



From The

Bridge

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION

2012 ISSUE 1

Admissions Initiatives Attract Best and Brightest

This year more high school seniors applied for admission to the Naval Academy than ever before. Of those more than 20,000 applicants, fewer than 1,200 will be admitted as plebes at the end of June.

For the Office of Admissions, the increase in applications is proof that its outreach initiatives are working.

What started as a science camp in the 1970s has evolved into what Dean of Admissions Captain Bruce Latta '78, USN (Ret.), calls his office's largest annual outreach program: Summer Seminar. It brings 2,250 rising high school seniors to the Naval Academy

for a week in June to get a midshipman-like experience.

Like admission to the Academy itself, the competition for the 2,250 spots at Summer Seminar is tough. More than 7,500 rising high school seniors applied to participate this year.

Latta said between 35 and 40 percent of the Class of 2015 attended Summer Seminar. And more than two-thirds of high school students at this year's Summer Seminar are expected to complete the requirements for admission.

"As we've seen the applications increase, we're finding that the

Admissions Excellence



The Naval Academy seeks highly motivated, well-rounded applicants who excel not only academically, but also in athletics, leadership and service. As we have made efforts to increase awareness of the opportunities for

students at the Naval Academy, the level of interest among prospective candidates has continued to rise.

Our work in outreach—especially in underserved areas—has been ramping up through programs such as Summer Seminar, Summer STEM, mini-STEM and admissions forums throughout the nation. While on the road, we have the opportunity to meet with students face-to-face and share both the challenge and the opportunities of a service academy education and career. This expanded outreach would not be possible without the generous support of Naval Academy classes as well as corporations and foundations supporting admissions excellence through the Naval Academy Foundation.

The work in attracting the most qualified applicants to the Naval Academy is evident in the classes we bring in each year, and the Class of 2016 is no exception. ■

Captain Bruce Latta '78, USN (Ret.)
Dean of Admissions



High school students help their squad members crawl along a rope during the 2011 Summer Seminar Sea Trials. Summer Seminar ends with an abbreviated version of the U.S. Naval Academy Sea Trials, where students participate in seven hours of physical training and team building exercises.

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alexia Riveracorrea

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Class Giving

Thanks to the Midshipman Action Group



Members of the Midshipman Action Group attend a luncheon hosted by the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation.

In April, the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation hosted a luncheon to honor members of the Midshipman Action Group as well as to recognize the contributions of the Class of 1992 in supporting their efforts.

Established in 1992 as a community relations program organized and maintained by the Brigade of Midshipmen, the Midshipman Action Group (MAG) offers a variety of educational, environmental and social service volunteer projects in Annapolis, regionally and nationally.

Just recently, MAG participated in a number of spring break projects including trips to Pine Ridge, SD, and Joplin, MO. Pine Ridge is one of the nation's poorest areas and young students tend to lack exposure to science, technology, engineering and math. The MAG group, lead by Midshipman Dustin Longhenry '13, spent 10 days working on

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Editor's note

From The Bridge is published periodically by the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation and Alumni Association.

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Admissions Initiatives... *continued from page 1*

performance of the student body has improved. The performance of the Class of 2015 arguably has been the best performance of any class for the first year in many of the core courses and the physical readiness test," he said.

Latta said the admissions staff travels across the country, particularly to congressional districts that are not drawing many applicants, to promote the Academy.

"We have a great product. We have a variety of majors, both technical and nontechnical. We have a lot of career options after graduation. We provide a couple of things that other schools

"We provide leadership training and moral and ethical development. They're going to get a job after graduation in return for their education and serve their country."

—Captain Bruce Latta '78, USN (Ret.)

don't. We provide leadership training and moral and ethical development. They're going to get a job after graduation in return for their education and serve their country. This is a very patriotic generation. They do want

to serve their country," he said.

Davede Alexander '01, former director of strategic outreach in admissions, said private and corporate donations are crucial for the nationwide initiatives.

"We do a lot of outreach and marketing all across the country that just wouldn't be possible without alumni and corporate support,"



High school students participate in a tire-rolling race during the 2011 U.S. Naval Academy Summer Seminar Sea Trials. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Chad Runge



Students in the U.S. Naval Academy annual Summer Seminar mix chemical compounds during a workshop at Michelson Hall. The weeklong program introduces high school seniors to life at the U.S. Naval Academy through a regimen of academics, physical training, sailing and seamanship, and leadership training.
 Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alexia Riveracorrea

Alexander said. “We do about 32 major blitzes a year, and we have hundreds of single-scope activities all across the country throughout the year.”

An admissions blitz includes visits to schools and engagement with community leaders in congressional districts lacking applicants. Over the last year, Admissions has targeted a wide spectrum of urban, suburban and rural areas to expose students to the Academy, according to Alexander, who said admissions officers often take along an Academy vocal or instrumental group to perform.

“That leads to our capstone event, a giant Admissions Forum. At this event we have our alumni, we have admissions officials, we have a young, dynamic speaker who is a lieutenant or captain in the Navy or Marine Corps to talk about his or her experiences. These officers have served on ships, been in charge of aircraft, been in charge of people, had the highest responsibilities, and they’re 25, 26 years old. That really resonates with the

parents and the students. People are inspired to be a part of something that is bigger than themselves,” Alexander said.

Generating more applicants to the Academy also has meant an increase in rejections. Alexander, who left the Academy in May to launch his own business, granted that saying no was the hardest part of his job.

“Sometimes it literally comes down to deciding between A-plus-plus and A-plus-plus-plus,” he said. “But you have to look at the bright side of that, too. What that means is that as much doom and gloom as you see on the news about America’s future and the people we’re producing in this country, you get the opportunity to see the opposite. You get the opportunity to see that there are droves and droves of individuals who want to do the right thing, who have tremendous character, who have tremendous leadership abilities, who are physically fit and who want a challenge. To see that every day, that’s the up side.” ■

Class Giving

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STEM programs after school. And in Joplin, MO, the MAG group, lead by Midshipman Stephanie Migut ’12, helped residents with reconstruction after the recent weather devastation. Three of the 10 midshipmen in Joplin were part of the storm chasing team “Swift,” which was working near the location back in May 2011. These midshipmen helped with the search and rescue efforts two days after the storm and then returned to help rebuild.

“I can only say I was intensely proud of the midshipmen,” said Lori Buresh ’00, a resident of nearby town Carthage, MO. “As we transit through the Academy and leave its hallowed halls, we can only hope that the classes that come after us will continue to uphold the traditions and honor of our school and the Navy. This team showed the Southwest Missouri area the best of what the United States Naval Academy stands for.”

Throughout the year, midshipmen participate in a number of programs including Save the Bay, Special Olympics, Mids for Kids and the Honor Flight Program, to name a few. Last academic year, MAG participated in about 20,000 hours of community service and is on track to beat that number for the ’11-’12 academic year. Participation in MAG prepares midshipmen for future service by encouraging peer leadership, teamwork, character development, morale, selflessness and goodwill towards others.

Thanks to the members of MAG, and to the Class of 1992 for supporting their work. ■



MAG members participate in cleanup efforts in Joplin, MO, during their spring break. Photo by John Woods ’00

Corporations and Foundations

Boeing Launches Engineering Competition



Midshipmen receive instruction in an aerospace engineering class. Photo courtesy of the USNA Photo Lab.

A team of 18 Naval Academy midshipmen received first prize on 9 May in an inter-service academy engineering design competition conducted among the Military, Air Force and Naval academies and sponsored by the Boeing Company.

Captain Maureen Cragin '85, USNR (Ret.), vice president of communications for Boeing Defense, Space & Security and the Boeing executive lead for the Naval Academy, said the competition funds are part of \$200,000 that Boeing gives the Naval Academy Foundation annually for the benefit of several priority initiatives at the Academy.

"Besides this project-based learning program, Boeing donations to the service academies also support science, technology, engineering and math [STEM] and minority outreach initiatives and ethics and leadership development—all areas that conform to our core values," Cragin said.

The competition, now in its second year, required each academy's team to design the cockpit of an aircraft for a mission nearly 30 years in the future. The 2012 award was presented by President and CEO of Boeing Defense, Space and Security Dennis Muilenburg.

The company asked each academy's team to design the cockpit that could control a futuristic aircraft as well as unmanned aerial and ground vehicles while conducting a typical air-to-ground and air-to-air strike mission. This year's design was expected to

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Corporations and Foundations

STEM Program Branches Out

For the first three weeks in June, nearly 500 rising 8th-through 11th-graders from across the country will come to the Naval Academy to be immersed in hands-on science, technology, engineering and math projects.

The Summer STEM Program, now in its fifth year, is one of the Academy's most visible efforts to increase interest in the pursuit of undergraduate degrees and careers in science, technology, engineering and math. But the weeklong camps are only part of the Academy's drive to increase awareness of its STEM programs.

"Through the STEM office, our programs touch more than 12,000 kids a year on site through the Academy and off site at other activities," said Angela Moran, the Ralph Odgers '47 Distinguished Professor in STEM. "One of the things we try to do with all of our programs is reflect what the Academy has to offer. We have an unbelievable undergraduate program.

Most people on the outside think that all the midshipmen do is march and drill."

As director of corporate and foundation relations, John Rudder '78, is charged with attracting donations to fund the Summer STEM Program. Of the dozen corporations providing funding, new ones this year include Northrop Grumman, which has contributed \$25,000, and Airvana Network Solutions, Bluewater Thermal Solutions and VWR International, which have given \$10,000 each. Corporate donors of \$20,000 include Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and Booz Allen. The Charles T. Bauer Foundation and the Boeing Company have contributed \$50,000.

"We can't continue to bring 500 kids to the Academy without corporate support," Rudder said. "We're finding there is good demand for support of STEM within these corporations. I feel very comfortable that if we're bringing 500 kids to STEM next summer we will have it fully funded by corporations."



2011 STEM camp participants.



The science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) program encourages rising 8th – 11th-graders to focus on multi-disciplinary activities in all of the STEM majors offered at the Academy, with specific projects in forensics, robotics, fabrication, programming, aviation, electronics and more. STEM offers students the opportunity to tour labs and research areas, and participate in hands-on activities, design challenges and competitions, as well as exposure to the benefits of a Naval Academy education.

But Rudder said funding is vital for more than one season. “Our STEM program lives and breathes all year round.”

Just a few of the Academy’s other STEM outreach efforts are GET IT—Girls Exploring Technology through Innovative Topics for middle-schoolers; mini-STEM weekend visits built around experiments conducted on the Chesapeake Bay aboard the oceanography yard patrol craft; and the Advanced Study Program, an after-school partnership with Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

The school district as well as the Academy, Office of Naval Research and Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers collaborate on SeaPerch. Each year young people in after-school clubs build remotely

operated vehicles and launch them in the Academy’s HydroLab tow tanks.

Off site, mini-STEM programs are taking place at the MIDWAY Museum in San Diego and, through a partnership with NASA, at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, also in California.

“STEM is important to the country. We need to continue to strive to develop stronger technical talent at the undergraduate level. We’re being greatly outdistanced by other countries,” Rudder said. “We’re trying to attract the best and the brightest. We want them to know that math and science are important. We want them to continue to take the most challenging courses they can in high school so they are better prepared whether or not they come to the Naval Academy.” ■

Corporations and Foundations

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work off the inaugural design from last year’s competition.

“This year they really beefed up the simulator part of it so they had to write software, get displays and install those displays in the simulator to make it look realistic,” said Captain Leonard Hamilton ’84, USN, associate professor of mechanical engineering and one of two advisors for the midshipmen. “Last year they weren’t required to build a simulator. It was more concept and design. This year it culminated in a functioning simulator that demonstrates the cockpit capability.”

The interdisciplinary project brought together midshipmen from five different engineering majors—including mechanical, systems, computer, electrical and aerospace—advised by Hamilton and Lieutenant Commander Duncan O’Mara, USN (Ret.), visiting professor in the Systems Engineering Department.

Through discussions with Boeing representatives, the midshipmen determined that they were looking for more creative, revolutionary approaches to the problem than what Navy (who lost to Air Force in last year’s competition) originally presented. In response, this year’s team added artificial intelligence and three-dimensional holograms in place of glass panel displays.

“Imagine a pilot flying with a 3-D image of the battle space, and he can see in 3-D threats, targets, mountains, terrain, roads,” said Hamilton. “You’re going to have the ability to control multiple unmanned aircraft who are your wingmen through artificial intelligence. You’ll have a lot of automation. You’ll basically be able to do the job of six or seven people by yourself.”

The project helps midshipmen learn about real-world design and acquisition projects. They learn how to work as a part of a large team, how to convey ideas, meet project deadlines and work to a schedule, said O’Mara.

“Our goal is to help the mids become better naval officers as well as engineers,” he said. “They’re winning if they’re learning.” ■

RMTS

A Leader and a Leadership Gift



Greer Olsen Lautrup '85

Greer Olsen Lautrup '85 continues to be involved with the Naval Academy through the Alumni Association and Foundation. She has served as a Blue and Gold Officer for more than a decade, is a member of the Council on Annual Giving, a President's Circle donor and a member of the Robert Means Thompson Society.

"To me, it's being invested," explained Lautrup. "Some people are only able to provide funds, and because I live so close, I can give of my time as well."

And, she gives generously of both. From her home in Virginia or office in DC, she's able to visit Annapolis often for meetings, events and the occasional game. Because she is able to make the trip back, she says that she's able to meet "different alums that I wouldn't otherwise know who share a common bond."

While she was at the Academy women only made up about eight percent of the Brigade, but Lautrup didn't see herself as a trailblazer.

"At the time, you were the most recent class so you didn't think you were doing anything special because the people before you faced even greater challenges," said Lautrup. Her experience certainly made a difference in her career in the Navy and in law.

"I went to my squadron and I was the only female officer, but it wasn't that different

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Planned Giving

Recognizing the Robert Means Thompson Society



The midshipman panel sharing their experiences of training outside the classroom.

In April, the Naval Academy Foundation welcomed more than 30 members of the Robert Means Thompson Society (RMTS) back to Annapolis for the annual event celebrating their commitment to the Naval Academy through planned gifts.

Naval Academy and Foundation leadership were on hand to welcome RMTS members and their guests with Byron Marchant '78, president and CEO of the Alumni Association and Foundation, leading off the program. He thanked those attending for their generosity and leadership in legacy gifts to the Naval Academy. Steve Maconi, vice president for the Foundation, followed by outlining current fundraising priorities and illustrated those with stories of donors.

Following these remarks, keynote speaker Captain Stephen C. Trainor '83, USN, from Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) spoke about

experiential learning and the tremendous opportunity afforded midshipmen through programs like the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and programs at St. Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark, NJ.

NOLS leadership expeditions for the Naval Academy are field-based leadership experiences. The courses are designed to support and complement the classroom leadership curriculum. Current NOLS courses include a backpack expedition in Wyoming or Alaska, mountaineering expedition in Alaska and a canoe expedition in the Yukon.

Since 2004, more than 900 midshipmen have completed NOLS training. The experience changes the way midshipmen think about leadership.

"The theory behind leadership can only take you so far," explained Midshipman Travis Hack '12.

“You have to get out there and make mistakes.”

Midshipman Alec Kersey '13 described his experience on the Alaska mountaineering expedition as “probably the hardest work I’ve done in my life.”

But the training is not a standard part of the Naval Academy curriculum and is offered at an additional expense to midshipmen. Some pay outright, others take loans and a few are offered scholarships.

“I am so grateful that the scholarship was available for people,” said Midshipman Sara Freshwater '12. “Hopefully, one day I can look back and give money too to help some other kids.”

Experiential leadership training can happen on glaciers and in kayaks, but also in the inner city of Newark, NJ. RMTS members also heard about the St. Benedict’s internships for midshipmen which includes a program called “the Overnight” which is a mini-Plebe Summer indoctrination for the students led by midshipmen. A backpacking expedition is also part of the program at the school.

“So far this has been some of the best training I’ve had at the Academy, and I’m looking forward to taking what I’ve learned back to my company and eventually the fleet,” said Midshipman Eric Washkewicz '13 in a blog about the St. Benedict’s program.

Midshipman Gaby Torres '14 agreed.

“I didn’t expect to be the only female participating in the St. Benedict’s internship but it has been the best training I have received in my two years of being part of the Naval Academy family,” she wrote. “Being surrounded by 500 young men in their journey towards becoming effective leaders, and successful members of society has taught me a lot about what my role is as a female officer in the armed forces.”

The highlighted Experiential Leader Development programs are emblematic of the impact of private dollars on curriculum at the Naval Academy; good programs are made better and midshipmen opportunities are increased. As the program wrapped up, the RMTS donors and guests moved outdoors to observe a formal parade followed by a reception hosted by the Superintendent at Buchanan House. ■

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“I believe in giving back to institutions that have been instrumental in my life and USNA is one of those. By making a planned gift, I ensure that I can continue to support USNA long after I’m gone.””

because I was already used to walking into a room and being the only woman,” described Lautrup. She had the same experience starting work as a lawyer saying, “We could get all of the women in the office in a small conference room.”

But the Naval Academy and her law office have come a long way. Women have more opportunities at the Academy and in the Navy. “Everyone—with very few exceptions—graduates and can do the same thing. I think it makes the playing field a lot more level than it was in our day.”

And that’s part of why Lautrup gives back today. In December, Lautrup pledged a gift of \$100,000 to the Naval Academy Annual Fund, the largest gift by a female graduate of the Naval Academy.

“It’s always important that the future classes are better, despite the fact that we all think our class is the best,” she said. “Ultimately, you want the later classes to be better than yours and one of the ways to do that is to provide financial support to give them better opportunities than we had.” ■



CAPT Stephen Trainor, USN, '83 providing an overview on Experiential Leadership Development.



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//// **EVERY GIFT COUNTS,**

every donor matters.