

YARDTALES

A PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN NAVAL ACADEMY PARENTS' ASSOCIATION, INC.



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Tom & Barbara Balistreri



From the Helm

By: Barbara & Tom Balistreri
WISNAPA Co-presidents

(Midn. Michael Balistreri '12 - 2nd Company)

WISNAPA keeps us informed

It is hard to believe that the Class of 2012 are now Firsties! The plebes (Class of 2015) and their parents have had an interesting start and have demonstrated a strong dedication and commitment to USNA. The plebes are now facing the rigor of academics and military duties on a daily basis. We wish these bright and talented young women and men the best and will stand with the brigade as a whole now and beyond.

We are all preparing for and anticipating graduation on May 29, 2012. The new ensigns will be serving America and the world in preserving peace and the humanitarian missions they

will be assigned around the globe.

WISNAPA has the goal of providing a lifeline to the parents of the midshipmen. We all work together to support our midshipmen through their years at USNA and beyond. To accomplish this, it is important to check the WISNAPA website, communicate with other parents and attend the WISNAPA meetings.

There are three meetings a year. The first one for this year is November 5, 2011 at the Milwaukee Yacht Club. We will be making care packages at the fall and spring meetings. Each parent is asked to bring approximately 60 snacks to help

fill a medium-sized postal box. The mids and deployed graduates really enjoy getting these treats and being remembered. Our typical meetings consist of an officer meeting at 9:45 a.m. and a general meeting starting at 10:30 for all parents. The highlight of each meeting is the sharing of what our particular midshipman is experiencing. It is an ideal time for the individual parents to ask questions or express any concerns. One of the other parents can then respond based on what their mid went through. Next comes any officer reports and then lunch. On occasion we have speakers. Our first this year

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Alumni News



LT Betsy Burnett Class of 2007

Betsy began her shore tour assignment at Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk in June. She works in Theater Security Cooperation which involves working with the navies of Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean nations and the northern third of South America. Her command includes US Naval Officers, and both military officers and civilian contractors from the above nations.

Right: Betsy Burnett at the Virginia Beach triathlon.

Below: Betsy with her brothers Tim, left, and Jeff.



While continuing her present assignment, in January she will begin working toward a master's degree in international relations through Old Dominion University.

She completed the Virginia Beach Triathlon in June and a half-marathon in September in preparation for running the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington on October 30. After being out of the country for most of the last four years – 2 ½ years in Japan and the past year in Iraq – she is enjoying coming back to Wisconsin for family events and celebrations. Needless to say, we are ecstatic.

Submitted by: Kathy & Jim Burnett, New Holstein

Ensign Deidre Coulson Class of 2011

Dee is currently down in Pensacola, Florida, enjoying the nice, warm weather, sort of. She and her roomie (who just went to Corpus Christi) found a condo on the 10th hole of a

golf course. And no, she doesn't golf! Her sibling enjoyed visiting in mid-August but she has other family there that she can see, IF she ever has time!

Dee will be finishing up API (Aviation Preflight Indoctrination) there before going to Vance Air Force Base for primary flight training in November, at least as of today (orders have changed several times already). Dee has earned her flight suit, already participated in a change of command on Sept. 29, flew back to Nap Town Sept. 30 and the USAFA vs. USNA game on Oct. 1 and saw both sets of sponsor parents.

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



Deidre Coulson, left, with her first cousin.

LT Victor Duenow Class of 2005

Victor continues to train student helicopter pilots as an instructor with HT-8 at Whiting Field in Milton, Florida. He's also been busy working on his master's degree through Naval Post-Graduate School. But the big news is he became a father on June 23. His wife, Caitlin, gave birth to Brady Austin Duenow and they're already busy grooming him as a future naval aviator. We enjoy watching him every week on FaceTime; I wish I had that 30 years ago. Victor, Caitlin and Brady will be in Florida for another two years, so if there are any aviators from Wisconsin headed to helicopter training in Pensacola, be sure to look them up.

Submitted by: Russ & Afton Duenow, Fredricksburg, Virginia



Victor, Brady & Caitlin Duenow at Brady's baptism.

LT Alex Haupt Class of 2007

Following Alex's route on the *USS Philippine Sea* (CG-58) is a geography lesson in itself. He's taken the long trek across the pond, crossing through the English channel with port calls in Norway, Germany, Bahrain, Seychelles Islands and Turkey. The good news is that he's logged in loads of flying time. The bad news is the monotony and boredom from doing the same thing every day. Alex refers to his experience as "Groundhog Day."

The ship responded to a distress call in July. A Liberian crude carrier off the coast of Yemen issued a call which stated they believed they were under attack by suspected pirates and required assistance. Shortly after the suspected attack, the carrier reported a fire on board which was beyond their control and their intention was to abandon ship. The *USS Philippine Sea* responded to the distress call, finding no evidence of pirates and concentrated their efforts on returning the 26 crew members to the ship.

Alex has had several major events during his deployment. His girlfriend Amanda visited him during a port call in Kiel, Germany. He and others had a "wetting down" party and ice cream social to celebrate their promotion from LTJG to lieutenant. Recently, Alex participated in a "shellback" ceremony, a navy ritual of crossing the equator for the first time.

Communication has been sketchy during his time away. Alex calls when he's in port, but sometimes phones aren't available or it's too expensive. E-mail has been the most dependable, albeit slow for Alex, form of communication.

We're hoping to spend time in Jamaica with Alex, Amanda, his brother Kevin and Kevin's girlfriend. It doesn't look promising since Amanda, a Navy nurse stationed in Japan, is slated to transfer to Afghanistan in February, with training most of January.

Submitted by: Jan & Bill Haupt, Lodi



Top: Alex Haupt duiing his "shellback" ceremony. Below: Alex & Amanda Burns in Kiel, Germany.

Capt. Kimberly Julka, USMC Class of 2008

In a recent E-mail updating family and friends Kim wrote, "Between typhoons, theater-wide exercises and deployments, we are staying busy out here in Oki." I gather that is a bit of an understatement with exercises this fall in Cambodia, Thailand and on mainland Japan in preparation for the deployment of two of her platoons around the holidays. She had previously said that the best job in the corps was being a platoon commander. I believe that over the past six months, in her new role as company commander (MP Company, CLR- 37, 3rd MLG, IIIMEF), she has found that she not only still has the opportunity to work closely with her Marines but also has the influence to see that they receive the most appropriate training for the challenges they will face.

So what does a Marine do for leisure-time activities while living on the Japanese island of Okinawa where the average low temperature is 59 degrees farenheit? Biking, running and swimming would sound like good activities, roll them together and add a dose of Marine competitiveness and you have a triathlon. Kim has been participating in triathlons since arriving on the island 2 ½ years ago. She finished first in her age group and was the third female finisher overall in the Camp Hansen Triathlon this summer.

Submitted by: Jeff Julka, Fond du Lac

LT Kate Kasten Class of 2006

Kate has been deployed on the *USS Bush* since the May 11. They are someplace in the Middle East. The Hawkeyes of the 124th Squadron – called the Bear Aces – have flown over 725 missions which involves over 2300 flight hours. Kate has flown some of these missions almost daily. The port calls sound like a lot of fun. They have been in England, Spain, Italy, Bahrain, and Dubai. Kate also spent a few weeks at an Air Force base working as a liaison officer between the air op-



Kate Kasten in the ready room.

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erations on the ground and the air operations from the carrier.

They have another port call coming up, but since the comings and goings of a carrier cannot be known, I don't know where they will be – until I get that special phone call! Waiting for these calls is a lot worse than waiting for the Plebe Summer calls!

In the last E-mail, Kate said she misses grass and rain the most.

We are hoping to see Kate for Christmas!

Next big news we are waiting for is Godchild Emily Favorite's service selection. Sure is hard to believe she will be commissioned in eight months. Seems just like yesterday that her Plebe Summer began!

Submitted by: Alan and Linda Kasten, Whitewater

**LT Chad Kelling
Class of 2009**

Chad is currently at NAS Corpus Christi, and should be finishing up primary flight school sometime in November. Depending on what assignment he gets for advanced. He most likely will be heading back to the Pensacola area.

John and Chad's sister Kerrie are planning to fly down to Corpus in early November for a visit. He hasn't been home since last Christmas, so hopefully he will get to come home for the holidays.

Submitted by: John and Stephanie Kelling, Waukesha



The Hawkeye landing on the USS Bush.



Chad Kelling at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas.

**LTCD Andrew J. Oswald
Class of 2001**

Andy was promoted to LTCD on June 1 aboard the *USS CHUNG-HOON* as the ship was leaving Pearl Harbor on deployment. He recently was relieved of his duty on the *USS CHUNG-HOON* in Singapore. He flew back to Honolulu where his wife Allison joined him after a visit home in Wisconsin. They enjoyed a few days of leave before flying to Monterrey, California, their new home where Andy will attend naval post graduate school the next couple of years.



Andy Oswald getting his new bars pinned on by his wife Allison.

Submitted by: Kay Kuenzel-Stenerson, Oshkosh

**LTCD David Paz, MD
Class of 1999**

David is currently stationed at Navy Hospital San Diego, California and he will again be riding to raise awareness and donations for the wounded warriors. The bike ride is 170 miles from Santa Monica to San Diego and these donations help the wounded warriors, especially the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) troops injured in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Submitted by: Judy & Eduardo Paz, Greendale

**1st LT Emily Vanden Heuvel
Class of 2008**

Emily was home for two great weeks of deployment leave before heading out on August 2. She got to see all of her aunts, uncles and cousins and her Marine Corps cousin, Shane, gave her the small American flag he carried in his flak jacket when he was a machine gunner in the Battle for Fal-lujah and also the Surge in Iraq. Of course, we were all quite emotional.



Emily Vanden Heuvel

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Her MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) at the "Palms" was a ground supply officer; however, she is currently working as an S-4 logistics officer and maintenance management officer. She told us recently that she is learning her new MOS quickly, getting to know everyone and really enjoying her time so far. She experienced her first sandstorm -- not fun -- and asked us to provide a heavy quilt as cooler



Left: Emily and Matt Schultz. Right: Emily, far right, with her parents Tom & Maureen, far left, at a family gathering.

weather will soon arrive. If anyone needs help in packing a nine-pound down quilt into an APO/FPO flat rate box, I'm your gal -- it can be done!

We pray daily for Em and all of our deployed men and women and are counting down the days until her return (as is her boyfriend Matt Schultz) in March of 2012.

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



Midshipmen News



Midn. Michael Balestreri Class of 2012 - 2nd Company

Michael spent June on the *USS Ross* in Norfolk, Virginia. He then returned to USNA and served as the regimental honor and character liaison officer for the incoming Class of 2015.

Michael came home in August and spent time seeing his two sisters, Tori and Tina, brother Andrew and his wife Terri, along with relatives and friends in the Milwaukee area. One of the highlights was seeing his Illinois relatives in Lake

Geneva. It had been several years since the nine first cousins had relaxed and had fun together. From Lake Geneva, Michael and his immediate family spent six days in the Branson and St. Louis area sightseeing and golfing.

Michael is extremely busy in his last year at USNA. He is the first battalion commander. As his parents, it amazes us how quickly May 29, 2012 is fast approaching.

Go Navy! Beat Army!

Submitted by: Tom & Barbara Balistreri, Milwaukee



(L-R): Michael, Tom & Andrew Balestreri.

The Balestreri family (L-R), Tom, Tori, Michael, Barbara, Andrew & Tina



Midn. Michael Briski Class of 2012 - 7th Company

Michael is enjoying his Firstie year. He has busy schedule and is playing intramural racquetball. He took his solo flight in early September and is continuing with his private flying lessons. He and his two roommates attended Ring Dance

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Midn. Michael Briski

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with their girlfriends and had a great time.

Summer training included SUBTRAMID in Hawaii. He enjoyed the sub cruise and has decided to make subs his number one career choice. He learned to play cribbage while on the cruise - an essential skill! While in Hawaii they spent some time at the beach, golfing and visiting Pearl Harbor and the USS Missouri museum.

Michael was home for four weeks in the middle of the summer. He worked on his golf game and played more cribbage with his parents! He spent time in Door County and we attended a family reunion on Lake Holcombe in northern Wisconsin.

Michael worked the second half of Plebe Summer detail. He enjoyed working with the plebes and said they had a great group of plebes in 7th and 8th Company.

The earthquake and Hurricane Irene added a bit of excitement to the fall semester. He is looking forward to graduation and standing up at his roommate's wedding at the chapel the weekend after graduation. We are very proud of him and his accomplishments. It is hard to believe that his four years at USNA have gone by so quickly!

Submitted by: Dan & Nancy Briski, Green Bay

Midn. Jacob Cavey Class of 2012 - 22nd Company

Jacob is physics major and has participated in many activities at the academy.

During the summer, he completed an internship at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories in California in nuclear physics.

He is a Bowman Scholar, on the

Right: Jacob Cavey
and his girlfriend Corey.



Right: Michael Briski & Emily Monske at Ring Dance last May.
Below: Michael, center, at a Plebe Summer parade.



superintendent's list and platoon commander for 10th Company.

As a Bowman's Scholar he just completed research on his project, *Detecting Triaxial Deformation in Rhenium - 171*, at the Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago.

Jacob pre-selected submarines as his service selection in April.

Submitted by: Tom & Julie Cavey, Racine

Midn. Maxwell Mark Klein Class of 2012 - 15th Company

Summer of 2011 for Max was one of the best "land" summers Max has had since being at the academy. Max was on the sailing team his first two years at the academy and his summer duties the past two years were either on a ship or a sub. So this summer, Max was able to spend "land" time in June at the Pentagon in Washington, D. C., a couple of days on a sub and a trip to Seattle, Washington, both in July, and some down time at home the month of August.

It is hard to believe this is Max's last year at the academy. He is hoping to be a navy flight officer upon graduation. Early December, the Class of 2012 will receive service assignments for the next phase of their military career.

Have a GREAT year to all the midns and their parents.

Submitted by: Mark and Judy Klein, Oshkosh

Midn. Patrick Costello Class of 2013 - 18th Company

Patrick said it was a "summer of grace." Immediately after finals he headed west as a member of the USNA SWIFT storm chasing group. They followed storms, reported tornadoes they spotted to the National Weather Service and helped in search and rescue in Joplin, Missouri. In Joplin they captured wandering horses, searched for victims in fields and housing rubble and recovered personal items. Local residents were so grateful to see Naval Academy midshipmen in uniform assisting them in the first days following their devastating tornado.

From there Patrick enjoyed his various service tours on PROTRAMID. Highlights include speaking with the crew on the submarine *USS Alaska* and getting underway with the *USS Kauffman*. In late June he arrived in Wisconsin and went to Rock Island, Door County, for a few nights of camping and movie making. While in Neenah he had visits from high school and Naval Academy friends, went to the EAA and saw all his grandparents.

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Midn. Patrick Costello

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He returned to the Czech Republic for a week to connect with former neighbors and friends. He ended his leave time by flying solo to Kansas to visit a USNA friend on his family farm. Together they went back to Joplin and helped a family clear concrete blocks from their remaining foundation so they could begin to rebuild.

His memorable summer continued in Valencia, Spain, where he joined the Italian Naval Academy for a cruise around the Mediterranean aboard a 70-foot sailboat. Patrick rotated between different positions as one of the 17 crew members and earned his "stripes" cooking a full, American breakfast in the sailboat's galley from food he shopped for in a French grocery store. The menu included pancakes with maple syrup, cheesy eggs and bacon.

After leaving the Italians in Livorno, Italy, he joined friends from the Czech Republic and France in Madrid at World Youth Day. While there he ran into a lay leader assigned to the USNA Chapel! To our utter amazement, he accomplished all of his summer goals and made it back for reform with 15 minutes to spare!

Submitted by: Eileen & John Costello, Neenah



Patrick, left, his neighbor, Tony, and his grandfather get ready to launch a 40-year-old *Penquin* sailboat on Lake Winnebago last July. Patrick's grandfather is from New York and built the boat by hand.

obtaining his private pilot's license. He flew over our house in Hudson during a couple of his solo flights – awesome!

Sean spent his third block service assignment in San Diego for PROTRAMID and greatly enjoyed every aspect of his training there.

Since returning for reform, he has been very busy with his academics as well as studying in his "spare" time for the FAA exam. He has transferred to a flight school in Annapolis and is close to completing his flight training.

Right: Sean Freitas signing his "2-for-7" papers. Lower left: Sean suited up for a T-34 flight during PROTRAMID. Bottom right: Sean's first flight in a Piper Warrior II last July.



Sean was also very excited to obtain a spot on the USNA competition flight team where he will be one of three pilots who flies with the team but doesn't compete, and he received a ground billet in maintenance with the team that entails, "an incredible amount of work and studying too."

Despite his busy schedule and little time for sleep (aren't they all burning the midnight oil?) Sean is enjoying his major (aero) and being able to fly whenever he can get off the Yard. He recently sent a text that pretty much sums up his love of flight, "Took off at sunset over the Chesapeake and flew into the night. Love flying here. It's beautiful!"

We are looking forward to seeing Sean on 2/C Parent Weekend and attending our first USNA football game!

Congratulations to the Class of 2011, and best wishes to all of our mids at USNA!

GO NAVY!

Submitted by: Beth and Bryon Freitas, Hudson

Midn. Sean Freitas Class of 2013 - 18th Company

It's hard to believe Sean is now a 2/C! His time at USNA is going by so quickly, as did his summer. After completing final exams in the spring, he and a friend spent a few days in Pennsylvania hiking, river rafting, fishing and mountain biking before returning to the yard for commissioning week. He was able to come home for a short time after commissioning week and enjoyed catching up with friends and family. He also began taking flight lessons in St. Paul before leaving for his first block service assignment (glider training) in Pennsylvania. Sean then returned home for a three-week break and spent the majority of his time working on

Midn. Rebecca Guild Class of 2013 - 9th Company

Rebecca Guild is now 2/C, able to have a car, wear civilian clothes and has some pebes that she is working with, one

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Midn. Rebecca Guild

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of whom is a challenge. Rebecca is rapidly coming into her own as an individual and a future officer. She is enjoying the classes in her major and minor areas, as well as some electives. As part of battalion staff, she is seeing USNA from a different perspective.

This past weekend, I had the privilege of helping her select the stones for her ring, as well as walk alongside the brigade as she was a part of battalion staff which led 2nd battalion. She also managed to be in the "wedge" during noon meal formation so I was able to see her with her sword. When people told me that time at USNA would fly, they were right.

I am looking forward to 2/C parent weekend and the Army/Navy game this year.

Submitted by: Jan Heinitz, Thiensville



Rebecca Guild signing her "2-for7" papers.

Midn. Logan Roy Class of 2013 - 19th Company

Logan entered 2nd class year with a focused determination and renewed commitment for USNA following a tremendous summer of training. We were so happy to have him home for first block and his sister's high school graduation. Special memories packed into a very short time, then off for his second block PROTRAMID training in San Diego. He had a particularly positive experience with the Marine unit and the aviation week – and loved the 4th of July fireworks celebration over the waters of Coronado.

But Logan's countdown was for third block, and his adventure with NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School).

Logan joined 11 other Mids in the Pacific Northwest for the NOLS training. For us, it felt like Plebe Summer all over again as he was without communication throughout the entire block. But, we have made up for that lost time with



Logan Roy early in a trek during NOLS in the Olympic Mountains, Washington.

his storytelling and photos taken on the journey. Logan has described this as the most meaningful training he's had to date. It pushed him and challenged him in countless ways, required a high level of team work, problem solving and discipline, along with a demanding physical and mental capacity. Amidst the descriptors of, "most terrifying," "really sketchy," "scary," and "BEARS" were the more prevalent terms of "beautiful," "inspiring," "incredible," "amazing," and "I want to do this again!"

We feel very blessed and fortunate to have had three visits to the Yard this semester. This includes a long Labor Day drive to and fro to deliver his bike (that's Mom's excuse), 2/C Parent's Weekend coming soon, and of course, the Army-Navy game in December. Logan is prepping for the Sea Gull Century October 15 and the Marine Marathon at the end of the month. A lot in store for our 2nd Class mid – now we know for sure that time is flying far too quickly!

Submitted by: Ann & Tom Roy, Plymouth

Midn. Troy Tauber Class of 2013 - 27th Company

This was a summer to remember for Midshipman Troy Tauber. After completing his Youngster year at the Academy "under the wire" where second years are to be seen and not heard, Troy had the opportunity to spread his wings and head to Europe.



Troy Tauber, fourth from right, at the Polish Naval Academy with fellow Midshipmen Fleet White, third from left, and Kelly Reightler, second from right.

In late May and June, he traveled with fellow Midshipmen Fleet White and Kelly Reightler to Belgium and Poland. The three were sent as representatives from the USNA economics department to better understand the intricate workings of the European Union and NATO. An extremely warm welcome was extended to the three and their advisor in Warsaw, where they were treated like royalty at a luncheon at the Polish Naval Academy in between classes. Troy noted that the Polish people are very positive about their relationship with the US and champion democracy in their corner

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Midn. Troy Tauber

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of the world. In Belgium, the British chief economist of NATO invited the midshipmen to a birthday party for the queen. It was a great diversion from studying.

Late summer, after PROTRAMID, it was off to London to study at the London School of Economics. Days revolved around a heavy course load but weekends were spent investigating London by bicycle with a side-trip to Edinburgh, Scotland. Troy was fascinated by the discussions he and the international student body participated in concerning the US and European financial crises. These discussions were moderated by some of the finest economic professors in the world. August quickly came to an end with a couple days at home before heading back for his junior year.

In the next couple of weeks we will visit Troy for parent's weekend. A new chapter is beginning in our family's life as younger brother David has completed his application to be a member of the class of 2016 at USNA. We are holding our breath once again, hoping for good news for David, and maybe a chance to see the brothers together as a Plebe and Firstie.

Submitted by: Shaun & Dave Tauber, Sturgeon Bay



(L-R): Troy Tauber, Kelly Reightler & Fleet White at a welcome ceremony.

As a member of the varsity offshore sailing team, Greg participated in several races. The biggest was 645 miles from Marion, Massachusetts to Bermuda.

He also spent a week on the *USS Alexandria*, departing out of Groton, Connecticut just days after Jake left for an underway. Greg visited Jake over a long fall weekend and enjoyed some recreational sailing on Jake's catamaran. Greg has picked physics as his major and holds a skipper position on a Colgate 26 for the sailing team.

Submitted by: Bryan & Jackie Gerlach, Elm Grove

Midn. Franek Kulik Class of 2015 - 27th Company

We were very fortunate that we were able to make both I-Day and Plebe Parent Weekend and we can't wait for him to come home for Thanksgiving, as that will be his 19th birthday.

I-Day was eye opening for us in many ways. Franek seemed to know what he was committing to, can't say that I really did fully grasp it until that day when we saw him after the oath of office ceremony. We brought along our youngest son and Franek's best friend on the trip. It was an eye opener for his friend, too, when he saw the processing of the other plebes and again later when we met up with Franek in his uniform. We sent many care packages and kept the letters flowing. Even though they say it's good for the plebes, I think it's even better for the parents. And I can't say enough about the USNA Facebook pages and photos. It was so much easier to look through the daily photos even if you didn't see your plebe. It helped to know what they were up to and if you did catch them in a photo - so much the better.

Franek's dad and I made it out for parents' weekend. We met some of the other Wisconsin parents on our way out and some from Illinois as well. We met Franek's sponsor family, relaxed at the hotel and I think we saw every movie that had come out since he went "in." We were introduced to some of his company mates, his roommates and the other parents of these great young men and ladies. All in all a great weekend that went by way too fast. We were all sorry it ended too soon but started thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks and how fortunate we are that he should be able to make it home for the holidays.

Submitted by: Sandy & Larry Kulik, Lake Geneva



Franek Kulik during Plebe Parent Weekend.

Midn. Greg Gerlach Class of 2014 - 8th Company

It's not surprising that water features prominently in a mid's life. Greg's post plebe year summer experiences mirrored older brother Jake's (USNA '08) from 2005: sailing and a sub.



Left: Greg Gerlach bidding farewell to the *USS Alexandria*.
Right: Greg Gerlach driving *NA22 Integrity*.

Midn. Lukas Ohman Class of 2015 - 26th Company

Lukas adjusted well to his Plebe summer and is now doing well with his academics and other responsibilities during his Plebe year.

We flew out for I-Day along with Luke's youngest brother, Erik, and took in some sights of Annapolis. We, along with Luke's three brothers and one sister, anxiously waited for the



Upper right: Lukas Ohman making his last phone call. Top left: Lukas with his youngest brother, Erik. Right: Barb, Lukas and Dave. All photos were on I-Day.

three phone calls during the summer months, with each conversation Lukas was in high spirits!

When we returned for parents weekend we saw a very confident young man before us. He introduced us to many of his new friends and we saw his room and toured Bancroft Hall. Luke wanted to take in some movies so we went to see *Harry Potter* and *Captain America*. We also took an afternoon trip to Washington, D.C. We now enjoy his more relaxed phone calls as he is enjoying life at the academy – while living the life of a plebe.

Luke made the rugby team and travels to other cities regularly for games so we look forward to his updates on how the team is doing.

Submitted by: Barb & Dave Ohman, Glenbeulah

Midn. Harrison Ostrenga Class of 2015 - 26th Company

Harrison is doing well, and now we have an appreciation of just how busy he is and how stressful plebe year is.

We went to I-Day and Plebe Parent Weekend. I-Day was bittersweet for us. We were proud of him and honored for him to be given this opportunity, but sad to say goodbye.

Plebe Parent Weekend was wonderful. We did mainly stuff that he wanted to do: went out to eat, went to the movies (*Harry Potter*, *Captain America* and *Cowboys and Aliens*) and hung out at our hotel room where he could get out of uniform and just kick back. We did convince him to have the first lunch in King Hall and to take a tour of Bancroft Hall, visit his room and meet his roommate and some friends. All in all, we had a wonderful time.

Submitted by: Tom & Maryann Ostrenga, Wauwatosa



Top: Harrison Ostrenga, far left, first visited USNA in 1999. Below: Harrison with his parents Maryann & Tom during PPW.

Midn. Wyatt Stone Class of 2015 - 13th Company

Wyatt, who attended Adams-Friendship High School, is being challenged every day in Company 13. Attending NAPS last year has given him a slight advantage in knowing Navy traditions and study skills, yet USNA has many new challenges and differences.

Plebe Summer went well. His favorite activity was the obstacle course and singing in the Protestant choir in order to meet more people from other companies or see his NAPS friends. Having a good detailer from

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Top: Wyatt Stone, far right, during Plebe Summer. Below: Wyatt during PPW with Bill the Goat.

Wisconsin made for many exciting conversations about the differences between Marquette and Adams County and Wyatt's previous farm-boy lifestyle. Thanks for the help, Ty Daniels!

Plebe Parents Weekend was entertaining and relaxing with an extra side trip to see the monuments of Washington, D.C. in the downpour dressed in summer whites! We were happy the hotel had a washing machine for the muddy uniform and Dawn loved watching him use the iron. The excitement of an earthquake and a hurricane all in one week will never be forgotten!

Balancing academics, trying out for various clubs, and memorizing Navy facts for proquizes has not left much time for anything else. A few trips to a wonderful sponsor family have helped him learn more about Navy life.

Wyatt looks forward to scuba certification dives to Virginia and improving his academic and leadership skills throughout the upcoming years. This is where he wants to be. A trip away from all the pressure and concrete of USNA and back to his rural home area for Thanksgiving and Christmas shall prove to be a much deserved time of rest and relaxation.

Go Navy! Beat Army!

Submitted by: Dawn & Jim Stone, Grand Marsh

Blue & Gold - Area Coordinator

The trees are beautiful shades of bright and warm colors, signaling the end of another summer in Wisconsin, and the start of another admissions cycle for the Blue and Gold team. I also submitted recently the annual report for the cycle that resulted in 16 Midshipmen in the Class of '15 from Wisconsin. Although not a record, it was a very high number, indicative of the quality of young men and women from our state. We welcome them to the Navy community and hope they will enjoy their four years together by the bay.



*Cmdr. Craig Walker
USNA - 1983*

One of my goals when I took the helm of the BGO program several years ago was to grow the USNA "community" in Wisconsin. In close cooperation with WISNAPA and the USNA alumni association, I believe we have done that. We have many parents and alumni as BGOs, and we see all three at events like the All-Academy Military Ball and sporting events. We continue to work together to be a group that supports each other.

As a USNA community, we also have a role in supporting the Naval Academy staff and the midshipmen. So how can you help? First, I am always looking for people to join the BGO team, and if you are interested, please let me know. There are other ways, however, you can help without making that commitment. Since many parents mothball their entire casual wardrobe to wear exclusively items of clothing from the Midshipmen Store, I am certain you are asked questions about the Naval Academy. You can be an extension of the team by answering those questions in an informed way, pointing an interested student or involved parent in the right direction. Here are some key points to keep in mind.

- The best resource for additional information is www.usna.edu/Admissions.
- There are four legs to the admissions process. Appli-

cants must pass a medical exam, a physical fitness test and an academic admissions board, all administered by USNA. The fourth leg is a nomination from a US congressman and/or senator.

- Candidates must have a well-rounded profile. Grades, extra-curricular activities and physical aptitude are all important.
- Leadership roles in a couple diverse organizations like sport teams, school clubs and civic groups are much better than basic membership in a long list of organizations.
- In addition to standardized test scores, grades and class rank are also strongly weighted. High SAT/ACT scores with low class rank, or vice versa, are a red flag of either a smart person who doesn't work hard or an average person at a very easy school.
- Many candidates cannot pass the medical examination, most often due to asthma or color blindness. Conversely, there is a waiver process that looks at every request for additional review. Students need to understand the medical standards and accept the risks of getting an appointment, but shouldn't immediately count themselves out.
- Students should take a college preparatory course load including four years of math and English, and a year of physics and chemistry.
- Visit the web site of the Wisconsin US senators and representatives to learn their respective requirements and deadlines, then apply to all three.
- Finally, each school has a BGO. If the student can't determine the BGO for their school, send them my way.

All of you are encouraged to be members of the USNA community here in Wisconsin, and an ambassador to those around you. Thank you for your commitment and raising great kids!



is Sergeant First Class Don Grundy, who is also president of the Wisconsin USO.

The second meeting is March 24, 2012 at the Clarion Hotel across from General Mitchell International Airport. We will be sending care packages from this meeting also. It will be after the mid's spring break.

Our third meeting is June 9, 2012 at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha. The incoming plebes for the Class of 2016 will be introduced. Some midshipmen from other classes and possibly graduates will be there to discuss life at USNA. The parents of the newly graduated will share those experiences

with the members present.

Hopefully all WISNAPA parents will attend the meetings. It can't be emphasized enough the importance of the sharing and support gained from listening and talking to the various parents. We all have questions and concerns about midshipmen life at USNA.

The Army-Navy game is December 10, 2011 in Washington, D.C. Be sure to check the WISNAPA website for the details about activities concerning this memorable event. GO NAVY - BEAT ARMY!

The All Academy Military ball is an exciting and fun event. This year it will be held on December 30, 2011 at Coun-

try Springs Hotel in Waukesha. The Wisconsin Air Force Academy parents group is hosting it. Do try and attend. More information will follow. WISNAPA hosted the event last year. It is expensive to host and that is one of the uses of money gained from fundraisers and donations. One of our fundraisers is selling a beautifully monogrammed T-shirt. Another fundraiser is selling lighted plastic anchors - that you need to see to appreciate. We will have them at our meetings.

Hope you gained more knowledge about WISNAPA from our message. We look forward to seeing all of you at the November meeting.

Fall WISNAPA Meeting **Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.**

Milwaukee Yacht Club
1700 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-271-4455

\$20 per person

Bring 60 treats to fill care packages for the midshipmen and deployed grads.

RSVP to: Matt Matson - m_matson@email.com
W75W21392 Crimson Ct., Muskego, WI 53150-8589

Go to www.wisnapa.org for driving directions and additional information.

WISNAPA Officers



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Vice President:
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Wisconsin Naval Academy Parents' Association



Meeting Minutes - June 4, 2011

At 11 a.m. Co-president Tom Balistreri called the meeting to order. Tom thanked everyone for coming followed by the pledge.

The 2015 appointees introduced themselves and their families. Updates on mids and grads were given by their families.

A prayer was given followed by the luncheon.

Capt. Bill Clayton presented appointee Conley Brown ('15) with his USNA appointment. Bill spoke about his experiences as a Blue and Gold Officer.

At 12:45 p.m. the 2015 appointees separated from the parent's group to meet with two current NAPsters and Midshipman Logan Roy ('13) to discuss what to expect at the Academy.

Business Meeting

Tom Balistreri encouraged the incoming 2015 families to contact other families with any questions they may have.

Old Business

The minutes from the March 12, 2011 meeting were available on the tables for review. A motion was made to accept the minutes, seconded, voted on and carried.

Secretary Nancy Briski read thank you notes from Matthew Surprenant ('07) and Wyatt Stone ('15) thanking members for the care packages and support and a thank you card from the family of Matthew Rynish, son-in-law of Steve & Karen Voigt, for the memorial.

Treasurer Jan Heinitz indicated that copies of the treasurer's report were available on the tables for review. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report, seconded, voted on and carried. Jan asked for a volunteer to take over the treasurer's duties. Matt Matson (Ben '14) volunteered to be treasurer.

Craig Walker gave an update on the Class of 2015. More than 200 applications were started and 71 applications were completed. There were 24 appointments offered and 16 that accepted, including two who previously attended NAPS and one foundation school.

Craig explained the Cushing Award to the new members and gave an update on the Blue & Gold Officers. There are approximately 40-45 Blue & Gold Officers in Wisconsin. Anyone interested in becoming a Blue & Gold Officer may contact Craig at craigwalker@ww.rr.com.

Yardtales/Website

Jan Haupt thanked everyone for their submissions to *Yardtales*. The server is still down and Jan is sending daily posts via E-mail. Once the 2011-2012 membership list is updated, those that did not renew their membership will no longer receive the daily posts. Contact Nancy Briski for a membership form. If you no longer wish to receive the daily posts, contact Jan at jhauptlodi@aol.com. Jan will be contacting all plebe parents for their plebe's P.O. Box and company numbers. Contact Jan as soon as they receive them.

Army vs. Navy Game

The Army-Navy Game will be held at Fed Ex Field, Washington D.C. on December 10, 2011. WISNAPA will not reserve hotel rooms this year due to the cost. The Maryland Parent's Club and USNA Alumni Association will provide bus transportation to and from the game. Check WISNAPA's website for more information.

Jan Haupt suggested that if members are willing to buy football tickets for resale, there are currently two families in need of tickets (the Breapres need 4 tickets and Costellos need 2 tickets).

Continued on page 14

New Business

Tom introduced the WISNAPA officers: Co-presidents Tom & Barbara Balistreri (Michael '12), Vice President Jan Heintz (Rebecca Guild '13), Secretary Nancy Briski (Michael '12) and Treasurer Matt Matson (Benjamin '14).

Tom introduced Tom Roy (Logan '13). Tom and Ann Roy were the "Welcoming Parents" for the Class of 2015. Each appointee was presented with an American flag, a copy of the *Plebe Parent Handbook*, and a gift bag. Floral centerpieces were also given to the 2015 families.

A question-and-answer session was held among the parents as to I-Day and Plebe Parent's Weekend activities.

Wyatt Stone ('15) briefed the parents on his year at NAPS and the discussion panel held among the incoming appointees.

Tom presented Capt. Clayton with a gift and an honorary membership to WISNAPA for his many years of service. Craig Walker also spoke and thanked Capt. Clayton for his work as a Blue & Gold Officer.

Tom and Barbara Balistreri acknowledged Steve and Karen Voigt's service to WISNAPA as past Co-presidents.



Mubarak Kiyamov (USNA '15), far right, with his parents Greg & Galia Laughnan, Baraboo.



Left: Will McShane (USNA '15) with his parents Dennis & Amelia, Verona. Right: BGO Capt. William Clayton, right, presenting incoming Plebe Conley Brown his appointment certificate.



They will be presented with a clock and a gift certificate to a restaurant.

Tom reminded members of the upcoming meeting October 29, 2011 at the Milwaukee Yacht Club. The March 2012 meeting date and location are still to be determined. The June 2012 meeting date is yet to be determined but will be held at the Country Springs Hotel, Pewaukee.

At 2 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, voted on and carried.

Submitted by:

Nancy Briski
WISNAPA Secretary
(Michael Briski '12)



Incoming plebes attending the summer WISNAPA meeting on June 4, 2011 include (bottom row): Harrison Ostrenga, Mubarak Kiyamov, Will McShane & Logan Roy; (middle row): Franek Kulik, Wyatt Stone, Alex Vogel & Conley Brown; (top row): Paddy Diamond, Moises Diaz & Lukas Ohman.



Bankers Aweigh

Additional account information will be provided at the November 5 WISNAPA meeting and is available at www.wisnapa.org.

Operating Account

\$ 4,218.41	Balance forward as of May 5, 2011
3,421.95	Receipts
<u>(2,629.90)</u>	Disbursements
\$ 5,010.46	October 10, 2011 Balance

Submitted by:

Matt Matson,
WISNAPA Treasurer
(Benjamin Matson '14 - 20th Company)

