"When the Staff Sergeant came to inspect me, all I thought was, 'Don't drop the rifle!' and, 'Shoot! I forgot how to say my last name.'"

MIDN 4/C Andrew Votipka, on the Tulane Drill competition

Also in this issue of Anchors Aweigh

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Welcome LT Meeks
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and more...
Message from the CO
MIDN 1/C Hodgin, USNR

As the spring semester is halfway completed, I am thankful for this opportunity to report on the Battalion’s activities and successes. I’d first, though, like to thank my predecessor, David Pardue, for laying a solid foundation so that when I took command the staff and I could hit the ground running. This semester in NROTC has been full of meaningful and memorable events ranging from the annual Red Cross Blood Drive to the much anticipated Tulane Drill Meet. Whether it has been tales from ice skating or watching people press beyond their preconceived limitations in PT, my fellow midshipmen continue to motivate and impress me. As the semester progresses, I encourage everyone to join at least one of the countless organizations here on campus in order to develop a passion outside of NROTC; the Navy and Marine Corps need well-rounded leaders and what better place to practice that than at UNC.

I ask all midshipmen to continue building on the training that they have completed during the first half of the semester. Chapel Hill is an amazing place to be in the springtime, and I trust this year will be no different. The staff and I will ensure that no one walks to the finish line this year and that we do not fall victim to the many distractions that the spring poses. Taking command of the NROTC Battalion has certainly been one of the highest honors and privileges I have had while at UNC and I look forward to the opportunities and experiences the remainder of the semester is sure to provide.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Lab, CAPT Rodger Holliday 5 MAR
- SPRING BREAK 6-16 MAR
- Shooting Range 28 MAR
- Sailing Day 4 APR
Welcome LT Daryl Meeks

At the start of the Spring 2009 semester, UNC was pleased to welcome LT Daryl Meeks, a Naval Flight Officer, to the Active Duty staff. LT Meeks took over for LT Brian Lubitz, who left the unit in December 2008. He will act as the senior advisor to all midshipmen. LT Meeks was born and raised in Canton, Ohio. He graduated high school in 1991 and enrolled at the University of Florida. After a year at UF, he decided to transfer back home to Ohio State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education. LT Meeks intended to become a swimming coach, but decided to look into Navy Officer Candidate School after graduating college in order to fly for the Navy. LT Meeks had always wanted to fly, and his father was an airman with the USAF. However, the Navy was not willing to waive a previous ACL surgery, so he spent some time in the civilian world doing some coaching.

In 2001 he reapplied to OCS and was granted a waiver for his knee. He reported to OCS on 9 September 2001. After receiving his commission in December of that year, he went to Pensacola to begin training as an NFO, as he had missed the age cut off for pilots by one year. He received his wings in May 2003, and began his first tour with Fleet Reconnaissance Squadron 2 (VQ2) that December as an NFO for EP-3s, a version of the P-3 outfitted for electronic warfare. During this three year tour, LT Meeks deployed to the Mediterranean and spent time in such places as Souda Bay, Bahrain, Qatar, Sicily, and even made his way down to Curacao. After this he spent some time in Whidbey Island, WA. During his time with VQ2, LT Meeks was the Electronic Warfare Mission Commander as well as Senior Navigator for an EP-3. After his first tour, he was transferred to Yokosuka, Japan, where he was stationed with the Commander, US 7th Fleet aboard the USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19). During his time aboard the BLUE RIDGE, LT Meeks served as the Air Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Officer. After this tour he reported here at NROTC UNC Chapel Hill. LT Meeks says his favorite part of being in the Navy has been how much of the world he has been able to see. Even with an admitted substantial wanderlust, he has seen more of the world in the last five years than he thought he would in his entire life.

Though he has not been here very long, LT Meeks is rapidly adapting to his role as an advisor to the Midshipman Battalion. While he is with the NROTC Unit at UNC, LT Meeks says his primary goal is to “be a respected mentor for the midshipmen.” LT Meeks plans to pursue a Master’s Degree in Sports Leadership, or an MBA with a concentration in Sports Management, to be completed by the end of 2010.

High School Drill Competition

UNC MIDN Travel to Fayetteville to Judge Their High School Counterparts

It’s not every day that Naval ROTC midshipmen come face to face with their high school counterparts. However, six UNC Chapel Hill NROTC midshipmen met several cadets from the most elite Navy Junior ROTC programs in North and South Carolina. Midshipmen traveled to Cape Fear High School in Fayetteville, NC, to help run the NJROTC Area 6 Championship Drill Meet. The Meets consist of an academic test of the NJROTC curriculum, push-up and curl-up competition, personnel inspection and five separate drill events. The UNC midshipmen assisted in judging the push-ups and curl-ups and also scored and ranked all the other events.

In addition to ensuring the success of the meet, the midshipmen spoke with cadets about UNC and the benefits of the NROTC program. Midshipmen were not recruiting individual cadets, but rather serving as ambassadors for NROTC, the US Navy, and US Marine Corps.

“The majority of the cadets endeavored to join the military, but had questions about which route to take,” said MIDN 4/C Scott Miller, a Navy option Arab culture major from Jacksonville, NC. “Some kids hadn’t thought about college and others didn’t have the means to go. We told them, with an NROTC scholarship, tuition and fees are paid for and some schools even cover room and board.”

Cape Fear placed first overall with Cary High School and Silver Bluff High School from Aiken, S.C. This is Cape Fear’s third consecutive year as Area 6 champions, which encompasses North and South Carolina. High schools practice the entire year for this meet in anticipation for the NJROTC national championship meet held in Pensacola, FL. Schools that place first and second in their respective area are the only units permitted to compete nationally.
News From the Fleet

Stepping Up the Game: Combined Task Force 151

*MIDN 3/C Benjamin Keilman*

The United States has implemented Combined Task Force 151, an international naval force whose objective is to combat and deter the growing problem of Somali piracy off the Gulf of Aden.

Since the 1990’s, piracy has been a growing problem off of the Gulf of Aden, fueled by desperate Somali sailors and former fishermen striving to make a living. The problem, violent and extortionist in nature, is a threat to international security for anyone traveling around the Horn of Africa and into the Suez Canal. Unarmed vessels ranging from luxury yachts to Saudi jumbo tankers have been attacked, sacked, or held for ransoms, spreading insecurity and fear in the region.

The problem goes far beyond piracy, however. Many reports of human and drug trafficking have been reported in the area. However, the Combined Task Force 151 has increased power to interdict and arrest pirates, a strategy that should work to deter further growth of piracy and hopefully turn the once-fishermen back to more legitimate sources of income.

The implementation of this new policy will have many positive benefits. Not only will the lives of innocent sailors be in less jeopardy as they sail around the Horn of Africa, but the price of goods shipped through the Suez Canal will be reduced as well. With the threat of piracy diminishing in the region, companies that once avoided the Suez Canal altogether and chose the long and costly route around South Africa will be able to go the more affordable route, which may be felt by American consumers.

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Blue and Gray to Replace Green and Brown

Navy to issue new NWU with new regulations

*MIDN 3/C Daniel Ballance*

The US Navy began the regional phase-in process of its new blue and gray camouflage uniform, the Navy Working Uniform, on 15 January 2009. This new uniform is designed to replace two working uniforms.

This uniform comes in tandem with the new “office-environment” khaki/black uniforms for E-1 through E-6, making these combined changes the largest new uniform introduction in Navy history. The NWU is currently only available in the Tidewater region, which consists of Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and West Virginia. The rollout will spread westward and will be available worldwide by October 2010. The Navy has mandated that all sailors, E-1 through O-10, own the uniform by 31 December 2010.

Only officers and chiefs were permitted to wear the uniform to ensure they learned how to properly wear it before enlisted were allowed. This ensured command leaders were able to properly enforce regulations and teach sailors how to care for the uniform. “This is a complex uniform with a lot more components to it, and having a command-by-command phase-in period allows leadership to educate our sailors on how to wear it first — before allowing them to wear it,” Command Master Chief (AW/SW/SCW) Scott Benning told Navytimes.com. He is the top enlisted sailor for the region.

Regulations for the NWU have been a point of contention between the rank and file sailor and Navy leadership. In the new regulations, sailors are not allowed to wear the uniform off base and only emergency stops are permitted while driving. These rules stand in stark contrast to previous regulations, which allowed sailors to buy groceries, pump gas or drop children off at day care while in uniform. Sailors were initially outraged at this policy alteration, citing that they were promised the same wear regulations for the NWU in 2004.

“This is beyond ridiculous,” Fire Controlman 2nd Class (SW/AW) Jason McKeever told Navytimes.com. McKeever serves aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. “The fact that every other service [except the Marine Corps] authorizes their service members to wear their working uniforms to places like grocery stores or the mall just shows how out of touch the Navy officials are.” Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West (SS/SW) said in his podcast that once he receives word from the senior enlisted around the fleet that sailors have mastered the new uniform’s regulations he will recommend to ADM Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations, to relax the regulations.

*Photo courtesy of www.neptunuslex.com*
Leading By Example

MIDN 2/C Bowman and Martin travel to Annapolis for USNA Leadership Conference

MIDN 2/C Randall Martin

The 2009 Naval Academy Leadership Conference brought together college age civilian and ROTC students for three days to learn about both leadership issues and techniques in the military and civilian sectors. The key speakers of the conference included Mr. W. Stanton Smith, National Director of Cross Generational Initiatives; Walter Havenstein, COO, BAE Systems; Rear Admiral Michael Miller, USN; Lieutenant Dave Schopler, USN; Mr. Hart Cunningham, Venture Capitalist; The Honorable Martin Russo, Illinois Congressman (ret.); The Honorable Charlie Wilson, Texas Congressman (ret.); The Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland; and Colonel Arthur Athens, USMC (ret.).

The conference consisted of speakers, panel discussions, and small group workshops. During the speakers and panel discussions, we were given a broad base of leadership topics which we expounded upon during our small group sessions. One of the major topics was: What is the definition of true leadership? Some of the key points discussed were:

- The importance of communication
- The trans-generational nature of core values
- The continuing importance of mentorship
- The value of inspirational leaders
- Why subordinates follow leaders

One of the main lectures was given by the endnote speaker U.S. Marine Corps Col. Arthur Athens. Athens graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978 and served with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wings until his retirement in 1994. He is now the director of the Vice Adm. James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership at the Naval Academy. During Athens' speech, he described the three core values that every leader must have in order to gain the respect of his or her subordinates.

He began by asking three questions that subordinates ask their leaders:

1. Do you know your job, or are you striving hard to learn it?
2. Will you make the hard but right decision even if it costs you?
3. Do you care as much about your people as you do about yourself?

These three questions lead to three leadership traits that every leader must have: competence, courage, and compassion. Competence means that leaders must know how to create and maintain a vision. They must be excellent communicators, and that they also must lead energetically. Leading energetically shows your people that you are motivated and eager to learn your job and also to lead them.

Courage involves always maintaining your personal integrity even when it may cost you personally. We must have constant vigilance as we are always representatives of both the United States and the U.S. Navy. The final value every leader must have is compassion for both his superiors and subordinates.

Compassion involves caring about your people and taking the time to get to know them. It also involves both motivating them and helping them with problems when they arise.

The last thing that speaker Athens said to us was that he wanted us to take away at least one thing from the conference and use it to make ourselves better leaders. I have no doubt that I will take to heart many things from the conference and I highly recommend it to the rising juniors and sophomores as an excellent resource for learning how to lead.

The most important thing that I learned was that leadership is not an exact science, but that keeping to the three values of competence, courage and compassion, and also leading by example will take you very far in both the military and civilian leadership arenas.
Witnessing History in the Making

MIDN 4/C Morine's trip to DC for the Inauguration of President Obama

MIDN 4/C Grant Morine

On Friday morning, 16 JAN 2009, I left my hometown of Wilmington, North Carolina and embarked on the trip of a lifetime with my old high school to see the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, President Barack Obama. In my high school, the Lyceum Academy, part of New Hanover High School, the junior class goes to Washington, DC each year after fall semester. I went two years ago, but this time the class had the chance and privilege to get to see the Presidential inauguration. When I graduated from Lyceum, I asked the dean, Mr. Gordon Massengill, if I could go as a chaperone if there was any space. When I called him recently he said that he needed to fill a few spaces, so he offered my high school friend Melissa and I a spot on the trip as chaperones.

We arrived in DC and changed into formal clothes at our hotel, the Embassy Suites of Crystal City, and went down stairs and ate a formal dinner in the hotel’s restaurant. Afterwards, we went to the National Symphony at the John F. Kennedy Center. The symphony was incredible, and it was a special performance because a guest pianist was performing that night. Next was the Holocaust Memorial Museum. That night we ate dinner at Union Station, where then President-elect Obama had just come in on his train like President Abraham Lincoln did. After dinner we toured the Jefferson, FDR, and Iwo Jima Marine Corps Memorials.

The next day, Sunday, the group went to Arlington National Cemetary to witness the Changing of the Guard, but we were unable to because President Obama was there for a private viewing of the ceremony. We decided to return the following morning, and went to the National Mall and had free reign to tour the museums there until 1400, when we all came together and proceeded to the Lincoln Memorial for the “We Are One” Concert. The concert was amazing, but there were so many people there! Later we went to the National Art Galleries, where Melissa and I got our picture taken with former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Sandra Day O’Connor! For Monday afternoon we went to the newest Smithsonian Aviation Museum. Monday night we spent an hour organizing our plan for how we would handle the record crowds that would be at the Inauguration the next day.

Finally the day came! At 0400 my group of about 15 people got up and went to the Metro station. Getting to L’Enfant Plaza was easy, but leaving the station and getting to the National Mall proved to be another matter. Finally we arrived and were in place by 0600. We waited (it was freezing, 12 degrees!) until around 1130 when the VIPs started arriving. When President Obama came on, the whole Mall erupted into cheers of “Yes We Can!” and “O-BA-MA!” It truly was a sight to see, and I felt like I was part of history. Earlier in the morning volunteers had passed around American flags, and seeing all the people waving the American Flag made me proud not only to be an American, but also proud to be serving my country in four years in the Navy. President Obama’s speech was inspiring and many more than one “AMEN!” was shouted out by spectators. Leaving the Mall and getting back took about 3 hours, and we left DC around 1600. We got home in Wilmington around 2230, and the next morning I was back at my UNC classes feeling like I had been part of one of the most important events of my generation.
Education Down Under

2/C Bowman’s Study Abroad Trip to Australia

2/C Alex Bowman

Unlike most of my peers who spent last semester in classrooms around Chapel Hill, I spent the semester studying and traveling along the east coast of Australia. I was involved with the School for International Training (SIT) and my studies focused on natural and cultural ecology. The SIT programs are field based and take an experimental approach that redefines the classroom.

I was based in Cairns, Queensland, on the Northeast coast of Australia, only 20 miles from the Great Barrier Reef. Upon arriving in Australia, after 30 hours of traveling and lost luggage, I was immediately immersed in the culture, living with a very generous home-stay family for two weeks. I then set out with 14 other students on a two-week camping trip in the Outback where we learned from Aboriginal elders everything from cultural issues to how to throw a boomerang. Throughout our excursion we had some close encounters with a lot of wildlife. Each day, we came across kangaroos, wallabies, deadly snakes, spiders, and salt-water crocs. After returning to Cairns to rejuvenate, we left for another two week excursion to experience the tropical rain forests of the wet tropics. Having class in the rain forests of Australia was much more exciting than the large lecture halls of UNC. This setting, however, did have its challenges: leaches, rain, more rain and, of course, deadly snakes. After this adventure, we traveled offshore to the Lizard Island Research Station. For two weeks, the Great Barrier Reef was my classroom. I spent four hours a day everyday in the water studying marine ecology. The rest of the time was spent at the research station participating in lectures and making observations about ongoing studies.

The remainder of the semester in Australia was devoted to my independent study project. I separated from my group and traveled 1200 miles to New South Wales where I worked at a sea turtle rehabilitation center studying populations, nesting sites, and strategies for their conservation. My five week project included over 180 hours of intensive field work and scuba diving. By the end of the process I submitted a proposed conservation plan for local sea turtle populations to the New South Wales Government. After completing my academic studies in Australia, I traveled south, along the East Coast, to Sydney, then I returned to Cairns, where I participated in an extra-curricular SCUBA Rescue Diver course and became a certified Rescue Diver. I will always be grateful for the wonderful opportunity I was given to have this life-changing Australian experience.

You Can’t Handle the Truth!

Guest Speakers teach MIDN about UCMJ and Rules of Engagement

MIDN 3/C Elizabeth Kantarakias

On 20 January 2009, the UNC NROTC Battalion was pleased to have three experienced military lawyers as guest speakers during Naval Lab. These gentlemen focused on the internal affairs of Operational Law and the UCMJ, which affects military service members.

Lieutenant Commander Glenn Gerding was a Naval Officer and a Naval Lawyer, who specialized primarily in military justice. As the unit learned, Naval and Marine Corps lawyers are required to be well-rounded in their knowledge of all aspects of law, including areas beyond their specialty. He became a lawyer first and then he decided to join the Navy as a lawyer, which is a much easier route than going directly through the fleet. He still practices law today as a retired officer. LTCMDR Gerding briefed the importance, missions, and path to becoming a JAG.

Reserve JAG LTCMDR Geiss and active duty officer/lawyer CAPT Pope of the United States Marine Corps both offered their views, knowledge, and advice during their combined brief on “The Law of Armed Conflict” by LTCOL Thomas McCann, USMC. Both lawyers specialize in operational law, which focuses on rules of engagement and how soldiers should interact with surrounding factors, especially in preserving a fair battle ground. In general, these gentlemen make sure that our Marines and Sailors are abiding by the Rules of Engagement and that they are not committing any unlawful crimes against themselves or other people. Their message warned against rash actions in battle unless faced with hostile intent.
Mardi Gras Competition

2009 Drill Teams put on Performance at Tulane University

*MIDN 4/C Scott Miller*

Every year, there are a few big events on the schedules of the NROTC battalion at Chapel Hill that really generate some excitement. Quite possibly, the most highly anticipated event is the annual Tulane University Drill Competition in New Orleans, Louisiana. The competition brings together the best drilling ROTC units from around the country and included more than 50 competing schools this year. Drill Team Commander MIDN 2/C Martin, Squad Team Commander MIDN 1/C Pardue, and Color Guard Commander MIDN 3/C Ballance led the UNC teams to New Orleans, as we competed in Platoon Drill, Squad Drill, Color Guard. MIDN 3/C Ban Keilman also performed an individual exhibition, using skills he learned in high school JROTC, using much more advanced moves, including. UNC looked sharp in every event, but unfortunately did not place in the top three overall.

Though the UNC team did not bring home the gold, the trip to New Orleans was not a loss. Fortunately, after the competition ended, the Mardi Gras weekend of New Orleans began, and the midshipmen were able to gain some valuable cultural experience, and represent UNC. As midshipmen explored the narrow roads and alleys of New Orleans, they encountered flamboyant masks, colorful beads, street magicians, jazz bands, and more. The culture of New Orleans permeated every nook and side street. Whether finding a small local Po’ Boy restaurant or walking back and forth on Bourbon or Canal Streets, midshipmen found ways to enjoy the excitement of a true ‘Nawlins experience.

On Friday, after the competition, the Duke and UNC Battalions trekked over to the National WWII Museum, where midshij were able to learn about their predecessors who fought and defended this country decades ago.

As the 2009 Drill Team arrived back home from their five-day excursion, they stepped back onto UNC soil with many memories and experiences gained. Through the competition and festivities the midshipmen forged new bonds and strengthened existing friendships, helping to create a closer, stronger NROTC unit.

Giving Back to Those in Need

Red Cross Tradition Success Yet Again

*MIDN 2/C Matthew James*

The American Red Cross blood drive is the focal point of the UNC NROTC’s community service outreach. Its main objectives are to give back to the community by collecting blood donations, to build rapport with the Red Cross, and to represent the Navy and Marine Corps well. It is also a good time to provide an opportunity for civilians to visit the Naval Armory. The Red Cross representative informed the Battalion that recently there has been an increased need for blood donations because the winter weather has caused cancellation of at least 875 donations in January 2009. Blood drives administered under the auspices of the American Red Cross account for 44% of the blood donated in the United States.

This semester’s NROTC blood drive was very successful. Twenty-seven units of blood were collected and no logistical problems arose. The blood drive staff was never idle and was willing to work after the scheduled time to accommodate all of the donors. The Battalion volunteer staff was also a valuable asset to the drive. MIDN 2/C Tessmann described working at the drive as “a positive experience,” and related that he was glad to see that “the NROTC and the Red Cross worked well together.”

This drive was fortunate enough to have many individuals and businesses donate time and money to it. There were many blood donors from within the battalion as well as elsewhere in the area. One man even emailed a representative on the day of the drive from off campus to ask where he could park his car while he donated. There were also several businesses that made generous food donations. Among these were Cluck U, Domino’s pizza, and Alpine bagel. This cooperation and generosity led MIDN 1/C Johnson to “Anytime anyone shows sacrifice for the well being of others, that motivates me.”
MEET THE 1/C

Evan Bower

Major: Mathematics, BA
Service Selection: Aviation Warfare
What are your hopes and expectations about life after commissioning? I expect to be constantly challenged by my career as a Naval Aviator and by the sailors to whom I will be responsible. I hope that I will be able to rise to the challenge and meet the needs of my shipmates and my nation.
What is (are) the thing(s) you will miss most about Carolina or Carolina NROTC? After leaving Carolina, I will most greatly miss the ease with which I have come into association with like-minded and concerned individuals.

SSgt Herman Davis

Major: Peace, War and Defense
Service Selection: United States Marine Corps
How do you think your experience as an enlisted personnel will help you as an officer? Being prior enlisted will help me to remain grounded as I strive to be the best officer I can be while continuing to set the example for the Marines under my charge.
What is (are) the thing(s) you will miss most about Carolina or Carolina NROTC? The thing that I will miss the most is the people. I've come across some pretty interesting people and above all else I will miss that the most.

Becca DeMore

Major: History
Service Selection: United States Marine Corps
What are your hopes and expectations about life after commissioning? I hope to love life, excel at my job, take care of my Marines, and be the best leader I can possibly be. I expect cold runs, marathon swims, early mornings, long hours, crazy scenarios, and unending paper work. But I also expect to meet, lead, and follow some of the most amazing people God has created into exciting and dangerous places to protect the life and ideas I cherish.
What is (are) the thing(s) you will miss most about Carolina or Carolina NROTC? I will miss people watching while walking through the quad, the cartoons in the Daily Tar Heel, eating cinnamon rolls and coffee with people at Alpine, cramming for exams with half of the student population on the 2nd floor of Davis library, and tailgating in the cold before football games. But most of all, I'll miss the people with whom I have spent the past few years because they have made college the best years of my life.
Christen Hayes

Major: International Studies, French Minor  
Service Selection: Surface Warfare

What are your hopes and expectations about life after commissioning?  
My hope for life after commissioning is that I will be able to get out in the world and do something totally new and different. I would love to get out to the West Coast and experience that part of the country. I expect that Navy life will be very challenging and stressful, while at the same time I have to learn a lot of valuable skills quickly and get to go places and do things I never expected.

What is (are) the thing(s) you will miss most about Carolina or Carolina NROTC?  
I will definitely miss the college lifestyle. While it can be stressful at times, I have had a lot of fun at Carolina, and I will miss all the little things I take for granted now. I have also met many amazing people here, and I hope to keep in touch with them even after I leave. And it will always make me a little college-homesick when I think of Chapel Hill in the Spring.

George Hodgin

Major: Economics and Asian Studies (Chinese)  
Service Selection: Naval Special Warfare

What are your hopes and expectations about life after commissioning?  
To excel and graduate from BUD/S while maintaining friends and relationships from UNC. Following BUD/S, I will look forward to enjoying SQT and learning how to be the best possible AOIC of a SEAL Platoon.

What is (are) the thing(s) you will miss most about Carolina or Carolina NROTC?  
I will miss most the people and friends I have made throughout four years at the most idyllic place in the world. I anxiously await the start of my Naval career but will definitely miss my friends and family.
Draonne Johnson

Major: Political Science
Service Selection: Surface Warfare
What are your hopes and expectations about life after commissioning?
I expect life after commissioning to quickly accelerate and involve extremely stressful situations. However, despite being overwhelmed, I hope my career is filled with fun and much success.
What is (are) the thing(s) you will miss most about Carolina or Carolina NROTC?
I will miss the awesome people I have met, the quad in the spring, and Carolina basketball. But most of all I will miss the great times I've had over the years with my fellow midshipmen. It's been a wonderful ride.

Jordan Kennedy

Major: Economics
Service Selection: Aviation Warfare
What are your hopes and expectations about life after commissioning?
I just want to take one step at a time, get through flight school, and work on raising my family.
What is (are) the thing(s) you will miss most about Carolina or Carolina NROTC?
I will definitely miss everyone I came up in NROTC with. I certainly wouldn't be where I am now without them. Though I am glad to finally be going into the fleet, I have some great memories from this place that I will never forget.

David Pardue

Major: Chemistry, BS; Biology and Spanish minors
Service Selection: United States Marine Corps
What are your hopes and expectations about life after commissioning?
I don't have too many expectations after commissioning. I suppose that right after commissioning, TBS will be a good challenge, so I hope I do well enough to get my first-choice for MOS.
What is (are) the thing(s) you will miss most about Carolina or Carolina NROTC?
Definitely the people.
Major: English  
Service Selection: United States Marine Corps  
What are your hopes and expectations about life after commissioning? I am looking forward to attending The Basic School and selecting an MOS. As of right now, I'm most interested in Infantry and Intelligence, but of course things might change while at TBS. What I'm most excited about is the opportunity to lead Marines in any capacity. This is why I joined NROTC in the first place. This is where all our hard work finally pays off.

What is (are) the thing(s) you will miss most about Carolina or Carolina NROTC? Carolina has been a great place to make friends, and I've been blessed with several very good ones. I think it will be very tough when we go our separate ways in a few months, and especially when we start deploying. I will also miss the academic community here, and the challenging classes and discussions it has fostered.

John Powell

Holly Santos

Major: Biology, BS; Chemistry minor  
Service Selection: Surface Warfare  
What are your hopes and expectations about life after commissioning? I just hope to continue enjoying whatever experiences life has to offer, in the Navy and outside of the service.

What is (are) the thing(s) you will miss most about Carolina or Carolina NROTC? The friends, the basketball, and the late night food excursions.

Russell Spitler

Major: International Studies, French Minor  
Service Selection: Aviation Warfare  
What are your hopes and expectations about life after commissioning? My main priority after commissioning is to become a great Naval Aviator. I hope to make awesome friends in the fleet and in some way positively impact our nation. If this doesn't work out, plan B is to become a rock star.

What is (are) the thing(s) you will miss most about Carolina or Carolina NROTC? The people.
Elizabeth Van Cott

Major: Biology, BS
Service Selection: Medical Corps
What are your hopes and expectations about life after commissioning? I’ll be in medical school for the next four years, so I’m honestly just hoping to survive 4 more years of school. I’m also praying that I can make it through anatomy lab- dissecting cadavers for a semester- without passing out. Medical school in general is going to be my biggest challenge yet, but I’m excited regardless. I am preparing myself to be an even bigger dork than I already am and to study like it’s a full time job. Although my time out in the fleet isn’t for another few years, I’m looking forward to it and hope to maybe one day deploy on one of the hospital ships (USNS MERCY or COMFORT).

What is (are) the thing(s) you will miss most about Carolina or Carolina NROTC? The people I’ve met here, especially through NROTC. Fortunately, we are for the most part all going out to do the same thing, so we’re bound to bump into each other sooner or later. I’ll also miss a lot about Chapel Hill itself- Franklin St, Jordan Lake, basketball games, etc. I might even miss the Armory a teeny bit.

Meet The New Midshipman
A new midshipman joined the Battalion this semester, MIDN 4/C Conte

MIDN 4/C Matthew Conte

Intended Major: Peace War and Defense
Intended Service Selection: Naval Special Warfare
Why did you join NROTC? I always wanted to join the military but I didn’t know when and what branch I wanted to go into. After much thought and research, what I really want to do in the military is become a Navy SEAL. Everything they do I want to do, and I thought joining the NROTC was the best way to get there.

What are your expectations for this semester having joined NROTC? My expectations are to get a basic understanding of the Navy, while at the same time have fun and enjoy my experience.
MIDN 4/C Morris, Nemetz, and Zeberlein have a good laugh as they are called to make a speech by the Battalion. These former college programers received their scholarships and were congratulated by the Active Duty and the rest of the Battalion.

SSgt Lopez takes a moment out of his PFT to pose for the camera. Though running around the track for three miles gets tediously boring, SSgt Lopez is able to have some fun.

The Battalion in Action

Midshipmen gather for a picture at the ice skating rink. MWR Coordinator MIDN 3/C Maykovich worked hard to find ways for the Battalion to enjoy some of the funds raised from long hours spent cleaning Kenan Stadium.

Led by MIDN 1/C Bower, the Squad performs their drill card for the judges at Tulane University. Squad Leader MIDN 1/C Pardue (not pictured) marched the squad squad around the field.
Bars in hand, MIDN 2/C Tessmann and 3/C Williams and Brakias walk off the basketball court just before the game against Clemson. Being on color guard has its benefits, including tickets to games and the honor of presenting the colors for the National Anthem on one of the most renowned basketball courts in the country. UNC won that game on 21 JAN 09, handing Clemson their 54th loss in a row in the Dean Dome.

MIDN 2/C Bowman cheerfully endures the heat of the Australian outback on his study abroad excursion. Bowman experienced all of Australia’s attractions, from jungles to the Great Barrier Reef.

Midshipmen 1/C DeMore, Hayes, and Van Cott enjoy a local restaurant in New Orleans, LA. Many MIDN went to Voilà!, a local sports restaurant and bar, to watch UNC basketball.

MECEPs SSgts Lopez, King, and Davis chat while the rest of the Battalion gets inspected during lab. The MECEPs, having been through many inspections themselves, were integral in helping prepare midshipmen for inspections as well as standing and marching drill.
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