

YARDTALES

A publication of the Wisconsin Naval Academy Parents' Association, Inc.



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Stephanie & John Kelling



From the Helm

By: John and Stephanie Kelling
WISNAPA Co-Presidents
Chad Kelling - Class of 2009

Taking life for granted

When Stephanie and I got married in 1982, we never anticipated that we would become a "military family." Both of us lived through the Vietnam War, and had the war not been coming to an end in 1973, I too, would have been called up to serve. Over the years as teachers, we've taught our students about previous wars; not only about its horrors, but also about the good that can come from them. With service men and women again in the face of battle and conflict thousands of miles away, and our own children being trained and ready to step into those conflicts, family life takes on a

whole new meaning.

This past month, we attended a deployment meeting for parents and families of soldiers of the Wisconsin Army National Guard - 3500 troops from across our state - who will be deployed in early 2009 to Iraq, Afghanistan or an undisclosed location. This is the largest deployment of Wisconsin soldiers since 1940. It has always been nice to have our children close to us, or at least available to talk with them by cell phone. That dimension will be changing soon.

From time to time, we pull out some of the old family movies and watch our boys Chris and Chad "playing

Army" in the back yard. We never dreamed that someday this too would become a reality. It was such wholesome playtime for them, and by the end of the day they were tucked safely into their beds for a good night's rest. That dimension too, will change soon.

Most Americans take their freedoms for granted. Those before us have paved the way and shed their blood for the freedoms we seem now so easily to demand. Protesters at national conventions and picketers at community rallies have the right to speak their piece because of freedoms guaranteed to them and to us - not only

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Alumni News



LT Colin Allen Class of 2002

Colin is scheduled to graduate from the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School at Patuxent River, Maryland Naval Air Station on December 12, 2008. The family plans to attend the festivities. Following graduation, he will be working with F-18s at one of the two Master Jet Bases at Lemoore, California or Langley, Virginia, for about two months. His wife Danielle and daughter Isadora will use that time to visit Danielle's family in Brazil. He will then be assigned to one of the two experimental aircraft squadrons at Patuxent River or China Lake, California.



LT Colin Allen, middle, with his wife Danielle, left, daughter Isabel and mother-in-law Denise.

Colin and Danielle will celebrate their sixth wedding anniversary on September 28. Isadora celebrated her first birthday on August 20 with a big party. Danielle's mother Denise was able to attend.

Submitted by: Larry & Judy Allen, Mill Creek, Washington

Ensign Elizabeth Burnett Class of 2007

Betsy continues her tour on the *USS Tortuga*. The ship participated in CARAT 2008 (Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training) from early May until September. During that time they completed training exercises with the navies of six



Left: Betsy Burnett during a community relations project at an orphanage in Puerto Princesa, Philippines. Right: Crossing the line initiation rite when she became a "trustworthy shellback."

southeast Asian countries: the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei. CARAT is designed to build relationships and enhance the operational readiness of participating countries. When in port, they did community relations projects in the countries deemed safe for them to do so.

While underway, she completed the requirements and successfully passed the Board for OOD - Officer of the Deck. She crossed the equator, and is no longer a slimy "pollywog," rather is an honorable "shellback." Her present responsibilities on the ship are PAO (Public Affairs Officer), Educational Services Office, and SAVI (Sexual Assault Victim Intervention) Officer. She hopes to combine Advanced Schooling in Newport, Rhode Island with a visit home later this year.

Submitted by: Kathy & Jim Burnett, New Holstein

Ensign Andrew Clingman Class of 2008

Andrew is currently attending Nuclear Power School in Charleston, South Carolina. He and three other ensigns share a brand new townhouse in Ladson, about 10 minutes from base. They currently have the essentials for the townhouse: big-screen TV, cable and leather couches. As he was moving

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Ensign Andrew Clingman

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in, his neighbor was unloading his things that had just arrived from Guam. This guy was retiring from his career in the Navy. So, as one begins his Navy career, one ends his. They are all pretty busy with very intense schooling. He said the material



Ensign Andrew Clingman

is interesting and challenging but the pace is very quick which makes for a lot of information in a short time. Week-ends have been spent looking around Charleston and going back on base to study. Since they cannot bring anything home with them, they have to study at school. This next phase in Andrew's career seems to be going pretty smoothly at this time. He's enjoying the guys he goes to school with and has been playing basketball and racquetball on base.

Submitted by: Sue & Steve Clingman, Brookfield

Capt. Brian "Bud" Colby Class of 2002

Bud's trip with the Marines to Ghana, Africa to participate in Operation "Shared Accord" was very rewarding to him. He observed that the Ghana people were some of the nicest people he has ever had the opportunity to meet.

While in Ghana, the Marines worked with other branches of the American armed forces to provide humanitarian aid to approximately 18,000 people and veterinarian services to approximately 16,000 animals. The Marines trained with Ghana soldiers in joint combat operations and were taught jungle warfare survival skills. The lessons learned include capturing, preparing and eating snakes. He had the opportunity to view in the wild the world's most deadly snake, the Black Mamba. True to Bud's personality, he adapted well to the people and country and left as an "honorary chief" with the appropriate vest and head gear.

More recently he survived his fourth hurricane - one at the USNA, two in North Carolina and Ike in Texas. He was prepared for Ike with provisions and beer to last 15 to 18

days. Fortunately he was without power for just a few days and the water and gas was unaffected. He reported no damage to his house and all is well.

Submitted by: Tom & Lou Ann Colby, Madison

Anthony De Vuono Class of 2006

Anthony completed his first deployment with the 31 MEU stationed in Japan. He is currently training in Camp Pendleton, California and expects to be in the U.S. until April. His wife Amanda, USAFA Class of 2006, is stationed at LAX Air Force Base and they call Manhattan Beach, California their current home. Both are doing well.

Submitted by: Tony & Cindy De Vuono, Racine

Douglas De Vuono Class of 2008

Douglas is currently in Pensacola, Florida waiting for flight school. After a wonderful graduation week he was able to come home to Wisconsin for three weeks, during which time he got a private pilot's license. He took his parents flying the day before he returned to Annapolis for summer temporary assignment duty.

Submitted by: Tony & Cindy De Vuono, Racine

LTJG Victor Duenow Class of 2005

Victor is just underway on his first extended deployment. He is a helicopter pilot from HCS-22, (the Sea Knights) and is deployed aboard the *USNS Supply* (T-AOE 6), one of Military Sealift Command's four fast combat support ships which is accompanying the *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71) battlegroup deploying to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Victor will serve as the Assistant Operations Officer for their detachment of two MH-60 Seahawk helicopters. Victor is very excited to get out and start paying back the Navy for all his training and expects he will also visit a few of the world's other "hot" spots. He expects to return in April 2009 from this deployment. Victor's wife Caitlin will hold down the home front in Vir-

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LTJG Victor Duenow

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ginia Beach as she starts her second year of teaching fourth grade students.

Submitted by: Russ & Afton Duenow, Fredericksburg, Virginia

Ensign Alex Haupt Class of 2007

It's hard enough to keep Alex's friends names straight, but we have added Dolly, Ike and Isabel to the list. They are the hurricanes that have come and gone, some leaving more destruction than others. Hurricane Isabel came to the shores of the U.S. Naval Academy in 2003, when Alex was a Plebe. Classes were postponed and Isabel destroyed equipment and played havoc to classrooms. Dolly was merely a blip on the screen in the Corpus Christi area, or as Alex put it, "nothing more than a category 0.5."

The most recent was Hurricane Ike. He was big, ferocious and made his mark. Alex evacuated Corpus Christi a couple of days before Ike came to shore. Alex packed up his truck and traveled to Austin, San Antonio and Denver to visit friends. Fortunately, his house and "worldly belongings" were unharmed.

As for Alex's summer, he spent part of it as a chef and chauffeur. He likes to watch the *Food Network* and has been sampling recipes. In May, he volunteered to drive a limo with the wedding party for one of his kite-boarding friends. The limo wasn't too difficult to maneuver after flying a T-34 Turbomenter and driving an Silverado pick-up truck for nearly a year.

He spent nearly eight months in flight training while in Texas. He enjoyed his first night flight in mid-May saying



Left: Ens. Alex Haupt during a motorcycle safety class.



Right (l-r): Bill, Alex and Kevin Haupt in August.

it was calm with less turbulence, cooler and very peaceful. Alex was leaning towards helicopters for many months, but when it came time to rank his flying community preference, it was a toss-up between helicopters and P-3s. He received his first choice, helos. Due to budget constraints, he won't be transferring to Milton, Florida for advance flight training until the beginning of October, when the new fiscal year be-

gins. Classes begin Oct. 22 and will last about eight months.

With nearly two months of "down time," he took six days of leave and came home for Jan's brother's wedding and Bill's birthday. It was good to have him home, albeit too brief. The time almost flew by and we seemed to be going at warp speed. The family caught a Brewers game at Miller Park the night before he returned to Texas.

Alex completed the motorcycle safety course during the lull. We're giving him Bill's old motorcycle since it will be a good mode of transportation while in Florida.

Alex plans to join us in Phoenix in October for a family wedding. He should be home for either Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Submitted by: Jan & Bill Haupt, Lodi

2nd LT Kimberly Julka, USMC Class of 2008

Following USNA Graduation and Commissioning on Friday May 23, Kim spent enough time at home to witness the local Marine Corps league's Memorial Day service and participate in the community's Memorial Day program at Veterans Park in downtown Fond du Lac.



Kim Julka, second from left, with her (Echo) company mates

The visit was very brief (only a couple days) but she used her time wisely and was able to visit with some friends who were unable to travel to Annapolis for graduation.

Her next stop was Marine Corps Base Quantico where she reported on May 28 for TBS. The Basic School (TBS), is the first six-month stop for all new Marine Corps 2nd Lieutenants, regardless of their path to commissioning. In accordance with the concept that all Marines are first rifleman, the mission of TBS is to, "train and educate newly commissioned or appointed officers in the high standards of professional knowledge, esprit-de-corps, and leadership required to prepare them for duty as company grade officers in the operating forces, with particular emphasis on the duties, responsibilities and warfighting skills required of a rifle platoon commander."

Kim is a proud member of the 4th Platoon of Echo Company. Echo Company is made up of 246 new officers, 43 who are USNA grads. She is one of 21 female members of Echo Company.

I had the opportunity to visit for the Independence Day holiday weekend, tour the base and experience the endurance course. Watching the national fireworks display with a group of Marines on the grounds of the Iwo Jima Monument

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2nd LT Kimberly Julka

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at Arlington National Cemetery was a real experience.

My guess is that Kim misses her two-man corner room in Bancroft Hall from this past year. With an added training company in the rotation at TBS, conditions are a little crowded. Kim and her five roommates (three USNA grads and three NROTC grads) share a four-man room. And for an academy grad who is used to setting the standard for her company for room inspections, these civilian college gals have a way to go.

Kim reports enjoying the experiences and training opportunities of TBS and is looking forward to Military Operating Specialty (MOS) selection in mid-October. During the course of TBS, preferences are submitted and each is judged and rated on their performance in classroom and field exercises. Similar to service selection at the Academy, each will be assigned to a MOS and following Echo Company graduation from TBS on December 5, each will report to their specific MOS school.

Submitted by: Jeff Julka, Fond du Lac

LTJG Allison (Pulver) Keller Class of 2006

Allison (Pulver) Keller, Class of 2006, was Ensign Pulver (remember the movie, *Mr. Roberts*) for about two weeks before she became Ensign Keller after marrying Rob Keller, Class of 2006, in June 2006. Allison majored in ocean engineering and ran track and cross-country for the Naval Academy.

Allison and Rob are residents of San Diego, California. Allison's first assignment was as Auxiliaries Officer (Engineering Department) on the *USS Howard*, DDG83. She has completed one deployment to the Arabian Gulf and was subsequently promoted to Lieutenant JG. Her next assignment on the *Howard* was as the assistant chief engineer.

Allison was deployed to Asia in the spring of 2008. Her current assignment is training officer for Amphibious Squadron 3. She reported on September 12, to the *USS Peleliu*, LHD5, which is currently deployed to the Arabian Gulf.

Submitted by: Scott & Judy Pulver, Chippewa Falls

Editor's note: Welcome to the Pulvers, who are new WISANPA members!

Capt. Eric Larsen, USMC Class of 2003

After a cross-country drive with Loren from Oceanside, California to Quantico, Virginia, Eric is now attending Ex-

peditionary Warfare School, a nine-month Marine resident education course. Instead of being a "down time," Eric has found himself busy with class assignments in the course. The disappointing aspect to Eric is that he is not earning any college credit for the amount of work that he is putting into the class. Eric

also finds himself missing the California beaches. In fact he flew to California for the Labor Day weekend to soak up some sun and to visit with some friends who had just returned from Iraq.

We will head out to Quantico for the SMU game, and more importantly, to be with Eric to celebrate his birthday, an event we have not been able to share for several years due to his three deployments to Iraq. Thanksgiving and Christmas will also be special times with Eric home in Wisconsin.

It is hard to believe that five years have passed since Eric's graduation. Eric signed up for two additional years and will make a decision after that time as to whether to continue.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our incoming class of 2012 (now that year seems weird to write), with our upperclassmen, and with our sons and daughters currently serving.

Submitted by: Cindi and Loren Larsen, Racine

1st LT Joe Leonardelli, USMC Class of 2006

Joe is currently stationed in Iraq but looks forward to returning to Camp Pendleton in the next month. He has been very satisfied about the work he has done there and confident it has contributed to the turnover of Al Anbar province to Iraqi security forces. We don't hear from him too often as he is often out on patrols, but he reports that he loves his work and his Marines and that he has been very well trained to complete his assignment.

Thanks to all of you for your support of our sons and daughters who are now serving in distant places.

Submitted by: Carol Sells, Random Lake



Capt. Larsen, right, with a Marine friend deployed with with Larsen.



1st LT Joe Leonardelli, left, making friends with the locals in Iraq.

LT Andrew Oswald Class of 2001

Andy is still in the state of Washington. I am excited because he will be home the third week in September for four days to do some prep for his wedding in December.

His next two duties are assigned. In March he is going to be out to sea on the *USS Chosin* (cruiser out of Honolulu), as the senior supply officer; then in 2010 he is going to graduate school in Monterey, operational analysis for an MBA.

Submitted by: Kay Kuenzl-Stenerson, Oshkosh

2nd LT Molly Stanley, USAF Class of 2006

Molly is currently on a six-month deployment to Balad Airbase in Iraq. She is adjusting quite well to her first deployment. Her work schedule is a 12-hour shift from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. seven days a week, but she says it makes the time go faster to be busy all the time.

Of course she misses her husband Kevin and their 14-month-old son Connor, who are currently at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma where Kevin is in pilot training. She will hopefully be home in time to pin Kevin's wings on in mid-December and for Christmas. The USO has a great program where they make a video of her reading a book to Connor every week and send it home for him to view. It helps keep him a little connected to Mommy!

Since being in Iraq, she has participated in a half-marathon and two 5K events. They run them very early in the morning (before 5 a.m.) to avoid the high temperatures during the day. She really enjoys care packages so it is just like Plebe Summer again getting them ready and off to the post office. Thank goodness for the military flat rate boxes.

We had the pleasure of having Connor stay with us for two weeks while Kevin had some night training. Hopefully he can come again for a few weeks before Molly returns.

Submitted by: Tom and Sue Mahoney, Green Bay



2nd LT Molly Stanley in Iraq. (Note the thermometer reads 120 degrees.)



The following was written by Molly (Mahoney) Stanley on Sept. 11, 2008. Balad is a multi-group base about 25 to 30 miles north of Baghdad. It is composed of all branches of the military and is one of the largest U.S. bases in Iraq.

This morning at 0530 local Balad, Iraq time, the announcement was made, "Ready, set, go!" (There's no starting gun - for good reason I'm sure.) Yet another 5K - run was starting. This would be my third one since I've been here, but one I don't think I'll ever forget.

There were around 1,000 air-men, soldiers, sailors, and marines up bright and early for a little morning run. This 5k had an added "guideon competition." People would run with their unit's guideon, and the first one to finish won bragging rights. Along with the guideons was a POW/MIA flag and an American flag.

Running on only four hours of sleep, I was getting pretty tired around the second mile. It was then that I looked up and saw about 10 feet in front of me the soldier running with the American flag. As I ran by him, the wind caught the flag a little and blew in my face. At first I was a little annoyed, but it didn't take me long to realize how awesome it was - that there I was in Iraq on September 11th, running next to our American flag, running next to my comrades who go outside the wire daily. Those individuals are tirelessly out ensuring that the events of Sept 11th do not happen again and that you and I sleep peacefully at night. Daily they shed their blood, sweat, and tears for our country and our flag.

Today while I was running and my sweat too smeared across the nation's flag, I felt more connected with those that have made the ultimate sacrifice than ever before. Sometimes it's hard to feel connected, because I sit behind a desk in an air-conditioned office administratively supporting those that fight, but never actually being in the fight. Spending September 11th over here reminded me that everyone is in this fight. Those innocent people on the planes, in the World Trade Center, and in the Pentagon that fateful day never imagined the events that would unfold that day. They never asked to be in the fight or to give their lives for their country, yet they did; and let us never forget them or their families and friends. Also never forget about all those members of our nation's military (and even some civilians) that have given their lives over here, nearly 50 in my unit alone, since its conception.

Continue to pray for all the families affected by this war and never forget those who have given their lives.

Submitted by: Tom & Sue Mahoney, Green Bay



2nd LT Molly (Mahoney) Stanley in Iraq

Go Navy! Beat Army!

***Ensign Jessica Troska
Class of 2008***

Jessica is stationed aboard the *USS Bainbridge*, DDG96, which is a guided missile destroyer out of Norfolk, Virginia. She is currently on a short deployment that just left on Monday, September 8 and is scheduled to be out for six weeks. She has another two short deployments before she ships out for six months in February 2009.

Submitted by: Lois & Keith Troska, Anoka, Minnesota

***2nd LT Emily Vanden Heuvel
Class of 2008***

Emily reported to Quantico, Virginia for Marine Corps TBS (The Basic School) the end of June. She considers herself quite fortunate to have Serena Tyson (a 2006 USNA graduate who now has a post-graduate degree) as her roommate, whose family lives in Quantico. Needless to say, she has been spoiled by home-cooked dinners personally DELIVERED

to the base along with an open-ended weekend invitation. We once again ask ourselves how we can ever repay these amazing people for their kindness.

Training is going well. Emily qualified double expert, tying for first in her combined rifle and pistol score in her platoon of about 50 Marines, and took second place in rifle in the whole company. Last week she got to try out a machine gun and threw a live grenade, which she described as "awesome!" and, "It made all my teeth rattle inside my mouth!"

According to Em, the best part about TBS is that what you learn in the classroom you immediately get to apply first-hand in the field. She has completed her three and six-mile hikes with her nine-mile hike in two weeks. So far, even with her shorter leg stride, she was happy to report that she hasn't had any problems keeping up with the taller Marines.

Annapolis is still a popular weekend destination for Em, as she is dating a Firstie, who also happens to be Chad Kelling's roommate!

Submitted by: Tom Vanden Heuvel & Maureen Fitzsimons-Vanden Heuvel, Hartford



2nd LT Emily Vanden Heuvel with Serena Tyson (USNA '06)

**Midshipmen
News**



***Midn. Nick Cichucki
Class of 2009***

Nick had a great spring and summer. He had a break after exams was able to come home, relax and do a little fishing, then it was back to Annapolis for graduation.

From Annapolis he went to Jacksonville, Florida for 1st block aviation training. Since he has selected submarines, the academy sent him to learn how the enemy finds and attacks subs training with navy pilots on P-3s and helos.

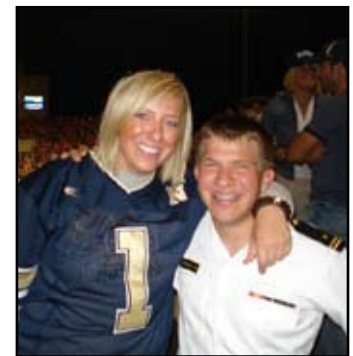
After 1st block Nick came back to Muskego for a little more relaxing and fishing, what else, and some time with friends and family.

He spent the beginning of Plebe Summer at the Acade-

my on weapons detail, training Plebes and found it to be a very rewarding experience. Nick was home for the last month before reform and had some quality down time with a lot of activities, State Fair being a favorite since he has missed it for the last three years.

Classes are keeping him very busy with nine credit hours, two independent research projects and working on the race car team. He is looking forward to Parents Weekend, as are we.

Submitted by: Larry & Wenda Cichucki, Muskego



Midn. Nick Cichucki with his sister Kim at the Ball State football game

Midn. Jessica Dekan Class of 2009



Midn. Jessica Dekan with her fiancé Adam Heyler at the Ring Dance last spring.

Jessica got a surprise at the Ring Dance when she received a second ring, an engagement ring.

Jessica went to Leatherneck School for her first block of summer training. She then came home for a few weeks of vacation, spending some of this time looking for a wedding dress. Adam came for a week of vacation in Wisconsin and they spent a day kayaking at the lake with family and friends. They also spent time on the golf course.

After vacation she was a detailer for the second half of Plebe Summer.

Submitted by: Jerry & Joan Dekan, Arcadia

Midn. William Jenkins Class of 2009

In April, Billy was accepted into the Navy Nuclear Reactors program as a Bowman Scholar, having successfully completed his nuclear accession interviews as a Second Class, and has selected submarines as his warfare community. In conjunction with the Bowman Scholar Program, he will be designing and conducting a research project throughout his senior year in underwater acoustic warfare.

Upon graduating from the Naval Academy, he will report to Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, where he will earn a masters degree in physical oceanography.

This past June, he interned for two weeks at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Washington, D.C. at the Acoustic Signals Processing branch. Following his two weeks in Washington, he accompanied a team of NRL scientists to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he embarked on the Canadian research vessel CFAV *Quest* for two weeks of acoustic experiments in St. Margaret's Bay. Upon conclusion of the internship, he enjoyed four weeks of leave at home with friends and family.

Block 3 training consisted of a one-month long trip abroad to Africa sponsored by the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), based in Djibouti. After spending several days in Djibouti, the midshipmen traveled to Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. Training highlights from the trip included participation in US Army Civil Affairs Teams proj-



Top left: Midn. William Jenkins training in the jungle in Uganda. Top right: Jenkins at sea on an oceanographic research vessel out of Halifax as part of his postgraduate degree program with the Navy Research Lab. Left: Jenkins with a cheetah.

ects in rural Tanzania and Kenya, Navy Special Boat Unit familiarization in coastal Kenya near the Somali border, visiting CJTF-HOA foreign military training sites, meetings at the US embassies in Djibouti and Dar es Salaam, meeting Tanzanian Ambassador Mark Green (former congressman from Wisconsin), and training for one week with Ugandan officer cadets, including a three-day jungle infantry tactics exercise. In addition to training, the Midshipmen were able to enjoy snorkeling in Djibouti and Tanzania, a safari in Nairobi National Park, and most importantly, interacting socially with the many Americans and Africans they met along the way.

This semester, he is serving as a platoon commander in 6th Company. He continues his active role as a leader in musical activities on the Yard, including participation in the Midshipmen String Quartet, Men's Glee Club, and Catholic Choir. He is also a member of the USNA karate team.

Submitted by: Bill (USNA '70) & Teri Jenkins, Stevens Point

Midn. Chad Kelling Class of 2009

Chad spent the first block of summer training at Leatherneck in Quantico, Virginia. It made for some very long days (and nights), but at least they had their weekends off to recover. It also helped reinforce his desire to serve in the Marine Corps. Second block found him on a YP cruise down to Norfolk, Virginia, which made him certain SWO (Surface Warfare Officer) is not his service selection preference.

The rest of the summer was sweet, as he bought his first car, turned 21, and had a month of leave at home to spend with family and friends. However, one sad note was flying to Atlanta to attend the funeral of classmate/company mate

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Midn. Chad Kelling

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Midn. James Licata Class of 2009



Top: 13th Company Midshipmen with Mr. & Mrs. Reeves in Atlanta. Midn. Chad Kelling is left of Mr. Reeves. Left: Kelling (left of flag) as company commander during a march over to the football stadium.

1/C Aaron Reeves (USNA '09), Atlanta, Georgia who was tragically killed in a single-car accident July 28. Quite a few Mids from Chad's company were able to attend, including some who were serving as Plebe Summer cadre. USNA covered their travel expenses, for which they were grateful.

We are looking forward to traveling to Annapolis for the 1/C and 2/C Parent Weekend, and bringing some Wisconsin delectables. Parents of a company mate are hosting a party for 13th Company Mids and their parents. We also plan to check out the home we have rented for Commissioning Week (owned by a former Wisconsinite, who is also a Plebe sponsor).

Chad is 13th Company Commander, so seeing him lead in the dress parade will be an honor. He has been very busy in this leadership role. We sent him a care package as he had requested, but when asked if he received it, he said he hadn't had time to go check his mail. He's also been training to run in the USMC Marathon in Washington D.C. in October.

Submitted by: John & Stephanie Kelling, Waukesha

Ironically, four years ago we never would have thought that our Midshipman would do so much sailing while at the USNA! Just from May through August, James has sailed the Chesapeake Bay, the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Caribbean and the Aegean Seas. From his pre-zero block DelMarVa shakedown/training cruise for his August varsity offshore sailing team assignment up and down the Atlantic coast, to his SUBTRAMID in Hawaii (including the free sailboat rental to military personnel on Memorial Day), the Academy provided amazing training and leadership opportunities, not to mention survival skills!

These parents listened raptly to James' now oft-repeated tale of the "perfect storm" encountered by the sailing team on Mother's Day and all through that night. Winds gusting beyond 60 knots, a churning sea and driving, horizontal rain left the veteran sailors/coaches with more than 20 years experience sailing the Chesapeake declaring that they had never witnessed anything like this before. Out of nine onboard, James was one of only four left standing who were not totally incapacitated by seasickness during this storm. The abandon ship gear was at the ready, but his boat made it back to the Yard intact, unlike one of the larger boats which was "demisted" and rescued by the Coast Guard.

After all that, you would have thought he had enough, but NO. He sailed in the Bahamas over spring break, and during his summer leave served as a co-captain of a 45-foot catamaran in the Greek Isles for an Academy friend's parents' 25th anniversary celebration. With all this experience under his belt, he has been chosen to skipper one of the varsity offshore sailing team 44s this semester.

Fair winds and following seas to all of our Mids!

Submitted by: Mary Moore & Steve Licata, Mequon



Midn. James Licata sailing the Greek Isles during summer leave.

Photos Needed!

Photos of the spring 2009 issue of *Yardtales* are needed for the 2008 Army/Navy game in Philadelphia on December 6 and All-Academies Military Ball on December 27. If you can help, contact Jan Haupt at jhauptlodi@aol.com or 608-592-4278.

Midn. Audrey Oberdick Class of 2009



Left: Dorothy, Emma & Midn. Audrey Oberdick in Fussen, Germany. Top: Having fun with the lawn ornaments.

We Oberdicks had a fabulous summer! As a gift with her loan, Audrey sent Mom, Dad and her two younger sisters to Germany, Austria and Switzerland for three weeks! It was a wonderful trip. We saw many sites and visited and stayed with many relatives. After Audrey finished her speech class from 1st block, she joined us in Germany for eight days during 2nd block by taking a MAT flight and hopping a train to join us.

When we all got back to the USA, we celebrated a wedding shower for Audrey's big brother Karl and his fiancée Lisa, who will be married on Oct. 18.

For 3rd block, Audrey was Midshipman in Charge on the *USS Oscar Austin*. She swam with Dolphins and whales and got stung by a jellyfish! She also did an excellent job of conning an underway refueling. She said she learned a lot from shadowing the officer to whom she was assigned. At one point, she declared that she had learned so much, that her "brain was full!"

We are all looking forward to her final year at the academy and all the activities that go with it!

Submitted by: Bernie & Peter Oberdick, Wadsworth, Illinois

Midn. Bill Prom Class of 2009

This was our shortest summer with Bill – a sign of times ahead we are sure. His summer training included being a Company Commander for Summer Seminar and a Marine training block at Camp Lejune (the name of this block escapes me). He was able to make the trip from the Yard to Camp Lejune and then the long ride home to Wisconsin in the good company of fellow Wisconsinite Marshall Witkowski (USNA '09).

And yes, he hit the ground running as soon as he arrived home. As captain of the men's cross country team this year, he organized and hosted a summer training camp for the team in Door County. It was absolutely delightful to have the Mids in and out of our house briefly before and after their week in Door County. Most of them ran 123 miles during that little training adventure and so far it looks like it is paying dividends as the team is off to a great start.

Navy has taken first place in two consecutive meets and is expected to win the Patriot League championship this year. Personally, Bill is off to a great start as well and has been named Patriot League runner of the week two weeks in a row. And, he has great runners right on his heels. Matt DeVillers (Class of 2011) from Menomonie Falls, has contributed to the team's success, finishing in the third and fifth position for the Navy team.

We were very excited to be able to travel last weekend to the Navy Invitational, missed the rain here, and enjoyed the very hot sunny humid weather in Annapolis. On September 27 Navy will run in Minneapolis and Jeff will make the pilgrimage there. We are looking forward to also seeing Navy beat Army on October 18 – is this the year for a perfect score? YES!

Bill's first choice for service selection remains Marine Ground. Next chapter ... commissioning followed a week later by his wedding, then off to

Submitted by: Gerianne & Jeff Prom, New Berlin



Navy cross country runners in Door County. Midn. Bill Prom is on the far right. Midn. Matthew (USNA '11) De villers is kneeling.

Midn. John Campion Class of 2010

This was a summer that John will always recall fondly because his training and travel were so full of variety and adventure - and there was still time to come home twice!

During zero block, John enjoyed SUBTRAMID in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He went underway on the *USS Charlotte* and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. He also had fun enjoying the beaches and nightlife of Honolulu. Next came PROTRAMID during first block, with training split between the Yard, Camp Lejeune, and San Diego. The time in San Diego

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Midn. John Champion

Continued from page 10



Top (l-r):
Barry, Bill and
Midn. John
Champion
following a
round of golf
at Peninsula
State Park in
Door County.



Bottom:
Midn.
Champion (far
right) with
his dad and
siblings on an
August visit to
Mackinac
Island.

conveniently coincided with the U.S. Open, and through his good friend, Midn. John Moore, he was able to attend Sunday's championship round. It was definitely a thrill for the guys to witness such an amazing round of golf.

Following PROTRAMID, John came home to Green Bay for two weeks and had fun catching up with family and friends. His sponsor family, the Smiths, visited us in early July and we all had a great time. From July 5-23, John and two fellow Mids traveled to China for summer school courses offered at the University of Peking. The international blend of students and visiting professors from the London School of Economics made it a fascinating experience. They also enjoyed seeing Olympic sites, the Great Wall, and much of Beijing, before spending two days in Shanghai.

After returning from China, John had another few weeks of leave, so we enjoyed time in Door County, as well as at our family cottage in northern Wisconsin. John was also able to attend a childhood friend's wedding in Michigan and we added a Mackinac Island visit to the weekend.

His second class year is off to a great start. We are really looking forward to attending classes with him on Parents Weekend and to experience our first Navy home football game at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium. It will be fun to spend time with other 9th Company parents and soak up as much as we can of life at USNA.

Best wishes to all the Wisconsin Plebes and their Parents from the Class of 2012. Enjoy the ride!

Submitted by: Jane & Bill Champion, Green Bay

Midn. Andrew Duwell Class of 2010

While Andy was home during first block, we had the pleasure of all six of us taking a family vacation to Colorado. Highlights in Colorado Springs included a visit and church service at the Air Force Academy and a 13.1-mile hike up Pike's Peak. Even though snow in Breckenridge prevented us from whitewater rafting, we still enjoyed horseback riding, Frisbee golf and hiking outdoors.

Andy spent second block doing PROTRAMID and the Marine portion was definitely the highlight! He finished off his summer with a cruise on a destroyer from Hawaii to San Diego. Although they only had a day in Hawaii, Andy was able to enjoy a week in San Diego with a cousin, David, who is a newly retired F-18 pilot. David spent his time trying to convince Andy that aviation is the way to go. David took him in an F-18 flight simulator which we're told was "really sick," and we guess that means it was great!

This fall has been the busiest academic term to date. Although classes are going well, Andy has discovered the time and emotional commitment required to be a leader as the 9th company training sergeant. I think he found it easier to be a Plebe than to lead a company of Plebes. Leadership skills and styles are definitely being honed. That said, he's enjoying the challenge!

We are looking forward to spending time Annapolis for Parents Weekend!

Submitted by: Janell & Eric Duwell, Oshkosh



Midn. Andy Duwell with his mother Janell at Pike's Peak, Colorado.

Midn. Tim Mahoney Class of 2010

Tim has settled back in the routine at the Yard after having a very active summer schedule. During interessionals he was able to be home for the commissioning of his brother Dan and his then fiancée Jess, both into the U.S. Army. He pinned the Lieutenant's bar on his brother's cover and felt quite honored to do so.

His summer training started out with first block PROTRAMID in San Diego, which finished with a week in Quan-

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Midn. Tim Mahoney

Continued from page 11

tico. He was a first set Plebe Summer detailer for Drum & Bugle. During that time he was able to fly home for a quick weekend to be the best man in Dan and Jess's wedding, which was July 5.

He spent third block in Green Bay and celebrated his 21st birthday on July 31. It was quite a day but we won't go into any details. Let us just say he had a very, very, good time!

So far he has been busy with Drum & Bugle, which means he goes to all the football games whether home or away. He has really loaded up on classes this semester since he decided to double major in computer science and information technology services. We are looking forward to 1/C & 2/C Parents Weekend and attending some of his classes with him and eating in the "new" King Hall.

Submitted by: Tom and Sue Mahoney, Green Bay



Midn. Tim Mahoney, right, with Commandant of Midshipmen Capt. Matthew Klunder at the Ball State football game in Muncie, Indiana

to Pearl Harbor to board the ship, which was returning to San Diego following an exercise. The Mids did have about 48 hours to do a little touring and get a taste of Hawaiian



Midn. Andrew Scherer, bottom right, swimming in the open ocean during the submarine phase of PROTROMID.

food. Coincidentally, the *Bonne Homme Richard* was conducting a "Tiger" cruise (family members) on the return to San Diego. Once in San Diego, the Mids did some shore training before returning to USNA. Andrew said this cruise was a very good experience and that the captain provided good learning opportunities for the Mids. Andrew is beginning to consider San Diego a "home away from home" since he spent time there last summer as well. The parents of one of his company mates live in San Diego and always warmly open their home to the Mids. Thank you coastal parents!

We were pleasantly surprised to learn that Andrew was able to come home for one more week of leave prior to the start of the academic year. We drove to Michigan to visit Andrew's brother John, who is a senior in college. It is always special for us to see our two sons and daughter having fun together and laughing. Great memories!

Andrew is happy to be back into a new academic year. He is a squad leader which provides good leadership learning experiences. Andrew sent us photos of the "2 for 7" signing ceremony. How blessed our nation is to have such fine, dedicated young people who offer their service to our country! Seeing the photo of the signature scroll was very moving. We're looking forward to seeing Andrew again during Thanksgiving break.

Submitted by: John and Janis Scherer, Delavan

Midn. Andrew Scherer Class of 2010

Andrew enjoyed a great Navy summer, starting with leave. As he said, there's nothing like sleeping in your own bed at home! Andrew visited with many friends and family, and just relaxed. We are amazed to think that Andrew is already into his 2/C year!

PROTRAMID was Andrew's first block of training, starting with the Marines at Camp Lejeune. This was followed by one week at USNA for briefings, and then to Norfolk, Virginia for aviation week. Andrew was thrilled to have the opportunity to fly on a helicopter. Submarine week in Kings Bay, Georgia completed PROTROMID. Andrew learned a lot about the submarine life during a 24-hour cruise and he enjoyed visiting with the crew. His favorite part of the sub cruise was swimming over the side in the open ocean. His mom asked about sharks, and Andrew said, "No problem, Mom, we had a sailor stationed on the conning tower with an M-16 rifle."

The next block of training was a cruise aboard the *USS Bonhomme Richard*. Andrew and about 20 other Mids flew

Midn. Kerry Brady Class of 2011

Kerry was very pleased to complete her Plebe year at the Academy. She successfully made it through the academic year with courses ranging from Calculus to Chinese. She has decided to major in oceanography with a minor in Chinese. Her sponsor parents, Jason and Debbie Cronin, have been wonderful to her, providing a place to escape from the rig-

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Midn. Kerry Brady

Continued from page 12

ors of the Academy as well as excellent guidance based on Mr. Cronin's experience at the Academy and as an officer in the Navy.

Kerry had a very busy summer following her Plebe year. She was assigned to the *USS Ashland*, a Whidbey Island-class dock landing craft. While onboard the *Ashland*, Kerry traveled from Dubai through the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Suez Canal, ending in Rhodes, Greece. She was assigned a number of duties including working in the ship's galley. She enjoyed meeting the enlisted sailors and learning about their experiences. She also met former President George H. W. Bush, who came on board the *Ashland* during their stay in Greece.



Midn. Kerry Brady

From Greece, it was back to the Naval Academy for a summer school class. She made it back briefly to Germantown to serve as a bridesmaid in her brother Henry's wedding. After summer school, Kerry sailed from Annapolis to Newport, Rhode Island. From Newport, her shipmates and she sailed to Long Island and back to Annapolis.

Her Youngster year is going well. In addition to classes, she is participating on the debate team. She will be serving as the Academy's representative at the Academy Day event in Oshkosh on Saturday, September 20. It doesn't seem that long ago when she was there to learn about applying to the service academies.

Submitted by: Dan & Charlene Brady, Germantown

Midn. Diedre Coulson Class of 2011

Dee is in the Drum & Bugle Corps. She was awarded the "Rookie of the Year" at the end of year banquet in the spring. She went to Ball State and plans on going to Duke, but is REALLY looking forward to Air Force and catching up with some folks that she knew when she was in middle school in Virginia who attend "that other school in blue." We have tickets for Notre Dame, and of course, Army.

Dee indicates nothing much is going on around the Yard right now. A lot of away football games are on the schedule and many are taking the opportunity to travel to support the



Right: Midn. Diedre Coulson, far right, with the bass drummers in the Drum & Bugle Corps; Right: Coulson, far left, with fellow Mids during the "Steel Beach Picnic."

team. But that doesn't mean they aren't having fun at home. She did YPs and had a cruise on DDG-72, the *USS Mahan*.

She has the upcoming game against Duke, followed by the Pitt game for homecoming. And, of course, she's starting to get into the six-week exam crunch. Study-study-study!

Submitted by: Maggie & Jim (USNA '77), Hudson

Midn. Matthew De Villers Class of 2011



Left: Midn. Matthew De Villers, far left, on the *USS Georgia*. Right: De Villers with the "catch of the day."

Summer training for Matthew began during zero block on the *USS Georgia*. It was Matthew's first time on a submarine. He loved it and still has submarines as his first choice. He went from a submarine to a sailboat, sailing from Annapolis to Newport, Rhode Island and back. Sailing was new for Matthew as well, and he thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Once training was finished, Matthew headed back to Wisconsin. While home he made two trips to Tomahawk, Wisconsin with the family, one trip to Boston, Massachusetts with his twin brother and another friend, and a trip to Door County with Bill Prom and the rest of the USNA cross country team. He took in a number of Brewers games, spent time with family and friends, went to see the submarine in Manitowoc, made his "special" turkey sandwiches for his brother, Tommy, fished a lot, and ran so many miles we lost track. Matthew's twin, Alex, was home as well and it was great seeing them run together again.

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Midn. Matthew De Villers

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Left: Midn. Matthew De Villers on a submarine.
Right: De Villers with Midn. Alex Eagan
(Class of 2011) in Newport, Rhode Island.

We enjoyed having him at home with us for an extended period of time, and as was to be expected, were sad to see him leave. Matthew shared a ride back to the Academy with Bill Prom, stopping a couple times along the way to get in some running. He experienced the usual adjustment period on returning to the Yard, but has now gotten fully back into the swing of things. School is going well and so is running, as evidenced by his fifth-place finish at the Fordham University cross country meet September 6. We plan to see Matthew and the rest of the Midshipmen run at the Roy Griak cross country meet in Minnesota on September 27.

Submitted by: Mike & Christine De Villers, Menomonee Falls

Midn. Anthony Beaupre Class of 2012

I-Day was an experience none of us will NEVER forget!

Anthony was awakened the next morning by the sound of a lead pipe hitting the floor to wake everyone up. At that point he said he was questioning why he chose the Academy. After he got into a routine and learned how to NOT draw attention to himself, he was fine. He lucked out on roommates. They paired him up with a Plebe that had two years experience in the Navy already. He is a great help to Anthony.

We went to Plebe Parents Weekend too and we were very impressed with the transformation of him and ALL his fellow Plebes. He is into a new "school" routine with rowing as his activity. He sounds great when he has time to call. He is coming home for Thanksgiving, and we can't wait!

Submitted by: Doug & Sue Beaupre, Omro



Midn. Anthony
Beaupre

Midn. Michael Briski Class of 2012

Our I-Day experience was wonderful. It was our first trip to the Naval Academy and Annapolis and we were quite impressed. While Michael was being "processed," we toured the Yard and visited the Mid Store. After the swearing-in ceremony, we met up with Michael and were relieved to see that he was actually smiling. Another Wisconsin Midshipmen, Tim Mahoney (USNA '10), stopped by and gave Michael some words of encouragement, "Take it one meal at a time."



Left: Midn. Michael Briski, with Green Bay friends Erin, left and Emily Monske during Plebe Parent Weekend. Right: Midn. Briski, left, with Midn. Tim Mahoney (Class of 2010) on I-Day.

Plebe Summer went well for Michael. He joined the Drum & Bugle Corps and the Plebe protestant choir. Sailing, the shooting range, and the obstacle course were some of his favorite activities. Phone calls home were somewhat rushed and letters home were rather cryptic, but he was always upbeat.

Plebe Parent Weekend was nice and the weather was perfect - not the hot and humid weather we had been warned about. When we arrived Friday afternoon, we toured more of the Yard and went downtown Annapolis to eat seafood and ice cream. It was fun seeing all the Plebes and their families downtown. On Saturday, we met up with some friends from Green Bay, Emily and Erin Monske. Of course, we had to go the Mid Store again and toured more of the Yard. That evening we went to an outdoor concert at Quiet Waters Park.

Two weeks into the academic year, Michael is really enjoying school. He likes his classes and his teachers. His most challenging class is Russian. He is also rowing on the varsity crew team and is putting on a lot of miles during practices.

Submitted by: Dan & Nancy Briski, Green Bay

Go Navy! Beat Army!

Midn. Ty Daniels Class of 2012

After the anticipation and the drive to I-Day, Ty successfully made it through the doors with his class of 2012. Calls were tough and he managed to write home more often than we thought. He missed his family and survived the challenges until parent weekend.

Ty has a strong personality and determination to continue what he has started. Plebe Parent Week end was low key and his sister Lindsey, brother Lance, with Mom and Dad, enjoyed every moment with him. I especially enjoyed the experience of ironing with him. (like I have never done before - with a ruler!)

As he begins the school year he is settling into yet another routine, he seems to be doing well and knows his purpose at the Navel Academy. We are all looking forward to Thanksgiving leave. Congratulations Class of 2012!

Submitted by: Debbie & Jim Daniels, Montello



Midn. Ty Daniels

Midn. Emily Favorite Class of 2012

My sister, Linda Kasten (daughter Kate, USNA '06), flew with Emily to Annapolis on June 30. They had a good time the couple of days before I-day. We were all anxiously waiting for July 2. Emily called before she checked in. She was a bit nervous, but excited to just get it going. Linda called me throughout the day keeping me informed of what was going on. I almost felt like I was there. She spotted Emily quite a few times during the day and called me to let me know what she was doing. She saw Emily more than she did her daughter Kate, six years ago. It must be because she is a pro at this now. When Emily called after the Oath of Office, we could tell she was tired, but still very upbeat.

The summer went on, letters were written, care packages sent, and I spent more time at the computer than I ever had. When the first phone call came, we didn't know what to expect. But when we answered the phone, Emily never stopped talking for the designated five minutes. We hung up with our mouths open in awe. We had never heard Emily talk so fast, so much, in such a short period of time. Her letters and phone calls home were all upbeat. She even sounded excited (?) about the time they were lectured at and had to do PT in the hallways until the detailers mopped their sweat off the floors.

As the summer went on, we (myself and Emily's two brothers and two sisters) were looking forward to our vacation to Maryland for Plebe Parent Weekend. It was a great time. We arrived on Wednesday and spotted her at noon formation, but kept a low profile. We went to Washington, D.C. on Thursday and then Friday was the big day. It was so good to see her. She looked so happy! We were able to relax, explore Annapolis a bit, swim, play some games, and of course, she saw the much anticipated *Batman* movie. I was told there were probably 100 Plebes at that show. We had good food and got to try crab, thanks to my niece Kate. The weekend went fast and it was sad to say good-bye, but knowing she is where she wants to be and doing what she wants, makes us all proud and happy for her.

Emily has joined Drum & Bugle. We questioned how, since she doesn't play drums or a bugle, but all her years of piano lessons are paying off as she plays the xylophone and some other percussion instruments. She has also joined Glee Club and the Protestant Choir.



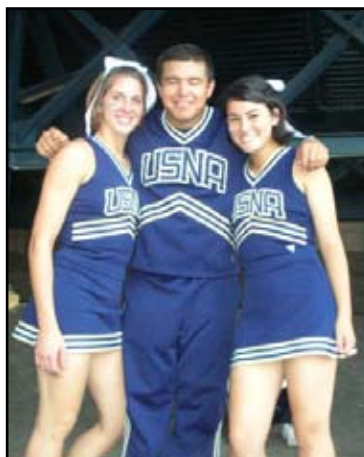
Midn. Emily Favorite

Midn. Christine De Vuono Class of 2012

Christina is in 25th Company and is doing well for being a Plebe. She has said that she likes all her professors and that classes are going OK - as we all know, this is a demanding year but she loves her roommates and enjoys the challenges.

She is also a Navy cheerleader. Tryouts for the squad were on a Monday and Tuesday and the following Saturday she cheered at a game. Tina is one of three cheerleaders from her company.

Submitted by: Tony & Cindy De Vuono, Racine



Midn. Christine De Vuono, left, with two other varsity cheerleaders in her company.

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Midn. Matthew De Villers

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I am hoping to get to the NIU game the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and see her in D&B.

I can't thank my sister enough for all the help, advice, and support she has given Emily and me as our USNA days have begun.

Submitted by: Karen J. Favorite, New London

Midn. Mitchell Pulver Class of 2012

Mitchell Scott Pulver, Class of 2012, hails from Chippewa Falls. Mitch was born in Baltimore, Maryland and also lived in Naperville, Illinois, before moving to Chippewa Falls at the age of seven. He left home his sophomore year to play Midget AAA hockey in Houghton, Michigan. Mitch then played hockey in Marquette, Michigan his junior and senior years. Mitch was honored to be selected as captain all three years. He returned to Chippewa Falls for the fourth quarter of each school year and graduated with highest academic honors from Chippewa Falls Senior High School. Mitch is looking forward to playing hockey for Navy as a right wing. He is unsure of his major course of study and possible career at this point. Mitch's inspiration to attend the Naval Academy came from his sister Allison, Class of 2006.



Midn. Mitchell Pulver with siblings Matthew and Allison (Pulver) Keller (USNA '06) during Plebe Parent Weekend.

Submitted by: Scott & Judy Pulver, Chippewa Falls

Midn. Christopher Simmons Class of 2012

Needless to say, it was absolutely wonderful to see Chris at Plebe Parent Weekend, and every bit as difficult to leave



Left: Midn. Christopher Simmons with his sister Porschaed. Right: Midn. Simmons and his father Christopher. Both photos taken during Plebe Parents' Weekend.



him. Without a doubt, Plebe Summer transformed him from an 18-year-old into a young man. He has adjusted comfortably into the Academy lifestyle and studying diligently.

He missed the football tryouts, however he will make an attempt his sophomore year. For now, Chris is focusing on his studies and adapting as a freshman. His plan, as he has told us, is to play either club soccer or try something new - boxing?

Submitted by: Leitu & Christopher Simmons, Kenosha

Midn. Jeff Wood Class of 2012

I can report, with a tremendous sense of relief, that Jeff and his mother made it through Plebe Summer. We, along with Jeff's brother and sister were able to attend both Induction Day and Plebe Parent Weekend. We were impressed with the setting, facilities and opportunities available at the Naval Academy. The Oath of Office ceremony was very moving. We thoroughly enjoyed spending time with Jeff during PPW, including lunch in King Hall. It was very reassuring for him to confirm that USNA is where he wants to be.



Midn. Jeff Wood with his parents Ken & Karen during Plebe Parent Weekend.

Submitted by: Ken & Karen Wood, Madison

Blue & Gold Area Coordinator



Cmdr. Craig Walker
USNA - 1983

Young students seeking appointment to the Naval Academy and advice on how best to prepare themselves often contact me. Just like your sons and daughters, they want to know how to improve chances of appointment. You now know there is no one activity or class or connection that will "get you in." But one answer about how to get in can be in plain site right in Bancroft Hall.

As you walk through Tecumseh Court, up the steps and into Bancroft Hall, you quickly see a number of clues to life at USNA. In front of you are stone steps, worn down by countless Midshipman, visitors, and guests. I always marveled at those steps, and thought about those who went before me and did their part to wear down the steps. You might hear Plebes sounding off, and if you close your eyes, possibly the echoes of previous Mids.

Looking to the left you will find a sizeable brass plaque spelling out the mission of the Naval Academy in raised letters. *To develop Midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically* In these simple words of the mission statement is the answer of how to get in. Students must prepare themselves morally, mentally, and physically. The answer is that simple. If a person does not have a moral, mental, and physical foundation on which to build, the chance of USNA being able to take them to the next level is diminished. Like a stool with three legs, these three traits will hold a person up regardless of the terrain or situation.

What is a moral foundation? Some would say it is going to church or being a boy scout. These are great clues, but morality is really showing maturity and integrity in all a person does. JC Watts once said, "Integrity is what you do when no one is looking." Learning to be a moral person at a young age helps you know what is right and wrong, so when nobody is looking, you can make the right decision. We need people like that to be the leaders of our military. And of course, we need those who will not lie, cheat, or steal.

Students must also be ready mentally, and academically. The curriculum at USNA is very intense and success requires a solid foundation and the ability to organize and study. To prepare, students must push themselves in high school by taking diverse and challenging courses. As I interview students, I can often discern which students have the mental capacity to wrestle with difficult subjects across the curriculum. They know how to think critically and logically, and how to connect diverse information to form a broader perspective. This is critical to success at USNA, as an officer, and in life. I was speaking recently with a classmate whose son is a freshman in engineering at Michigan State. Engineering degrees now take five years at many civilian schools, yet at Navy you must complete your degree in four. On top of that, you must take a number of professional courses. You must be ready mentally.

Finally, you must be ready physically. Not only do you need to be in top condition to complete PEP during Plebe Summer, you have to make it through physical education classes and physical readiness tests. Those who are physically fit are also more likely to stay healthy and be in the classroom every day. Once in the fleet, the healthy are better prepared for the grueling conditions in which so many work.

Moral, mental, and physical preparations are paramount, and the ticket to appointment. All three elements help Midshipman through their four years by the Bay, and are vital to their success as commissioned officers. There's no secret on how to get an appointment to USNA. Just look at the mission statement in Bancroft Hall.

One last clue to success remains. If you look up the stairs to Memorial Hall you will see a tattered flag hanging on the wall above a glass case. Embroidered on the flag is the phrase, "Don't give up the ship." The application process, the work required to complete the four years, and success as an officer, all require relentless perseverance and boundless energy. You must take disappointment along the way and turn it into opportunity. Never quit. Don't give up the ship!



Bankers Aweigh

Additional account information will be provided at the fall WISNAPA meeting on Oct. 4, 2008.

Operating Account

\$ 987.24	Balance forward as of April 30, 2008
\$ 3,078.00	Receipts
<u>(\$ 2,338.70)</u>	Disbursements
\$ 1,726.54	September 20, 2008 Balance

Academy Ball Account

\$ 4,528.18	Balance forward as of April 30, 2008
\$ 0.00	Receipts
<u>(\$ 4,515.00)</u>	Disbursements
\$ 13.18	September 20, 2008 Balance

Note: \$4,300 is invested in a six-month CD earning 2.39% interest, matures November 2008

Submitted by:
Kalaniwai Grady,
WISNAPA Treasurer
Derek '10 - 20th Company



Bill Jenkins cycles across country

Bill Jenkins, USNA Class of 1970, recently completed a cross-country bicycle ride with two friends. He completed the trip with Dr. Dave Henneghan, a Stevens Point orthopedic surgeon, and Dave's son Pat, a student at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. The trio left Whidbey Island, Washington on June 9 and cycled a total of 3750 miles in 53 days, averaging 71 miles a day. They followed what's referred to as the "Northern Tier" route which passes through the North Cascade and Rocky Mountains, via Glacier National Park, across northern Montana and North Dakota. They then rode through central Minnesota and Wisconsin, stopping one day in their hometown of Stevens Point.

The trip continued to Manitowoc, where they caught the midnight ferry across Lake Michigan. After crossing Michigan, they entered Ontario and cycled along Lake Erie to Fort Erie and Niagara Falls. They reentered the U.S. at Niagara and cycled across upstate New York, through the Adirondack Mountains to Ticonderoga. Their route then took them through central Vermont and New Hampshire and finally into Maine. They completed the trip at Bar Harbor, Maine on July 31.

During the trip the trio rode unsupported, meaning they carried all necessary gear on the bikes, including tents, sleeping bags, clothes, cold weather and rain gear, cooking gear, and bike repair equipment. The trio repaired six flat tires and replaced three worn tires. Of the 53 days on the road, they stayed in motels only four nights and with friends/family seven nights, camping the other 42 nights.

Submitted by Bill Jenkins (USNA '70), Stevens Point

Clockwise: Jenkins, far right, as the riders dip their rear wheels in the Pacific Ocean at Whidbey Island on June 9; The "grizzled riding veterans": Jenkins, left, Dr. Dave Henneghan and his son Pat; Dipping their front wheels in the Atlantic Ocean at Bar Harbor.



During the July 2008 Blue & Gold Officer training at the Naval Academy, three new Wisconsin BGOs are pictured as they experience the ship simulator in Luce Hall. Left to right: Carol Haertlein Sells (Random Lake), Jane Campion (Green Bay), and Hugh Mulliken (Ephraim).

Fall WISNAPA Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 4 at 10: 30 a.m.

Bring 50-55 care package items for the Midshipmen and deployed graduates. If you are unable to attend, WISNAPA will gladly accept a donation to cover the postage costs (\$10 per box).

**Milwaukee Yacht Club
1700 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr.**

Milwaukee, WI 53202

414-271-4455

Cost: \$20 per person

RSVP to:

Kalaniwai Grady

118 Bayshore Ln.

Delafield, WI 53018-1606

kalaniswaigrady@northwesternmutual.com

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Secretary:
Nancy & Greg Bose
Nancybose5@yahoo.com
262-878-0471



Wisconsin Naval Academy Parents' Association



Meeting Minutes - June 7, 2008

No board meeting held this day. John Kelling opened the meeting with a welcome to all members and the new 2012 families at 11 a.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The 2012 families and incoming plebes were invited to stand and be recognized.

Cindi Larsen asked everyone to seek out new perspective candidates for the academy. She also encouraged members to seriously consider becoming Blue & Gold Officers.

Thank you to Janis Scherer for making the lovely table decorations for the meeting. Each new mid was able to take one home with them.

Updates on Mids and graduates were given by their families. Then the 2012 families introduced and shared information about themselves.

The business meeting started at 11:40 a.m. The minutes from the meeting of March 1, 2008 were on the tables. A motion was made to accept them as written, seconded, voted on, and carried. The treasurer's report was also available on the tables. Currently we have \$4,300 in a CD for the next time Navy hosts the All-Academy Militaries Ball. A motion was made to accept the report, seconded, voted on, and was carried.

Thank you to Jeff and Gerianne Prom and to all who worked so hard to make this past All-Academy Ball a huge success. The Army will be hosting the Ball on December 27, 2008, the Air Force in 2009 and the Navy again in 2010. A request was made for a parent or parents of a Youngster to meet with the Army Ball planners to listen and gather information that will help when our turn comes in 2010. John Kelling stated that this year's Ball went very well, the Casino portion was very successful,

and the dinner was great. Tony De Vuono explained to the new families what the ball is and encouraged them to attend.

It was stated that as an organization our goal is to be supportive of our Mids and deployed grads. We support each other as families.

WISNAPA's status as a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization has been approved although certification papers had not yet arrived. Duplicate copies are being sent.

Jan Haupt explained the purpose of *Yardtales*. She thanked those that submitted articles and pictures and asked that people continue to send information for the publication, which is E-mailed three times a year. Pictures with captions from Plebe Parent Weekend are being asked for. Jan spoke about a handout she had available for the families; it contains the addresses of helpful web sites and a summery of the Plebe and Plebe parent handbooks, available on the WISNAPA web site for families to view or print. Incoming Plebe families were encouraged to bring a copy along to I-day. John stated that *Yardtales* is one of the best parent club newsletters in the country. John thanked Jan for her fine work.

Prayer was given by John followed by a buffet lunch.

After lunch the meeting continued.

Craig Walker congratulated the incoming Class 2012 on their acceptance to the Academy. There were 127 candidates, 23 offers of appointment and 19 were accepted. On May 10, a group of appointees attended a Brewer's game.

Craig thanked all of the Blue & Gold officers for their dedication and hard work and encouraged more members to become

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Meeting Minutes

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officers. The *USS Freedom* will be commissioned this fall. Craig hopes that our organization will be invited to attend the commissioning. He closed with advice and words of encouragement to the new incoming Plebes.

There was discussion on the Army/Navy game in Philadelphia and tailgate party. Rooms are available at the Holiday Inn in the Historic District. Please book your room early. The tailgate parties have been expensive in the past; options for this year are being looked into.

We split into two groups at 12:45 p.m. The incoming Plebes met with current Midshipmen and grads to answer questions and discuss what to expect at the Academy.

Election of Officers: A motion was made to keep current officers, seconded, voted on, and carried.

An increase of yearly dues was discussed. The dues go toward postage, care packages, tailgate party, gift for Firsties and luncheon expenses for Mids. Last year \$800 was spent to get the 501(c)3 set up. We were encouraged to increase the number of members in order to gain more funds. Cindi Larsen asked about raising the associate membership dues, which are currently \$15 a year. John suggested we do more fundraising over the three years leading up to hosting of the Academy Ball. Linda Kasten had some handmade bracelets to sell at \$20 a piece with \$5 going to our funds.

Jan Haupt made a motion to raise dues to \$35 regular membership, \$20 associate membership and \$20 single household membership. After a little more discussion a new motion was made to make membership \$40 regular, \$20 associate and \$20 single household. The motion was seconded, voted on, and carried. These new dues will take effect in 2009.

John asked that all members gather ideas from what other groups do for fund raising and to think of ideas. Please e-mail ideas to him at jkelling2@wi.rr.com.

Parents shared their experiences of I-day with the 2012 families. Linda Kasten will be attending I-Day and offered her phone number to the Class of 2012 families.

Veteran members suggested sending many letters, pictures and non-perishable foods during Plebe Summer. The Academy wants them to succeed and they will be taken care of.

Parents of grads mentioned the one thing that stood out for them during their son/daughter's Academy years.

The two groups came back together to finish the meeting.

Closing comments and well wishes to the 2012 families were made. The next three meeting dates are tentatively set for Oct. 4 at the Delafield Brewhaus; March 7, 2009 at the Milwaukee Yacht Club and June 6, 2009 at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha. All are the first Saturday of the month.

Members were asked if there were any concerns about the dates; there were none.

Sponsor family forms were available and explained for those seeking a sponsor. Also, it was mentioned what a great help the sponsor families in Annapolis have been to our Mids. Order forms for name tags were also available.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, voted on, and carried.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2008 at the Delafield Brewhaus in Delafield.

Submitted by:
Greg & Nancy Bose
WISNAPA Co-Secretaries
Peter '09 - 7th Company



Summer meeting photos



Left: Jeff Wood ('12) and Jacob Cavey ('12); Right: Christina Lanouette ('12) and Midn. James Licata ('09)



Left: Midn. Andrew Scherer ('10) and Emily Favorite ('12); Right: Michael Briski ('12)



Left: Christina De Vuono ('12) and Ensign Douglas De Vuono ('08); Right: Alex Bablich ('12), Matthew & Gwynne Bablich



From the Helm

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the efforts of our founding forefathers, but also by the brave souls who fought and died to keep them in place. As the Iraqi and Afghan people strive to enjoy the same freedoms of democracy we have, the image of blue-inked fingers comes to mind. They too, now have and cherish the right and privilege to vote for the candidate of their choice in a free national election. That privilege for them though, came at a price - not only for their own people who were willing to give their lives for freedom - but also for thousands of ours - willing to sacrifice it for them and for the common good of all mankind. How we here back at home, have taken that privilege for granted and think our elections are somehow unimportant.

As we tell friends our story about two sons serving in the military, and one soon to be deployed, they ask us "how we feel about that" - as if to open debate or seek our opinion about war and terror and sending our sons into harms way. We tell them we are very proud of our sons. We tell them that our sons are willing to put their lives on the line in thankfulness for the rights they have lived under - those rights sacrificially secured by a previous generation, and then are determined to guarantee those rights and freedoms for a generation yet to come. We tell them that our sons are doing what young sons and daughters of other parents have already done as we go about our daily life and take freedom of movement in America for granted. We tell them that our sons have been entrusted to us by their Creator for a far

greater good in service to all mankind - a most noble cause, and the choice to serve was their own. Some day, our sons, along with many sons and daughters of other proud military parents, will enjoy family life at home, but I doubt with their military experience behind them, they will ever take it for granted.

For us, the past four years have gone quickly by. As "Firstie" parents get ready for the excitement and privilege of seeing a son or daughter shake the hand of a president or admiral at commencement and grab hold of a time-honored diploma, maybe you too, flashback to those days of your own and neighborhood children "playing Army" in the back yard, and realize that life can never be taken for granted - that what we have and enjoy came with a price - one that those innocent faces of our youth are now willing as their age has come - to step forward to uphold and defend. The Academy has made us realize that we are all one family - here and now - sharing and enjoying what has been entrusted to us - precious sons and daughters. And, as a "family united," we are committed to share our beloved children for the common good of all mankind and support their determination to bring peace and freedom throughout the world - not only for our generation and theirs, but for those yet to come. It is a privilege all parents should share - an honor we as military families and parents have.

*God bless our service men and women!
God bless America!*



NAVY FOOTBALL

**Navy vs.
Northern Illinois**

**Tuesday, Nov. 25 - DeKalb, Illinois
Kickoff at 6 p.m. CST**

The Northern Illinois Parents Club and Chicago Alumni Association are hosting a tailgate and have arranged for a block of tickets, which can be purchased from Navy Sports for 20 each until Monday, October 20.

Tailgate starts at 3:30 p.m. Advance tickets cost \$25 must be received by November 8. Tickets will be \$35 after November 8 and \$40 at the door. Parking is available for \$10. Go to www.wisnapa.org for more information



**Navy vs. Army
Saturday, Dec. 6
Philadelphia, PA**

Tickets are sold out. If you need to purchase tickets or have some to sell, contact Jan Haupt at jhauptlodi@aol.com or 608-592-4278.

