

NORTHWESTERN NROTC



FALL 2019

EDITED BY MIDN
MADDOX

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Honor, Courage, Commitment



News from the Bridge

Reflections by Captain Christopher Adams, Commanding Officer



Given all that has been accomplished by Northwestern University NROTC this academic year so far, it really seems hard to believe that the battalion reformed after summer training less than only three months ago. Since then, the calendar has been kept full with such events as the NU Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Ceremony, our multi-service AMOI challenge event, the 2019 (and initial) Chicago Geopolitical Symposium (co-hosted by the U.S. Navy League of Chicago and the NU Departments of Naval and Political Science), our alumni tailgate event (which inclement weather prompted into becoming a house party), and our annual Military Ball...and those were just the events we executed on Saturdays! I hope you enjoy the articles in this issue written by our midshipmen that recount and highlight the meaning they found in many of these events. I also want to take a moment to express our gratitude to the many senior Navy leaders who contributed their time and resources toward the success of the unit this quarter/semester.

On 24 October we were very fortunate to have Vice Admiral Lisa Franchetti ('85), Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet, address NU and IIT midshipmen and staff at lab during the same week in which she was awarded the Northwestern Alumni Medal. She also attended the aforementioned Alumni Tailgate/House Party, together with Rear Admiral Darse Crandall ('84), Deputy JAG, and NU President Schapiro, making the event a truly memorable one. We were then honored to host Chicago native and very recently retired Admiral Mike Rogers (Auburn NROTC '81 and now Senior Fellow and Adjunct Professor at Kellogg) as a guest speaker at our Naval Science Lab the following week. Finally, Rear Admiral Jim McManamon (retired -'80) continued his generous sponsorship of midshipmen into the U.S. Naval Institute again this year, gifting 29 memberships across the Consortium.

Since the last edition we have welcomed a new XO onboard - CDR Matt Gray has come to us from TACRON 12 in San Diego where he had operated across the Pacific as a detachment Officer-in-Charge. Sadly, we also bid farewell to CDR Eric Vosler, who has been such a huge part of NU NROTC's success over the past 3 years as he wrapped up a deeply meaningful 27-year career as a leader in our Navy. Looking forward, my relief has been both identified and approved for faculty appointment; we anticipate Captain Bob Klaszky (IIT NROTC '92 - currently Commodore of Coastal Riverine Group TWO) will arrive sometime after NU graduation and commissioning this summer. As this may turn out to be my last contribution to the Crow's Nest, I just want to say thank you to all NU NROTC alumni for the outstanding support you have provided the unit during the past three years. I would ask you to continue to do the same as Bob comes on line, but I also know there's really no need to ask because IT IS WHAT YOU DO! Thanks again and please remember that your first wardroom at 617 Haven Street remains open for a free cup of coffee (and sea stories) anytime you might find yourself back in Evanston.

Battalion Commander Reflection

Midshipman Lauren McDonnell



It was a very humbling experience to serve as the Northwestern NROTC Battalion Commander this past Fall, especially as I reflect upon my past four years in this unit. I came into this unit as a Navy option college programmer. To be honest, NROTC was not something I wanted to pursue during high school – it took a great push from my parents to apply and enter into the unit. However, shortly after completing New Student Orientation, and having a few weeks of the typical NROTC schedule under my belt, I soon saw that NROTC, and this unit in particular, would develop me in ways I could not have on my own. I also came to realize that no other club, sorority, or extracurricular activity, could develop me comparably – nor would they provide the honor of serving our country. Much has changed since my freshman year. I am grateful and humbled to say that I am a scholarship Marine option midshipman. I could never have imagined that I would be the Battalion Commander when I started NROTC in August 2016, but here I am!

Although our unit is small, consisting of twenty-four midshipmen, it gives all of us the unique opportunity to grow much closer and know each other on a much more personal level than you would find in a bigger unit. At the beginning of the semester I laid out my expectations to the midshipmen: be respectful, be responsible, and be resilient. And to my staff midshipmen, I asked that we always strive to excel at effective communication and organization. Reflecting on this past semester, I am confident that every midshipmen in our unit will one day become a great leader of our nation. To the 4/C – Congratulations! You are half-way to completing your first year, which is arguably the hardest year in NROTC.

To the 3/C and 2/C – I am looking forward to what your future careers in the Navy entail. You have all come a long way from starting freshmen year and you have been prime examples of what competent midshipmen are; thank you for being examples of someone to look up to. And finally to my fellow 1/C – We did it! I am so grateful to each of you and the way you have impacted and educated me over the last four years. Here's to Commissioning!

I would be remiss to not recognize the gentlemen who keep the unit running. I have encountered many Marines, Naval Officers and Sailors over the past four years. Their leadership and dedication to the midshipmen and betterment of the unit are unparalleled. The midshipmen and I owe much, if not all of where we are today to the active duty staff who work exceptionally hard to develop each midshipmen mentally, morally, and physically.

As I depart for Rome, Italy to study abroad for my final semester, it is exciting but also sad as I have completed my final semester of NROTC. I thought I would be overjoyed to not have the 0450 wake ups and cold PT mornings. But as I completed my final PT session, my final naval science lab, and my final naval science class, my feelings were bittersweet. I felt both sad and greatly gratified. I am sad that I no longer have the opportunity of looking forward to seeing the same people almost every day. I am eternally grateful, however, for the past four years in this program as they tremendously exceeded all of my expectations. But, I have also come to the realization that the best years are yet to come, and they will be filled with great challenges, rewards, and, of course, great people.

Something so great about this unit, and the greater Navy and Marine Corps, is that it is big enough to bring people together from all walks of life, but small enough where you know a goodbye will never be a true goodbye. I have met amazing people in my time here at Northwestern NROTC. I am very sad to be departing, but eternally grateful for my experience. I am a better person because of this unit – I owe it, and the people that make it up, to who I am today, and where I am going in the future.

Summer Cruise Reflections

1/C Cruise by MIDN Daniel Witte

For my First Class cruise this summer, I had the fortune of traveling to Lemoore, CA to join up with Strike Fighter Squadron 94- the Mighty Shrikes. My first impression of Lemoore was rather poor. It's incredibly hot in the summer and the surrounding cattle lots give off an unpleasant odor. However, its central location in California makes it an ideal hub for exploring the rest of the state- I was never more than a 4-hour drive from places like San Diego, Yosemite National Park, and Monterey.



NAS Lemoore's location in the Central Valley also affords its pilots some of the best flying in the country, as it's close to the training ranges in the deserts and canyons of the the California/Nevada border. I had the chance of a lifetime to experience this first-hand in my ride-along in the F/A-18F Super Hornet. Before flying in the Hornet, I understood that fighters were built for speed at a conceptual level, but I had no idea what it actually meant until we took off at full afterburner. The pilot did his best to show me the full spectrum of the Hornet's capabilities- we went through basic fighter maneuvers, aerobatics, and extreme low level flying. Despite my total lack of experience with g-forces and such high speeds, it was truly an amazing experience that I hope to replicate in my future career.

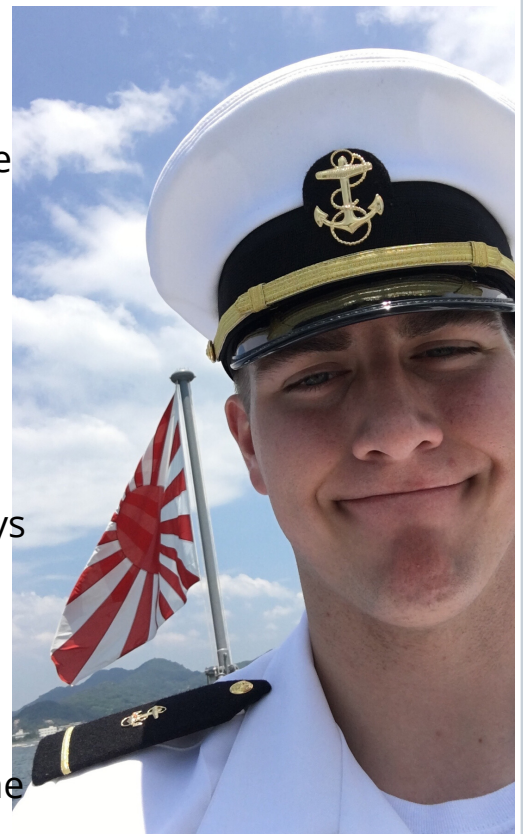
1/C Cruise by MIDN James Belleque

Getting off a flight and wandering bleary eyed through a foreign airport wasn't a new experience but disorienting nonetheless. Luckily for a lost and confused midshipman like myself, a Chief immediately identified me as such and helped make sure I was squared away. The rest of the transit to USS Shiloh, our home while in Yokosuka, was uneventful. The next couple days we were introduced to Japan through the Area Orientation Briefs and Intercultural Relations, including a trip to Kamakura. Finally, the afternoon came when we were handed over to our counterparts in the JMSDF. After settling into the JS Shimakaze, we went out with our Japanese running mates to bond over food and drink. The next morning we were up early to man rails as we departed Yokosuka for the Maritime OCS at Eta Jima. We spent two days at sea being walked through a variety of drills and events aboard the underway ship. Finally we pulled into Eta Jima and said farewell to the crew of the Shimakaze. Ashore we were squared away in the MOCS barracks and greeted by the Superintendent. At MOCS they have a museum of Japanese Naval traditions, including artifacts of Admiral Lord Nelson, John Paul Jones, and Admiral Togo. We then received training in both judo and kendo before cleaning up for a dinner party with the local USN FAO assigned as an English professor who graciously opened his home to us.

The next day was our ICR to Hiroshima. We visited shrines, and then the Peace Museum and Dome commemorating the use of the atomic bomb in the closing of WWII. As an American submarine officer candidate, it was a powerful and reflective experience.

After observing morning calisthenics and morning pass and review the next day, we said farewell to our Japanese running mates. We took a bullet train back to Yokosuka, and the next few days we visited Tokyo on ICR, including a baseball game and some excellent food.

Finally it was time to leave Japan. FOREX was a fantastic experience that not only made and strengthened connections on the micro but also the macro level, and I would recommend it to any underclassmen coming up in the program.

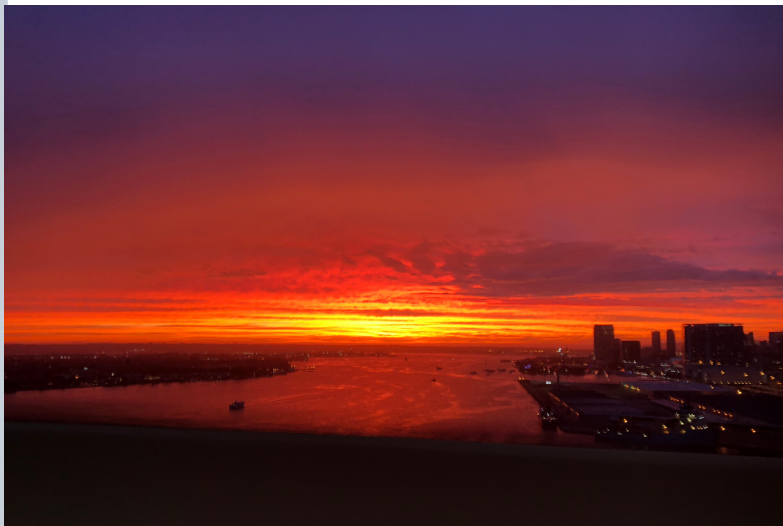


2/C Cruise by MIDN Nicolas Aguilar

Last summer, I had the great opportunity to experience life aboard a ship with the Surface Warfare community. I arrived at Naval Base San Diego in July and reported to U.S.S. Decatur (DDG 73), my new home for the next month. As the ship was in port undergoing a post-deployment maintenance phase, there was a lot of work to be done, and my assignment to the Combat Guns division had me busy from the first day. The ship's command was determined that we learned as much about Fleet life as possible, so I stood watches with my enlisted running mate and was assigned to a duty section. I learned how to complete maintenance reports, take inventories, simulate a missile defense scenario, and I watched a team of Gunner's Mates operate the 5" gun. The ship being in port provided me with the chance to learn a lot about the enlisted Sailor's experience, and I learned much about their jobs, if only because I could be trusted not to break every system I touched while they weren't in use.



My time aboard the Decatur was not spent solely in port. We were able to go to sea for three days in order for the crew to maintain their qualifications, and during that time I was able to observe the practice of many of the ship's mission sets. From helicopter deck landing qualifications to torpedo evasion drills, we spent three days working at improving the crew's ability to handle any mission it might be called upon to complete. It was a lot of fun, and I was able to pick up a lot from the crew, both officer and enlisted, about what it takes to stay on top of mission readiness.



New Student Indoctrination

By MIDN 4/C Noah Seth

Since its founding in 1926, Northwestern University NROTC, like all NROTC units founded after it, has conducted its own orientation process for its 4/C midshipmen: but the quality of the Navy's new 4/C midshipmen should not depend on the quality and quantity of resources available to each midshipman's NROTC unit. With this in mind, Naval Service Training Command, under the command of RDML Jamie Sands, has established a common training program and curriculum for all 4/C midshipmen, New Student Indoctrination (NSI). By leveraging the resources, staff, and training facilities at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, IL, the Navy hopes to expose each of their midshipmen to the skills that they will need to operate and eventually lead in the fleet. Instruction includes several hours of Marine Corps Drill, basic firefighting, M9 weapons qualifications, line handling, as well as lectures on military customs and courtesies, Naval history, naval warfighting communities, and discussions of leadership, Navy core values, and ethics.





The most significant and memorable part of this experience was by far the intensity of the training environment and the professionalism of the staff. All midshipmen candidates from across the country are assigned to unisex companies of ~150 of their peers, and are at all times challenged to maintain their bearing, discipline, and retention of skills learned in classroom lectures and drill under constant pressure from their instructors, including their Gunnery Sergeant, two Chief Petty Officers, their company commander, and a cadre of fifteen 2/C Marine Option and 1/C Naval Option midshipmen who act both as instructors and practice their leadership styles as they prepare to enter the fleet.

With mornings beginning with constant shouting, colorful language, PT at 0530 and well scheduled with several training evolutions and examinations, there is little room for comfort or rest during the day. Several times I found myself embracing the suck, pushing through discomfort during PT or drill despite nights with little sleep after preparing for uniform inspections or teaching sleeve rolling techniques to my fellow midshipmen, hoping to prevent the well-deserved and creative criticism from our instructors for not mastering these new skills. In fact, it was a combination of these things, the superior example set forth by both our active duty and midshipmen instructors, and the relationships that we built with our shipmates to help us meet those lofty examples that made this experience worthwhile. Even though I did not experience Northwestern's New Student Orientation, New Student Indoctrination certainly seemed to accomplish its goal of building better midshipmen.

AMOI Challenge

By MIDN 2/C Dylan Utterback



The 2019 AMOI Challenge consisted of both individual and team CrossFit style and endurance competitions between Northwestern, Loyola and IIT midshipmen and cadets. The individual competition consisted of four separate events: Abbote, Mule Dog, Hercules, Floater. Abbote had a total of two and a half miles of running and forty-two clean and jerks. Mule Dog had a yoke carry, sandbag carries, and sled pulls across Long Field. Hercules was a five-minute timed event to work up to a heavy ten rep deadlift. Floater had participants perform max hand release push-ups and also tested standing broad jump distance. MIDN Jack and Midn McDonnell won the male and female individual competitions respectively.

The team endurance competition consisted of a seven-and-a-half-mile race with eight workout stations. Each team of four had to carry a thirty-pound pack for the entirety of the race. Station workouts consisted of various bodyweight exercises, ammo cans, sandbags and partner carries. The Northwestern Team, led by Endurance Team Commander MIDN 2/C Dylan Utterback and supported by MIDN Maddox, MIDN Tomaschko and Midn Ratinaud completed the course over an hour faster than all of the other competing teams.

Rear Admiral Franchetti

By MIDN 4/C Marlena Noeth

On 24 October, the NROTC Chicago Consortium had the privilege of meeting Vice Admiral Lisa Franchetti, USN, currently serving as commander of both the U.S. 6th Fleet and Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO, as well as deputy commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and U.S. Naval Forces Africa. VADM Franchetti offered substantial advice, yet the premise of her message encompassed her command philosophy: an expression of the importance of integrity, people, safety, attitude and other fundamental matters in a Naval Officer's career. She made clear the magnitude of being a transparent leader and understanding that career development is more than just setting goals and embracing excellence but creating balance between all aspects of one's life. Perhaps the most significant message, however, I took from VADM Franchetti's visit was the idea that success has no boundaries. As a female midshipman, I was uplifted to see a woman maintain a prominent leadership position in a male-dominated profession, especially when that female leader once walked the same campus as me. It is without a doubt that VADM Franchetti has positively impacted her field, and through her dedication and originality, she continues to be a highly accomplished role model to follow.



Admiral Rogers

By MIDN 1/C James Belleque



This quarter the battalion had the privilege of being visited by ADM Michael S. Rogers (USN, ret.), former head of Cyber Command and the National Security Agency. During his visit he discussed the cyber context, leadership principles drawn from his experience, and the naval profession.

With regards to cyber, ADM Rogers focused on how the challenge of Cyber Command was to inform the cyber context to the lowest level, making sure leaders understand how it affects the big picture. He also emphasized how geography doesn't factor into the cyber equation and how that changes geopolitical calculus.

He also shared some sea stories, recounting his personal path to the cyber community and some of his leadership challenges at various levels. He focused on how you sometime learn more from failure and bad examples than you do from the inverse.

Finally, his most impactful discussion topic was on the naval profession. He encouraged us to examine our information sources to ensure they are good, and to read. Unlike many senior leaders, he gave topics that we should pursue instead of a list of titles. This highlighted some areas I personally had been neglecting. Most importantly, he reminded us to bloom where we are planted regardless of where we end up with our careers.

Alumni Barbecue

By MIDN 4/C Michael Schindlbeck

Northwestern NROTC's annual Alumni BBQ was a great success this year, with many distinguished guests such as VADM Franchetti, Commander of 6th fleet. Myself and several other midshipmen had interesting conversations with VADM Franchetti and several other alumni, which I believe to be the most important part of this event. The sea stories I heard during this event were very meaningful, and I'm glad I had such an opportunity to meet so many outstanding service members. There were many introductions being made all around and good conversations had between the midshipmen, staff, and alumni, which were all insightful and enjoyable.

Alumni arrived to the unit from Ryan Field after watching the Wildcats play the Hawkeyes in grueling weather and an unfortunate shutout. Once some mingling had been done, some very kind and thoughtful words were said by alumni, where they reminisced about our unit's trials in earlier days, and how proud they were to see the unit become what it is today. GRILLCOM MIDN Belleque did an outstanding job with the variety of meats made, all of which were delicious. The cleanup crew afterwards had some hilarity in the kitchen, but no casualties were reported.



Military Ball

By MIDN 4/C Sean Yeo



In the end, when the ball finally came it was surprisingly not awkward to dance with my superior officers potentially watching. Additionally, I am honored to have been part of the sword arch. Watching all the seniors walk underneath my raised sword was truly an unforgettable experience. I also enjoyed listening to Captain Adams speak about the heroic acts of sailors in World War II. His speech was both inspiring and intimidating at the same time. I thoroughly enjoyed myself at my first military ball and it was truly and experience I will never forget.

This year's military ball was held in the Union League Club of Chicago. Going into this event, I initially thought that it would be just like every high school formal that I had been to. There's dinner followed by an evening of dancing. Then, when I was called up to be a member of the sword contingent a few weeks before the ball, I realized that this would most likely be something quite different from your average high school formal. This realization was further confirmed when I received the whole program for the event. Ironically, knowing the program for the night only raised more questions in my head about the ball. So in addition to stressing over the sword movements and my date whom I barely knew, I primarily wondered, "Will it be awkward to dance with my superior officers potentially watching?"



Midshipmen Around Campus

Northwestern Wrestling

I am a member of the Northwestern Wrestling Team. I am fulfilling my dream of wrestling at the Division I level. We compete in the Big Ten against the best teams in the country. Wrestling is a demanding sport, but it is also incredibly rewarding, and I love what I do. I believe the lessons I have learned in wrestling will carry over well to the demands of a naval officer.

-MIDN 2/C Dylan Utterback



Being an RA in ROTC

When I took on the RA role, my only real concern was trying to get my room and board paid for. Although I aimed to take care of my residents to the best of my ability, thoughts about “expanding my leadership experience” or “fostering the growth of a community” were far from the number 1 priority when I signed up for the job. However, working for the university as a low-level employee allowed me to observe the way a department is organized and operated, and allowed me to see the practices and policies that make a strong organization as well as those that reduce its capabilities. I hope to spend the rest of my time as an RA learning more about organizational structure, as well as practicing how to take care of those I’m in charge of.

-MIDN 2/C Nicolas Aguilar

Midshipmen Around Campus

Clubs on Campus

Northwestern is home to hundreds of diverse clubs and organizations, all of which provide students opportunities to develop professional skills through real-life, out-of-the classroom events and projects. As a member of both the Society of Women Engineers and the Space Technology and Rocketry Society, I find it empowering to belong to a supportive community of female engineers as I pursue level 1 high powered rocketry certification, an achievement otherwise not offered in my academic classes. With other notable clubs ranging from the Solar Car Team to Global Brigades, all student interests can be recognized and fostered, thus allowing everyone to enhance their abilities away from the high-stress academic environment.

-MIDN 4/C Marlena Noeth



Society of Women Engineers

Northwestern University | Graduate Division

Midshipmen Around Campus

Study Abroad

Last fall, I had the wonderful opportunity of studying abroad in Rome for four months. It seems that at almost every corner of this city, I could easily find a fascinating historical site or a breathtaking church to explore in. I also enjoyed visiting cafes with friends and having an authentic cappuccino and croissant. I even had the privilege to attend mass in St. Peter's Basilica where Pope Francis passed in front of me during the procession. It's so incredible to have called the eternal city "home" for four months and couldn't be happier about studying abroad in this lovely city.

Another amazing part of studying in Rome is the accessible travel-- a two hour flight is enough to take you from Italy to a completely different country with its own unique traditions and history. During my time in Europe, I was able to visit many countries such as Croatia, Greece, and Slovenia. I have gained a new appreciation of the richness and diversity of European culture. The experiences I made the past couple of months have impacted me greatly and I plan to carry these memories with me throughout my future.

-MIDN 3/C Faith Pacis



Spring 2020 Billets



Battalion Commander: MIDN 1/C Margaret Maddox

Battalion Executive Officer: MIDN 1/C Matthew Hufano

Operations Officer: Midn 1/C Patrick Miller

Assistant Operations Officer: MIDN 1/C Daniel Witte

Physical Training Instructor: MIDN 2/C James Dao

Assistant PTI: MIDN 4/C Matthew Lindstrom

Adjutant: MIDN 3/C Faith Pacis

Academics Officer: MIDN 2/C Dylan Utterback

Logistics Officer: MIDN 3/C Jacob Trevino

Assistant Logistics Officer: MIDN 4/C Connor Klein

Financial Officer: MIDN 2/C Spencer Jack

Platoon Commander: MIDN 2/C Nicolas Aguilar

Platoon Sergeant: Midn 4/C Noah Seth

Drill Team Commander: MIDN 2/C Nicolas Aguilar

Color Guard Commander: MIDN 2/C Spencer Jack

Endurance Team: MIDN 2/C Dylan Utterback

Public Affairs: MIDN 4/C Sean Yeo

Crow's Nest Editor: MIDN 1/C Margaret Brady

Computer Systems Coordinator: MIDN 4/C Ezra Yang

Recruiting Coordinator (NU): MIDN 4/C Marlena Noeth

Recruiting Coordinator (LUC): Midn 4/C Oliver Foreman

Notes from NROTC Scholarship Board

By Chris Lillich, NU Class of '92

Happy New Year from the Naval R.O.T.C Scholarship Fund! Over the coming months the Fund board will be hard at work allocating scholarship grants to very deserving midshipmen. As always, we are very thankful for your donations. We simply couldn't have the impact we want without your support. While fundraising for scholarship grants is our number one priority, we also strive to keep the unit and alumni up to date on alumni news. For this "Alumni Spotlight," we had a chance to catch up with Robert Nowakowski, a 1992 Northwestern graduate (Biomedical Engineering) and newly minted Rear Admiral in the Navy Reserves. RDML Nowakowski was also featured in the Fall 2019 edition of Northwestern Magazine in an article written by CAPT Victor Chen, NU NROTC Class of '93. As CAPT Chen points out in his article, RDML Nowakowski is one of three Northwestern NROTC alumni currently serving as Rear Admiral or higher, in addition to Vice ADM Lisa Franchetti ('85) and RADM Del Crandall ('84).

Despite his hectic schedule, RDML Nowakowski sat down with us to talk about his military and civilian careers, and how his time at NU helped fuel his success. RDML Nowakowski is also a generous supporter of the Scholarship Fund (and is a classmate of mine which made this article even more fun to write).

Upon graduating from NU, RDML Nowakowski earned his Surface Warfare designation aboard the USS Chancellorsville (CG 62). After 6 years on active duty, he was in the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) for two years before joining the Navy Reserves in 2000. RDML Nowakowski currently serves as the Deputy Commander of the Navy Recruiting Command and Deputy Commander, Naval Education and Training Command. He is also a Senior Staff Engineer at Qualcomm in San Diego, CA. He is married to another NU graduate (Crystal, Class of '94), and they have two boys (Parker, 16 and Pierce, 12).

What was your experience at Northwestern like?

“Of course the NROTC program was a big part of my experience at NU. Beyond the day-to-day activities of the unit, I was also in the NROTC Marching Band (saxophone). Outside of the unit, I was a member of the varsity crew team, Delta Upsilon fraternity, and the Biomedical Engineering Society. Two of my brothers in DU were also in NROTC and on the crew team (Micah Samuels ('91) and Paul Labarre ('92). I was constantly trying to balance all these activities with a demanding academic load. The key to that was 1) continual prioritization, 2) proactive communication and networking with my peers, instructors, and coaches and 3) finding ways to leverage my studies and activities. For instance, I studied a lot with Paul and Micah because they were involved in each major activity I was. Also, crew helped me stay in shape, network with others, drive discipline, and taught me leadership skills. I strive to apply these lessons of “leverage” even to this day. Last but certainly not least, I met my wife Crystal at Northwestern. She was a student and worked at the Tech Library. I spent a lot of time in that library and finally found the nerve to talk to her. We’ve been together ever since...so I guess my studying paid off in more ways than one!”



What is your job at Qualcomm like and what has kept you there for over 20 years?

“Qualcomm is a great company for veterans and has been very flexible with me when it comes to career management (more on that later). In my current role I am a Senior Staff Engineer. That comes with multiple responsibilities but at the highest level, I do a lot of project management and related risk assessments. My day-to-day is consumed with continual improvement projects (which connects to my work in the Navy), including ISO 9000 compliance. I am constantly assessing risk levels and continually working with teams to mitigate these risks. So, for instance, we need to get our new microchips out the door. What are the biggest barriers to getting that product out on time? This involves a lot of gap analysis and other internal assessments. I am constantly facilitating conversations between different groups to solve complex problems. I also manage the “lessons learned” program for the company to ensure we continue to improve our systems and processes. I enjoy bringing a culture of excellence and smart change from the corporate world into the Navy and vice versa.”



NAVY-MARINE CORPS
BIRTHDAY BALL
November 1, 1991
Emore Photography



How do you balance the demands of your civilian career with your naval responsibilities?

“It’s a challenge, but I’ve found the key has been sound communication and transparency. This has allowed me to manage the expectations of both parties and anticipate potential conflicts. As my career in the reserves has progressed, Qualcomm has had the flexibility to adjust my career path to accommodate this. For example, I took a one-year leave of absence from Qualcomm to mobilize to Africa, and over the past year I have taken 150 days of leave to accommodate my commitments to the Reserves. Another key dynamic that helps me manage both careers is built-in overlap between my civilian and military roles. For instance, in addition to my Engineering role at Qualcomm, I am also the Vice President of the Qualcomm Veterans (QVETS) employee network. Recruiting and retaining veterans is a strategic priority for the company and this has clear synergies with my work in the Reserves.”

Congratulations on your promotion to Rear Admiral. Any “keys to success” or advice you would give to the current midshipmen at the Northwestern NROTC unit as to how you got there?

“While you are in the program, embrace the camaraderie, activities, and learning opportunities. This is an amazing program and the more engaged you are the more you will benefit. Utilize the experience and lessons of the lieutenants and staff – ask questions if you are not sure what you want to do after graduation and actively leverage them as resources. After commissioning, stay connected with your class and be proactive in reaching out to other alums. Understand what reserve options may be after active duty. These can be surprisingly flexible, not just the “weekend warrior” option most people think of. In terms of your civilian career, don’t feel stifled by your major. Your military experience will give you a foundation in leadership, taking care of people and change management – these skills translate well into many different careers.”

Have you run across any other Northwestern NROTC grads in your military or civilian career?

"I've been fortunate to have had several connections with NU grads over the years, but currently I'm closely connected with CAPT Scott Ruston, USNR (NU NROTC, Class of '92). In fact, CAPT Ruston relieved me from my last assignment (Deputy Command, Navy Region Southwest Reserve Component Command). Scott is a good friend and has had an excellent career in the Navy Reserves."

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Scholarship Fund. Why is supporting the Fund important to you?

"Northwestern NROTC got me where I needed to be, and I wouldn't be where I am now without that experience. Like many NROTC students, I did not come from a wealthy family. My parents lived from check to check, so I know what it's like to worry about the cost of a quality education. As a bonus, Qualcomm matches my donations."

Many thanks to RDML Nowakowski for sharing his experiences and perspective. His story is a great reminder of the high-quality people our unit attracts and how for many it provides a strong foundation to launch successful careers in both the military and civilian worlds.

While we don't use these updates to solicit donations, be on the lookout for our semi-annual solicitation letter later this Spring. We also accept tax-deductible donations anytime sent to the Scholarship Fund at 14197 Classique Way, San Diego, CA 92129.

Alumni News



Sarkis S. Sarkisian - 1953: "Graduated and commissioned Ensign June 1953. Served 3 years active duty, then 8 years reserves. Commissioned in Civil Engineering Core (Seabees) at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois." (11/19)

Robert M. Perkins - 1957: "Saw several of '57 Class at 60th Reunion - October 2017." (11/19)

Michael G. Barbour - 1958: "After 43 years in our Alexandria, VA home we have moved to St. Augustine, FL. Florida welcomed us with a Cat 5 hurricane scare, but now we enjoy pleasant weather while our VA neighbors worry about frozen pipes." (11/19)

Richard O. Biggs - 1969: "Some 40-50 people consisting of returning Northwestern NROTC graduates spanning 50 years, their families, current NROTC staff, and current midshipmen met at the NROTC Unit on Haven Street in Evanston on Saturday afternoon of Reunion Weekend (October 26) for a wonderful reception. CAPT Christopher Adams, CO of the Unit; Morton Shapiro, President of the University, VADM Lisa Franchetti, NROTC 1985, current Commander of the 6h Fleet and a recipient of this year's Northwestern Alumni Medal; RADM Del Crandall, NROTC 1984, Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Navy; and Paul Gutelius, Battalion Commander NROTC 1968-1969, each said a few remarks to the group. How inspiring it was to see the older graduates speaking informally to their future successors!" (11/19)

R. Lee Griffith - 1970: "Lee competed in the sprint triathlon national championships at Cleveland this year." (11/19)

Brian J. Gegan - 1984: "Best wishes to all NROTC Wildcats!" (11/19)

David T. Urban - 1984: "I moved to Baltimore in 2012 and am part of a private equity group managing large scale ecological restorations. (<https://ecosystempartners.com>)." (12/19)

Alumni News



Sean S. Bercaw - 1985: "CAPT Sean Bercaw sails as Captain of Tall Ships and works on research vessels in Antarctica and Alaska." (12/19)

Lisa M. Franchetti - 1985: "Great to be back on campus and see the Staff and Midshipmen over homecoming weekend! Proud to see all the talent NU NROTC continues to send to the Navy and Marine Corps team!" (12/19)

Athur M. Tomassetti - 1986: "Retired in May 2019 from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics after 6 years as F-35 USMC Program Manager. Currently the owner of Time2Climb Training & Consulting in Niceville, FL." (12/19)

Stuart M. Abrahamson - 1987: "Go Cats & Go Navy!!" (12/19)

Lauren S. Brandon - 1991: "Lauren (Stannert) Brandon works in manufacturing in Cleveland, OH. Her daughter graduates from high school in June 2020." (11/19)

Benjamin J. Ballard - 1996: "Living in Arlington, MA with wife Liz (Harvard 1999), son John (8), and daughter Eleanor (5), and working as Director, Global Support at VoltDB, Inc. in Bradford, MA." (11/19)

Lost Souls



Lost Members of the Class of 1954: Mr. John E. Arms

Lost Members of the Class of 1955: Mr. Donald P. Brown, Mr. Grigsby V Gamble,
Mr. Peter E Gilles

Lost Members of the Class of 1957: Mr. George A Hodges, CDR Frank J Murphy

Lost Members of the Class of 1958: Mr. John E. Barnes, III, Mr. Robert L VanWagoner

Lost Members of the Class of 1959: Maj Frank L Capin, Mr. Lawrence H. Melin Jr,
Mr. Gerald D. Reed

Lost Members of the Class of 1960: Mr. David J Conville

Lost Members of the Class of 1961: Mr. Richard F. Ingram, Mr. David L. Marks

Lost Members of the Class of 1962: Mr. Robert E. Calvert, Mr. James R. Michael,
Mr. Kenneth H Kuehnle

Lost Members of the Class of 1963: CAPT Timothy A. Lamphier

Lost Members of the Class of 1964: Mr. James R. Oreilly, Mr. Ronald C. Wilkinson

Lost Members of the Class of 1965: Mr. Thomas H Meeker

Lost Members of the Class of 1967: Mr. Joseph C. Davis, Mr. Robert A. Shearer

Lost Members of the Class of 1968: Mr. Richard J. Bott, Mr. Harry R Hebblewhite
Mr. James D. Montgomery, Jr.

Lost Members of the Class of 1969 :Mr. Walter N. Gregory , Mr. Richard R Hodill Jr.,
Mr. Robert W. Thompson

Lost Members of the Class of 1970: Mr. Tom E. Mitchell, Mr. Steven R. Weisbrod,
Mr. Gary L Zambito

Lost Members of the Class of 1971: Mr. Richard E. Armstrong

Lost Members of the Class of 1972: Mr. Richard P. Welch

Lost Souls



Lost Members of the Class of 1973: Mr. Walter E Ringen II

Lost Members of the Class of 1975: Mr. John J Boyle

Lost Members of the Class of 1984: Mr. Christopher Hagen

Lost Members of the Class of 1987: Mr. Peter Phillips

Mr. John R Brownell

Lost Members of the Class of 1990: Mr. Alan D Dorrbecker

Lost Members of the Class of 1992: Ms Judith S Sampson

Lost Members of the Class of 1993: Mr. Douglas W Le Frak

Lost Members of the Class of 1994: Ms. Susanna T. Finch

Lost Members of the Class of 1996: Ms. Maureen E Lawler

Mr. Scott A Penland

Lost Members of the Class of 2000: Ms Laura M Cosmas

Lost Members of the Class of 2005: Ms Kimberly Vesey

Lost Members of the Class of 2011: Ms Katherine McLean

Lost Members of the Class of 2012: Mr Jordan C. Rivera-Klein

Lost Members of the Class of 2013: LT Anna L Hanson NC

Lost Members of the Class of 2014: LTJG Ashli M Satterfield

Lost Members of the Class of 2017: ENS Lauren Kearney

Lost Members of the Class of 2018: 2ndLT Thomas M George

Lost Members of the Class of 2019: 2nd LT Bailey Placek

Thanks from the Northwestern NROTC Battalion



It has been an eventful semester for Northwestern NROTC, but one constant has been the consistent support you provide us with. We are reminded daily of the impacts each of you made, and grateful for your continued support.

Happy Holidays from the Northwestern NROTC Battalion!