past 12 and one by one those in front of me picked, the last billet on the USS Spruance remained open! As I sat at my advisor’s desk, the call came in, and upon answering the phone I made my final decision. I selected the USS Spruance (DDG 111) out of San Diego, California. The following day, MIDN Mickelson selected the USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) out of Norfolk, Virginia. The ship selection process was both an exciting and anxious time, for we had just decided the next two years of our lives. We are thrilled to be a part of such great ships and are prepared to enter the fleet, ready to learn, and as Admiral Spruance once said, “Launch the attack!”

MIDN Wessel answers the phone to select his ship!
Northwestern NROTC hosted this year’s AMOI Challenge on 7 February 2015. I was to plan this event from start to finish, and it was no small task. It required a great amount of planning and coordination at all levels of the battalion. The goal was to design an event that would encourage camaraderie and competition between the two units, and also to build teamwork within our respective battalions. I worked closely with Midn Frank at IIT, and together we chose events that would be both fun and competitive: soccer, basketball, flag football, and dodgeball. The final event, tug-of-war, was added in by the two AMOI’s from each unit.

The event kicked off with soccer and there was definitely a competitive spirit in the air. Both teams walked away with two wins, and consequently the event remained tied. Up next was flag football and the intensity reached an all time high. IIT ultimately took the event after a very close match up. Following flag football were basketball, dodgeball and tug-of-war. NU took all three events, but not without fierce resistance from IIT.

After the conclusion of the events, both units moved over to Leona’s restaurant in Roger’s Park where we all shared stories from both the day and from days past to catch up. Our counterparts at IIT are a great group to compete with. All in all, the event achieved its purpose and should prove to be just as exciting next year!
Interview with a Northwestern NROTC Alumni

Interviewed by MIDN 2/C Hannah Brachfeld

Recently, I had the privilege to speak with CAPT Brian Quin, Executive Officer of the USS Essex, LHD-2. CAPT Quin graduated and commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer through Northwestern University NROTC in 1991. He shared his experiences as a midshipman in NROTC and as an experienced officer who’s commanded multiple surface ships. He had a wealth of knowledge and advice to share.

CAPT Quin graduated with approximately 45 other midshipmen who commissioned into the Navy and Marine Corps alongside him, and was part of a battalion of 200 midshipmen. The “life long friends that you make through the program,” are unparalleled and he even mentioned plans to meet one of his classmates the day following our interview.

CAPT Quin thoroughly enjoyed his college experience. “It was a blending of a lot of different worlds, seeing people in different environments, etc. That to me is the Northwestern experience, the multidimensional aspect at Northwestern.”

At the time when CAPT Quin was looking at colleges he was swayed towards Northwestern. “CAPT Gulliver mastered the art of recruiting folks, it was specifically because of the letters he sent me while I was in high school, the phone calls the midshipmen made, and when it came to deciding on colleges, that was the deciding factor. It came down to where I thought I would have a better experience, and that was Northwestern because of what [CAPT Gulliver] did.” The amount of energy spent reaching out to him as an incoming freshman did not go unnoticed and ultimately made his decision to choose Northwestern that much easier.

Even though Northwestern University’s NROTC unit has shrunk to about one tenth of the size of the battalion CAPT Quin was a part of, the similarities are still seen in the sense of community and friendship that is present no matter what size the unit.

I asked CAPT Quin if he could lend some light on balancing personal life with the demands of the Navy and life at sea. “Take care of yourself mentally and morally. If you can’t take care of yourself, you can’t take care of your family. Take care of yourself first, then take care of your family.”

CAPT Quin stressed that he wanted his sailors to make sure they take care of their family so that all their focus can be on the mission once they cross the USS Essex’s quarterdeck.

“When you cross that brow, I need you to be 100% Essex. And if something is wrong at home or something is wrong with you, you’re physically present, but mentally absent. I’d rather have you taking care of what’s stressing you out, so that when you do get back to work you’re 100% on board and contributing to the team.”

As future division officers, we need to make sure we are always looking out for our people. CAPT Quin discussed the culture he builds among his own sailors, “a culture where you pay it forward. Once you get that culture going, it becomes self-perpetuating.” Everyone has “three priorities, self, family, ship. Once you cross the brow, its ship, shipmate, self.”

Building a community where people can ask for help and help is willingly offered is important to ensure that the culture among sailors promotes teamwork and that the mission is carried out with motivation and focus.

Northwestern NROTC commissioned three ensigns and one second lieutenant this May. I asked what CAPT Quin’s advice for the four of them as they enter the fleet would be, and for the rising 1/C who would be entering the fleet in one short year. His answer was simple and, to me, very honest. He said first, to “work hard, but don’t lose your personality. Because in this job, your personality and
that excitement that you have for what you do is so crucial to being able to enjoy it. This needs to be a labor of love.”

His second piece of advice was “don’t be afraid to do more than is required. Finding those innovative ways to ensure that you are developing your own sense of, first a proficiency, then a mastery of those basic qualifications.”

CAPT Quin’s final piece of advice for the new officers stressed the importance of knowing what is expected of you as a new ensign and that the leadership of whatever ship you are going to owes you those expectations.

Those expectations will ensure that the new Ensign can learn what he or she needs to quickly and not waste time trying to figure out what he or she is supposed to be doing. “Bring your personality, work hard, and if you’re not given those expectations, ask for those expectations up front and be relentless in pursuing them until you understand them and until your chain of command understands that you understand them.”

His advice for the other midshipmen currently in the program was to “learn. Learn the nuances.” He also described a ladder of leadership. It describes a different type of leadership for each year of ROTC:

- 4/C Leadership: “Self Leadership: Can I get myself out of bed? Can I get myself to drill on time? Can I pivot where I need to pivot?”
- 3/C Leadership: “the notion of peer leadership: How do you cooperate with your peers to get things done?”
- 2/C Leadership: “The notion of assistive leadership: How do I help that 1/C provide leadership to a larger group of people?”
- 1/C Leadership: “Learning and executing directive leadership: How do I direct people in what to do?”

“A lot of times people think leadership is only that directive leadership, the 1/C is the leader, but in reality all four years are exercising those different levels of leadership. And that’s mimicked in the fleet.”

ROTC enables midshipmen to learn each of these leadership steps and build off of each one. “As soon as you are commissioned you are expected to exercise all four levels in varying contexts, simultaneously.”

It is an easy way to look at the ROTC program and see exactly how it is preparing officers for the fleet. It is a training environment where we are able to learn the nuances and go through things slowly, so that we are ready to put it all together when we get to the fleet.

Lastly, CAPT Quin wanted to mention the NROTC Scholarship fund. “I encourage any alumni to do it, my family has made it a part of our annual giving plan and we’re grateful to be able to do that and give back.”

The NROTC scholarship fund means so much to the midshipmen who receive it and the midshipmen are so grateful that our Northwestern alumni are so generous, not only financially, but with their time and support, as CAPT Quin was in offering to do this interview. Thank you to CAPT Quin as well as all our other donors and alumni for their continued support.
Field Training Exercise
Midn 1/C Alan Smith

After traveling six hours to Columbia, MO, Northwestern NROTC Midshipmen were ready to apply the training they received in the classroom to the field environment. Each Midshipman had their opportunity to participate in an endurance run, night land navigation, hike, and patrols. The participants were faced with adversity and were challenged mentally and physically in order to be prepared for Officer Candidate School and The Basic School.

Upon arriving at the training site, tents were set up, gear was put on, and Midshipmen began a 3.5 mile race in full cammies with their weapon and other gear. After the intense run Midshipmen immediately were given classes to brush up on the skills they would be using shortly. Once these classes were finished, Midshipmen grabbed their writing gear and proceeded to conduct night land navigation. The night concluded with a warning order for the following day’s patrols. A few hours later the Midshipmen were woken up to conduct a four mile hike with all their gear. Exhausted after only a few hours of sleep and the physical strain, Midshipmen stepped off for the next nine hours of patrols. The Midshipmen were given different missions and scenarios in order to defeat the enemy. After a long day of applying their skills, the midshipmen finished with a team building activity.

The day concluded with two motivated guest speakers, a Sergeant Major and a Major. Each of these men gave wise advice to the FTX participants and ended the training on a good note. The weekend of training built comradery among all the ROTC units present and allowed the Midshipmen to gain valuable experience they can take with them to OCS and TBS.

Seal Training Weekend
MIDN 3/C Pattullo

On 24APR2015, two Northwestern MIDN, MIDN Kulas and MIDN Pattullo, traveled to Notre Dame for the annual SEAL Training Weekend. This new training program is designed to give NROTC MIDN a taste of the SEAL community that is often not experienced until the selection process, as well as allow MIDN who are interested in the Special Warfare Community to network with like-minded individuals. This training program is lead by CAPT Dave Morrison (USN Ret.) and Master Chief Chuck Williams (USN Ret.), two retired Navy SEALs in charge of training in Little Creek, Virginia. They provided the attending MIDN with an experienced and highly respected perspective on the SEAL community. For Northwestern MIDN, where there is absolutely zero exposure to the SEAL community, this experience is invaluable.

MIDN Pattullo and MIDN Kulas arrived on the 24th, starting the weekend off with a Physical Screening Test and an introduction class session. After a night at the Sacred Heart Parish, the MIDN began the day with breakfast at 0600 and a two hour SEAL Grinder PT at 0700. Throughout the day were an array of swim workouts, SEAL workouts, and swim training, with a few class sessions scattered throughout. They wrapped the weekend up with a dinner social on the 25th, and a four-hour swim training session on the 26th. This experience has allowed MIDN Kulas and MIDN Pattullo to train with experienced SEALs and like-minded MIDN across the Midwest, assisting them in their endeavors to become US Navy SEALs.
The drill team stands at right shoulder arms waiting for their next command.

As sleeves were rolled, trousers pressed, covers starched, and boots shined into the evening of Friday, 10 April 2015, there were two palpable emotions running wild through the NU NROTC Battalion: nervousness and excitement. Both feelings were to be expected on the eve of competition for good reason. For the overwhelming majority of the current fourth-class midshipmen, this was to be the first multi-team military competition they had the opportunity to participate in. For the third through first-class midshipmen, this was an opportunity to redeem themselves after being less than pleased with the results of the previous year.

Well before the sun rose on Saturday, April 11, 2015, a myriad of alarm clocks rang and an entire Battalion of midshipman sprang from their beds. By 0700 the events had been briefed and the second annual University of Michigan Drill Competition was in full tilt. As the day progressed, it became increasingly clear that Northwestern University NROTC was rising to the occasion. Although the competition was fierce, the many hours spent preparing for all the events was paying dividends.

After a grueling 8-mile course, Northwestern’s first endurance team placed third out of six competing teams with a final time of 2 hours 47 minutes under the tenacious leadership of midshipman third class Philip Kulas. Northwestern’s second endurance team composed of four Marine option midshipmen, finished at fourth place under the capable direction of midshipman first class Alan Smith. The NU Squad Drill Team placed third out of six competing teams, with myself as Drill Commander. I also received an individual score placing second as unit commander. The NU Color Guard Team placed second, receiving a trophy under the command of midshipman third class Michael Yi.

This marked improvement from the previous year’s competition demonstrates that NU NROTC is clearly on the road to success and looks forward to future competitions. A special thanks must be given to the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, Master Sergeant Don Hughes, for his instrumental role in preparing for the competition. Overall it was a rewarding competition and NU NROTC looks forward to compete at Michigan again. Hooyah!
The Northwestern Color Guard, commanded by MIDN 3/C Yi, placed second at this years competition. Way to go color guard!

Northwestern competed in the competition with two endurance teams, finishing 3rd and 4th!

Midn 4/C George led the drill team to success. He also placed 2nd overall for calling drill.

After months of early mornings and long practices, the drill team was finally able to compete and all their hard work paid off as they took 3rd place!
This year’s Commission took place at Loyola University Chicago on 06 MAY 2015. Four first-class midshipmen took the Oath and committed their service to the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

ENS Bailey Day is from Portland, Oregon. She graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. During her four years as a midshipman of NROTC Northwestern University, ENS Day served as Battalion Photographer, Academics Officer, Adjutant, Logistics Officer, Financial Officer, and Battalion Commander. ENS Day will be reporting to Balboa Hospital at Naval Medical Center in San Diego, California.

ENS Thomas Mickelson is from San Diego, California. He graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Economics. During his four years as a midshipman of NROTC Northwestern University, ENS Mickelson served as Platoon Commander, Physical Training Instructor, Battalion Operations Officer, and Battalion Commander. ENS Mickelson will be reporting to USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) as a Surface Warfare Officer out of Hampton Roads, Virginia.

2nd Lieutenant Alan Smith is from Ottawa, Illinois. He graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. During his four years as a midshipman of NROTC Northwestern University, he served as Squad Leader, Drill Commander, Platoon Commander, Battalion Executive Officer, and Operations Officer. 2nd Lieutenant Smith will be reporting to Quantico, Virginia as a student at The Basic School.

ENS Wessel is from Green Oaks, Illinois. He graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in History. During his three years as a midshipman of NROTC Northwestern University, he served as Squad Leader, Assistant Operations Officer, Adjutant, Academics Officer, Platoon Commander, and Battalion Executive Officer. ENS Wessel will be reporting to the USS Spruance (DDG 111) in San Diego, California as a Surface Warfare Officer.
Words from Alumni
Alumni of Northwestern NROTC are spreading throughout the United States and the world. Here are some of the latest updates!

Jules F. Scott- ’41: “One of my WWII ships, USS Texas, is being renovated as a tourist attraction. They sent me a piece of teak decking with a side plate holding two original rivets – Very Nice! It’s on my desk. I’m still waiting for some recognition for my more than 5 years (4 at sea) service to U.S., from N.U. (In vain, I’m afraid.) (I got my medals from the Navy and MacArthur.) (5/15)

Clement T. Duffy- ’47: “Still working full time at age 89! Just returned from 2 weeks at my condo in Palm Springs, CA. I have over 150 senior clients who rely on me for Medicare Supplement Insurance.” (5/15)

Donald R. Fraser- ’56: “Great program. Wish we could send more.” (5/15)

Michael G. Barbour- ’58: “Retirement suits us just fine. We enjoy Little League Baseball with our grandsons in VA and the pool and beaches with our granddaughters in FL.” (5/15)

Ronald G. Hoopes- ’58: “My wife, Lori, and I have moved to Oak Hammock at the University of Florida, a continuing care retirement community in Gainesville, Florida.” (5/15)

Richard A. McAdoo- ’68: “Aviation Operations and Safety consultant. Mostly FAA but some domestic and international carriers as well.” (1/15)

Mark T. Brown- ’74: “Captain Mark T. Brown, SC, USN (Ret.) is living in Southern California and working for the Aerospace Corporation supporting DOD’s space programs.” (5/15)


Christopher Vittorio- ‘09: “Christopher Vittorio is stationed in Norfolk doing a shore tour.” (1/15)
Looking back at the twenty-eight year history of the Naval R.O.T.C. Scholarship Fund, it is remarkable how far we’ve come in such a short time. We started out small because we had to, but we’ve grown into a significant contributor to the well-being of the midshipmen of the Northwestern NROTC Unit. Bob and Maryann Seery dreamed up the idea of a Scholarship Fund, and brought a few of Bob’s pals from his days in the NROTC program onboard to serve as a board of directors. I doubt that they had any idea back then that it would become what it is today. I say that we started out small because the first solicitations for the Fund only went out to Bob’s NROTC class of 1945. It wasn’t until later in that first year that the original board of directors decided to expand the solicitations to all of the alumni of the NROTC Unit.

With the help of the NU Alumni Relations office, we began putting together a roster of the Unit’s alumni, and sending out solicitation letters to those whose addresses we knew. The generation of an accurate alumni roster took time while we sorted out some names that didn’t belong on the roster and some names that were inexplicably missing. Today, we think we have an accurate roster of names, but we’re always missing a few addresses. The roster, as we know it, is posted on your alumni website at www.nu-nrotc.org. Let us know if you have suggestions for improving the accuracy of the roster. One problem we have today in maintaining the roster is that people move without telling us. So, we also have a Lost Alumni List on the website. If you see yourself listed there or know the whereabouts of anyone on that list, let us know.

With only a couple of exceptions, all of the first year’s donations to the Scholarship Fund came from members of the class of 1945. They were generous donations, and they allowed the Fund to make the first scholarship award of $500 to a single midshipman at the Spring Review in 1989... nearly two years after the Fund became a reality. Compare that to where we are today, having just announced awards totaling $50,000 divided among ten NU NROTC midshipmen for the coming academic year. Yes, you read that right. $50,000 will be awarded beginning in the Fall of 2015. It seems like just a few years ago that we were proud to announce a grand total of $30,000 in awards, and then we grew to $40,000 in awards. This new level of awards is certainly a milestone for the Scholarship Fund, but it is only sustainable with the continuing generosity of the alumni and friends of the NROTC Unit.

In the early years of the Scholarship Fund, most of the donations came from the alumni of the Unit who served in World War II. The “war-years” veterans, many of whom went back as far as the original NROTC class of 1930, got the Fund off to a great start. But, sadly, many of those alumni are no longer with us. Those early classes of the NROTC Unit were among the largest in the Unit's history, but their numbers are rapidly diminishing. Today, we’re receiving donations from all the alumni classes, and that is what allows the Fund to do its work. You may think that your donation doesn't really matter, but it does. The sum total of all donations throughout the year is gratifying and important.

When you receive our semi-annual solicitation letters, give some thought to where the Scholarship Fund fits in with your charitable giving program. We don't want to see midshipmen go on to graduation and commissioning with nagging college debts hanging over them. Yes, most of these students have NROTC scholarships, but they have other expenses that aren't covered by their scholarships. If we can, we should help them to go into military service debt-free. We don't solicit for donations in the Crow's Nest, but we do accept all tax-deductible contributions sent to the Scholarship Fund at 14197 Classique Way, San Diego, CA 92129.

Many thanks for your support in the past and for your consideration in the future.
Missing Alumni

We have lost track of the following NROTC Unit alumni. If you know the whereabouts of anyone listed here, or if you know that someone listed here is deceased, please pass that information to Captain Gulliver at 1900 Franklin Dr. Glenview, IL 60026 or vicgulliver@comcast.net

Lost Alumni from the 1940’s:
Mr. Robert J. Gerhardt ‘42
Mr. Robert W. Liess ‘43
Mr. Edward W. Ruehrwein ‘44
Mr. Herbert E. Blaz ‘45
Mr. Joseph F. Carroll ‘45
Mr. Guy D. Randolph ‘45
Mr. William P. Roessner ‘45
Mr. Theodore K. Chamberlain ‘46
Mr. Lawrence R. Eades ‘46
Mr. Robert C Stevens ‘46
Mr. Edward N. Brown, II ‘47
Mr. William B. Keepin ‘47
Mr. Jack T Kroner ‘47

Lost Alumni from the 1950’s:
Mr. Paul Colen ‘50
Mr. Richard S. Spector ‘50
Mr. Robert V. Morse ‘51
Mr. Richard W. Walker ‘52
Mr. Stanley J. Karp ‘53
LCDR G. Allan West, SC, USNR (Ret.) ‘53
Mr. Leland E. Anderson ‘54
Mr. John E. Arms ‘54
Mr. Grigsby V. Gamble ‘54
Mr. Albert Ottaviano ‘54
Mr. Donald P. Brown ‘55
Mr. Carl C. Dietz ‘55
Mr. Peter E. Gilles ‘55
Mr. John E. Barnes, III ‘58
Mr. Richard F. Craig ‘58
MAJ Frank L. Capin ‘59
Mr. Ronald Lovitt ‘59
Mr. Gerald D. Reed ‘59

Lost Alumni from the 1960’s:
Mr. Brooks F. Smith, Jr. ‘60
Mr. Richard F. Ingram ‘61
Mr. David L. Marks ‘61
Mr. Tommy E. McPherson ‘61
Mr. James R. Michael ‘62
Mr. Robert I. Packman ‘62
CAPT Timothy A. Lamphier ‘63
Mr. James R. Oreilly ‘64
Mr. Ronald C. Wilkinson ‘64
CAPT Thomas W. Crew, II ‘66
Mr. Joseph C. Davis ‘67
Mr. Robert A. Shearer ‘67
Mr. Richard J. Both ‘68
Mr. Harry R. Hebblewhite ‘68
Mr. James D. Montgomery, Jr. ‘68
Mr. Walter N. Gregory ‘69
Mr. Robert W. Thompson ‘69

Lost Alumni from the 1970’s:
Mr. Tom E. Mitchell ‘70
Mr. Steven R. Weisbrod ‘70
Mr. Graham R. De Vey ‘71
Mr. George W. Roope, III ‘71
Mr. Richard P. Welch ‘72
Mr. Kevin A. Yancy ‘79

Lost Alumni from the 1980’s:
Mr. Christopher Hagen ‘84
Mr. David E. Perko ‘89
Mr. Christopher A. Solee ‘89
Mrs. Susan J. Sorkin Toher ‘89

Lost Alumni from the 1990’s:
Mr. Israel Harden ‘95

Lost Alumni from the 2000’s:
LCDR Erica Sutherland ‘01
Mr. Mitchell K. Hall ‘05

Lost Alumni from the 2010’s:
1stLt. Brian S. Giaretta ‘13