

YARDTALES

A PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN NAVAL ACADEMY PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



YARDTALES
Summer 2008

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Stephanie & John Kelling



From the Helm

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

Academy memories build

If you are like me, it may take a minute to figure out how long ago you graduated from college. Walking the hallowed halls of my teachers college seems like a distant memory. My school had a nice anthem sung at all formal events, but I no longer remember the words. Then again, I don't think I knew the words while attending either. I bought a really nice class ring (much cheaper back then) but for more years than I can remember it has been in my drawer. Once out of college and into the work-world-class time, immediate friendships, sappy songs, and class rings mean little. All of those become a distant memory.

I sense though, it is different with those at the Academy. As parents, we have toured the classroom buildings, stood in silence as *Navy Blue and Gold* is sung, and gazed intently at class rings brought home for the first time. For us, those highlights of our sons' and daughters' four years at the Academy will soon become a distant memory - happy and proud memories to say the least. There is so much happening in our own lives as parents, we enjoy the moment, and then move on to the next facet in life, maybe another child moving up the educational ladder.

In a few weeks, one-fourth of the Brigade of Midshipmen will receive their first salute as commissioned servicemen and women in either the United States Navy or Marine Corps. But having the diploma and commissioning certificates speak little of the hard work, tireless effort and courageous determination that made those two pieces of parchment a reality for each of them. The impressive USNA class ring which many an employer will gaze at will open far more doors of opportunity than my college ring could. But in time, even that ring may find itself in a drawer.

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Wisconsin Naval Academy Parents' Association (www.wisnapa.org)
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WISNAPA welcomes the incoming Class of 2012!



Nineteen individuals accepted appointments to the Class of 2012 and are featured in this issue.

Alex Bablitch

Alexander James Bablitch (Alex) will be joining the Naval Academy's Class of 2012 from Stevens Point.

Born in Joliet, Illinois, Alex has lived in Illinois (twice), Wisconsin (twice) and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He received nominations for his appointment from Wisconsin Senator Herb Kohl and Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey.

Alex is a member of Pacelli High School's Class of 2008. An honors student, he is a two-time member of National Honor Society and active in Student Senate. He participated in wrestling, lettering all four years and serving as co-captain of Pacelli's wrestling team senior year. He also participated and lettered in soccer and track.

Alex plans on studying aeronautical engineering while at the Academy.

Parents: Matthew J. & Gwynne E. Bablitch, Stevens Point



involved in or lead, unquestionably produced much stress; yet, in the end a great satisfaction. I imagine this will be the case – to a much greater extent – with the *moral, mental and physical* challenges that lie ahead in Annapolis.

With the abbreviated summer that lies between graduation and Induction Day, I plan on enjoying the much welcome warm weather with family and friends; and anxiously look forward to the ironically unknown, yet assured, future as a naval officer. Go Navy!

Parents: Thomas and Barbara Balistreri, Milwaukee

Dan Barbian

My name is Dan Barbian and I am extremely honored to be a part of the class of 2012 at the United States Naval Academy.

During my high school career I attended Rhinelander High School, where I challenged myself with various classes and extracurricular activities which included National Honor Society, Student Council and Key Club. I was fortunate enough to be elected to officer positions in all of these organizations. Those positions helped me to gain valuable leadership experience.

In addition to extracurricular activities, I have participated in many sports during high school. These sports include three years on the varsity cross country team, two years on the varsity alpine snowboard team, and three years on the varsity tennis team.

I initially became interested in the Naval Academy when I learned about how challenging it was and all the opportunities that it provided to its students. Then after one week at the summer seminar, I knew that the Naval Academy was the place for me.

As the time winds down until Plebe Summer begins, I am definitely looking forward to the challenges that lay ahead of me, whether they are moral, mental or physical. At the Academy I hope to major in aeronautical engineering and eventually become a naval aviator.

Parents: Alan & Paula Barbian, Rhinelander



Michael Balistreri

Two independent, yet deeply rooted beliefs propelled me towards the US Naval Academy: a belief in service to our country and a great love of scholarship. Accordingly, acceptance to an institution with similar ideals remains sincerely welcome.

Reflecting upon these past four years at Rufus King International Baccalaureate High School in Milwaukee I have been tested in many respects; certainly, academically and athletically. As a senior with six International Baccalaureate classes I've faced an arduous workload calling upon hours of work beyond the classroom.

This, coupled with varsity soccer and track, along with the various other extracurricular activities I am either in-



Anthony Beaupre

My interest in the United States Naval Academy is one that came as a realization. I have numerous family members who served in the military and have observed the fortitude, work ethic, integrity, and honor that they have displayed, because of their service in the armed forces. My deep respect for my veteran family members brought me to the understanding of my own aspirations to serve in the military. I saw the Naval Academy as an excellent opportunity to do this and as a chance to better myself mentally, physically and morally.



At Oshkosh Lourdes High School I have constantly pushed myself in academics, extra-curriculars, and athletics. I took numerous college courses, was the captain of my varsity soccer team, and was on the Lourdes governing body in addition to being the president of my school's campus ministry. My constant effort to better myself will continue with my upcoming years at the Academy.

With graduation quickly approaching I am enjoying my remaining weeks before Induction Day. This will be one of the greatest challenges I have ever faced making me both nervous, yet excited for the closing of one chapter in my life and the opening of a new one.

Parents: Doug and Sue Beaupre and Tom and Carol Joseph, Oshkosh

Michael Briski

Michael Briski graduated in 2007 from Preble High School in Green Bay, where he was a member of the cross country and track teams, and vice president of the National Honor Society. He was also a part of the academic decathlon and science academic teams. Some of his hobbies include road biking, rowing, and playing percussion in the Green Bay Symphony Youth Orchestra. As a freshman at Marquette University in Milwaukee, he was an integral part of the men's crew (rowing) team.



Michael's initial interest in the academy was sparked by his high school friend, Tim Mahoney, USNA Class of 2010, and also his coach at the Green Bay Rowing Club, Steve Engelhardt, a retired Naval Academy graduate. After touring the Naval Academy, Michael is excited to transfer

from Marquette University and hopes to go to medical school after graduating from the Academy.

Parents: Dan and Nancy Briski, Green Bay

Jacob Cavey

My name is Jacob Matthew Cavey and I cannot wait until July 2, 2008, despite heavy attachments to my home town, Racine. I feel that will be a dramatic transition from a high school setting into the academy.

The Naval Academy provides a great opportunity for each facet of my life. The athletics are outstanding, and for me that was a big incentive because athletics are a large part of my life. During my high school career I earned eleven varsity letters, six first team awards, and all county player of the year in 2007. I hope to continue my soccer career at the Naval Academy.

As a student at the Prairie School, I was pushed academically to prepare for rigorous curriculum wherever I would attend. My teachers and the expectation of the school itself prepared me in many different components such as academics, athletics, leadership, and a value of community.

I have always had the idea of attending a service academy in the back of my mind. Once it became time to narrow down schools and start applying, the Naval Academy was the first application I finished. Up until early October, I only knew statistics and numbers about the school. It wasn't until I visited Doug De Vuono that my love for the academy solidified. After seeing the school, the white granite buildings, the bay area, downtown Annapolis, and the formal blue outfits, I knew the United States Naval Academy was the place for me.

Parents: Thomas and Julie Cavey, Racine

Ty Daniels

The day I came home to find an offer of appointment on the kitchen table was one of the most exciting days of my life. That day marked when I became a part of the Naval Academy's Class of 2012, an honor that I am proud to have accomplished.

Currently I am a senior at Montello Junior/Senior High School, however not for much longer! Throughout my high school years I have been in



Continued on page 4

Ty Daniels

Continued from page 3

Involved in student council, class president, NHS, Varsity Club, basketball, golf, musical, school newspaper, math team and FFA. I take pride in being from a relatively small school and having the opportunity to be in many different activities. Out of school, I volunteer at the Marquette County Food Pantry, referee Boy's Club basketball games and am a firefighter for the Montello Fire Department.

I am absolutely ecstatic for the opportunity, experience, and obstacles that lay on the long road I have ahead of me. As Plebe Summer is rapidly approaching I am very nervous, yet not nearly as nervous as my mother seems to be! I can't wait to take this wonderful opportunity I have been given and make the most out of it!

Parents: Jim & Debbie Daniels, Montello

Christina De Vuono

My name is Christina De Vuono, and I am from Racine, where I attended William Horlick High School. I spent a very busy four years involved in different clubs and sports such as student government, Math Club, National Honor Society, Spirit Club, soccer, theatre and cheerleading. My fondest memory was winning the WACPC State Cheerleading competition this past February as the team's head captain. It is sad to be leaving, but I am definitely ready for this next exciting chapter of my life.



My initial interest in the Academy began about six years ago when my family and I dropped my oldest brother off for his Induction Day. Ever since, I have been visiting the Academy pretty regularly and fell in love with the entire atmosphere of the school. About three years ago I began preparing myself to attend the USNA by taking certain classes, stepping up in leadership roles, spending an overnight on the Yard with a Plebe, and finally spending a week there for Summer Seminar, which was such a fun and exciting experience. I truly loved the tradition, teamwork, and leadership that was involved in every aspect of Academy life, and I knew that I wanted to be a part of that.

I am not entirely sure what my plans are after commissioning. I am trying to keep my options open, but right now I believe I will major in some sort of engineering, and I am looking into the field of Surface Warfare. I am excited to begin this new experience, and look forward to being a part of the Class of 2012!

Parents: Tony & Cindy De Vuono, Racine

Carson Fall

My name is Carson Fall and I live in Hudson with my parents, David and Jaimie, brother Campbell, sister Casey, and I have an older brother Caleb who is attending the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. I am honored and excited to have been accepted to the United States Naval Academy, and I cannot wait for Plebe Summer to begin.



I am a varsity athlete in cross country, swimming and track, and have competed at the conference, sectional and state levels in some of these activities. I also served as captain of the swim team during my senior year.

I am a member of NHS, the Senior Mentor program, and I tutor elementary students. Outside of school I am a member of a couple different religious and community service groups. I am an Eagle Scout and a member of local Boy Scout Troop 140. During the summer I work as a swim lesson teacher and lifeguard at the community school pool.

At the academy, I plan on studying hard, working harder and becoming a part of something truly great.

Parents: David & Jaimie Fall, Hudson

Emily Favorite

My name is Emily Favorite, and I live in New London. I am a senior at Fox Valley Lutheran High School. My initial interest in the Naval Academy came from my cousin, a 2006 graduate, and my aunt, who offered me all the information and encouragement I could get. I became especially intrigued with the opportunities surrounding an education at the Academy.



I have participated in cross country and track in high school, as well as National Honor Society, QuizWizards, and service opportunities. I also enjoy piano, art, and various sports. Through my church youth group, I have attended youth rallies and recently went on a mission trip to Grenada.

I'm excited for the challenges ahead of me. I'm leaving a wonderful mother and siblings who have always been there for me. I look forward to meeting some amazing new people and taking part in some exciting opportunities.

Mother: Karen Favorite, New London

Ryan Hass

My interest to attend the Naval Academy began in middle school. I wanted to be a Navy SEAL and decided going to the Academy was a great way to pursue that goal. I could receive military training while completing my college education.

Throughout high school I kept my focus on my goals and worked hard to balance academics, clubs, and work. Unfortunately I was denied my first time applying, and for the past year have been attending the University of Wisconsin - Madison. I have participated in the NROTC program this past year, and have learned a lot. I am excited to continue the pursuit of my goal at the Academy. I hope to take the valuable lessons I have learned this past year and build on them at Annapolis as I continue my development as a naval officer.

I look forward to the start of a new school and a new year. I can't imagine the challenges that await me, but I am excited to meet those challenges and succeed.

Parents: Dan & Julie Hass, Middleton



I thrive on challenge and am anxious to take on the next one as a midshipman.

Parents: Steve (USNA '89) & Ana Hilgendorf, Hartland

Vicky Kessler

My name is Vicky Kessler, and I am honored to have received an appointment to USNA. In high school at River Falls my main extra-curricular focuses included competing in cross country and distance track, clubs such as FFA and Teens as Teachers, and working part-time at Target.

I have been interested in attending the Naval Academy since touring Annapolis as a sophomore, and my interest was further cemented by my experiences at Summer Seminar and during a candidate visit weekend.

Accomplishments I am particularly proud of from my high school career are my all-conference honors in cross country and my participation in the 2007 Senate Scholar Program.

Parents: Mike & Sharlene Kessler, River Falls



Ryan Hilgendorf

As a senior at Arrowhead Union High School, I am honored to join the Naval Academy's class of 2012. I am a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Club, and the Foreign Exchange Student Club. I was part of the 2006 Division 1 Varsity Football State Runner-up and team captain of the 2007 Division 1 varsity football state championship team. I also earned three varsity letters for hockey, three for track and one for power lifting as a 2008 state qualifier.

I am very involved within and outside my community. My volunteering includes coaching youth sports teams, cooperating in Racial Diversity Group, community play performances, and a Hurricane Katrina Relief trip in Mississippi.

I have been interested in joining the Navy since I was 8 years old, and I am thrilled to finally have the opportunity. My initial interest in the Academy came from my father, who is an '89 grad. After I attended Summer Seminar last year, I knew this was where I wanted to go.



Max is a 2008 graduate of Oshkosh West High School where he lettered four years on the boys swim team where he was captain his senior year while making 2nd Team all-conference, and Academic all-state in swimming. Last year he also participated in cross country and ran his first half marathon this spring. Max is also an Eagle Scout and writer for his school paper.

He was a member of O'Neil National Honor Society, Diego Rivera Spanish National Honor Society, and he was nominated by his high school to attend Badger Boys State in the Summer of 2007. He is also a Lifeguard.

Max has lived in Oshkosh his whole life with his dad Mark, mom Judy, and younger sister Heidi who is a sophomore at West. He is the first family member to attend a Service Academy.

In his free time he enjoys listening to music, watching TV, especially *The Office*, and hanging out with his friends.

Parents: Mark & Judy Klein, Oshkosh



Christina Lanouette

I am Christina Lanouette from Appleton and I am a senior at Conserve School in Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin. I am honored and excited to be a part of the U.S. Naval Academy class of 2012.

In my four years at Conserve I have enjoyed competing on the cross country running, Nordic skiing, and track teams. I love long distance training and being outside, so naturally I spend a lot of time running and skiing on the trails here. In my past two years of Nordic skiing, I have participated in several half marathons, including the Noquemanon, the Great Bear Chase and the Korteloppet. I also completed the American Birkebeiner this past February, finishing sixth in my age class.

During my junior year at Conserve I joined the Envirothon team, which won the Wisconsin state championship that year and placed ninth at the North American competition. This year's state competition is a few weeks away and I hope we can do as well as we did last year.

With I-Day just around the corner I am enjoying my last two months at Conserve and looking forward to the challenges of plebe summer.

Parents: Ruth & Andre Lanouette, Appleton



Carson Moreles

Good evening readers. My name is Carson Morales, and I am currently a senior at Brookfield Central High School. I am also planning on graduating this spring and embarking on an entirely new journey to the United States Naval Academy. Quite frankly, if you told me two years ago that my life would be headed in this direction, I would have told you that you were crazy. But it's amazing where a little bit of time, a Summer Seminar, an encouraging family and a lot of thinking can get you.

Someday, I plan on making video games for young nerds like myself to enjoy. Until that day, many moons from now, I plan on serving my country in the Navy and having the time of my life at USNA. I would like to thank my father for telling me about the Academy, my mother and family for



supporting me in my college search, my girlfriend and friends for being excited for me even though I'm missing almost my entire summer with them and my squad for making Summer Seminar rock hardcore. Without these people, I would have been correct in thinking you were crazy after you told me I would be going to the Academy. Until next time!

Parents: Bill & Jennifer Moreles, Brookfield

Jane Paar

Jane graduated from East High School in Wauwatosa in 2007 and then went into the Navy's Foundation program at Vermont Academy in Saxtons River. Jane has been absolutely certain that she wanted to be in the military ever since she joined the Civil Air Patrol in eighth grade where she received the CAP's Commander's Sword Award as a Master Sergeant during the summer Encampment of 2005. Jane also had a chance to participate in the Naval Academy's Summer Seminar in 2006 where she was awarded one of four leadership awards.

Jane was a member of the Milwaukee Children's Choir, and the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (trumpet). She is registered to play taps at Veterans funerals; she volunteered for Literacy Services of Wisconsin and for Saint Ben's Soup Kitchen. In high school she played soccer, swam and dived, marched in band, and worked back stage for the East Theatre productions. In the summer Jane played Rugby for a local club team. At Vermont she played soccer, ice hockey and lacrosse. Jane enjoys Tae-kwon-do, rock climbing and outdoor activities.

Jane is thrilled to be entering the Naval Academy Class of 2012 and plans to work toward a career in the Marines.

Parents: Michael and Peggy Paar, Wauwatosa



Christopher Simmons

My name is Christopher Simmons Jr. I am a senior at Mary D. Bradford High School in Kenosha. I am an active member of the National Honor Society and Who's Who among American High School Students.

Throughout high school I participated in various sports, varsity soccer and football, track & field and JV basketball during my freshman and sophomore years while living in Yokosuka, Japan. At Mary D. Bradford High as a defensive back in soccer, I was awarded four varsity letters, selected

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Christopher Simmons

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as first team all-conference player, and was captain my senior year.

As an active NHS member I am currently involved in various activities for the club. I volunteer weekly in the E.R. at St. Catherine's Hospital in Kenosha and have a part-time job on the weekends. Various interests of mine include weight lifting, working out, basketball, football, and, of course, soccer.

I am looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead of me at the Naval Academy, especially the big one ... Plebe Summer! Without a doubt, it will be an honor to meet my fellow Midshipmen and senior officers. My ultimate goal is to become a nuclear engineering officer on board a submarine.

Parents: Christopher & Leitu Simmons, Kenosha



Jeff Wood

My name is Jeff Wood and I am deeply honored to receive an appointment to the Class of 2012. I am a senior at James Madison Memorial High School in Madison. While attending Memorial High School, I participated in cross country, track and field, student government, tutoring, National Honor Society, as well as organizing a supply drive for soldiers serving in Iraq. During the summer, I volunteered as a counselor at a YMCA camp. Last summer I attended the Naval Academy's Summer Seminar program.

My interest in the Naval Academy began my freshman year when I met a senior who was competing for an appointment. Since then I have attempted to learn as much as I can about the Academy and the responsibilities of its graduates. I am greatly humbled by the tradition and prestige of the Academy and look forward to being part of something much bigger than myself. I hope to earn a commission in the Marine Corps upon graduation.

Parents: Ken & Karen Wood, Madison



Wisconsin Air Force Cadet to study at Naval Academy as exchange student

Cadet Jennifer Ebert will be attending USNA as a student of the service academy semester exchange program for the fall 2008 semester. She loves new and different challenges and thought that life as an exchange student would place her in the heart of these challenges in addition to expanding her knowledge regarding operations of another branch in the military.

At USAFA Jennifer's been active in the Catholic choir and the triathlon club, and she's hoping to continue those at USNA. Summers at USAFA are split into three three-week periods, and she's ecstatic about her second year Operation Air Force placement this summer at Ramstein Airbase in Germany. There, she will be shadowing an enlistee and learning more about life after the Academy. Near the end of June, she'll enjoy three weeks leave in Germantown, where she'll be catching up on visiting friends and family, and waterskiing.

Finally, third period will bring a return to the Academy to work basic training as an element leader, where she'll be responsible for about eight basic Cadets. This training is the second half of basic training's six-week program for new incoming basics so the majority of it will be spent in tents at the field training complex, Jack's Valley. The emphasis is physical strength, endurance and fitness for the second half of basic, while the emphasis on the first half is more academic.

Jennifer's report date at USNA is 12 August. She thinks this coming semester at USNA will be an awesome experience and can't wait to start! However, during the October 4 Navy-Air Force football game, her slogan will be GO AIR FORCE!

Submitted by: Lisa & Jim Ebert, Germantown



Cadet Jennifer Ebert

"Honestate arcessiti dignitate obligamus"
"Called by duty, bound by honor"



*The Wisconsin Naval
Academy Parents' Association
sends its congratulations and
best wishes to the graduates of the*

Class of 2008

Andrew Clingman, Brookfield

Brian Davis, Barron/Chetek

Douglas De Vuono, Racine

Marta Drew, Milton

Jacob Gerlach, Brookfield

David Jach, Milwaukee

Kimberly Julka, Fond du Lac

Ian Kilpatrick, Glendale

Caroline Mayer, Racine

Jessica Troska, Anoka, Minn.

Emily Vanden Heuvel, Hartford

Submarines

Submarines

Naval Pilot

Navy Pilot

Submarines

Marine Pilot

Marine Corps Ground

Surface Warfare Officer

Navy Pilot

Surface Warfare Officer

Marine Corps Ground



*Ensign Andrew Clingman,
We are so proud and
happy for you! Your
perseverance, hard work and
accomplishments are awesome.
God bless and keep you always.*

*We love you,
Mom and Dad*



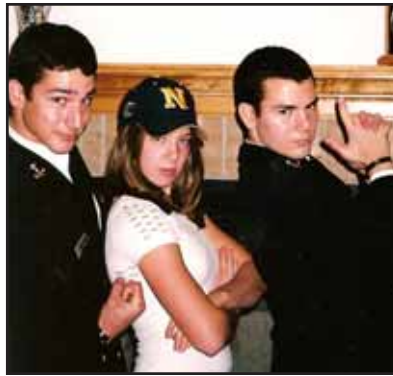
*From child to man
thru many "character
building" moments. I'm
PROUD of you, for the
man that you've become,
HAPPY for you that
you've achieved your
goal of graduating
from USNA, and
EXCITED to see many
opportunities unfold
for you.*

WAY TO GO, BRIAN!



Love, Mom

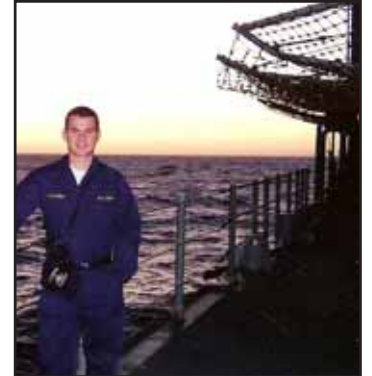




*Taking that long
“walk” to the
Academy took
courage.
Graduation is
a great reward.*

Congratulations,

*Mom, Dad, Anthony, Amanda, Andrea, Christina
Psalm 73:26*



*Congratulations Marta!
You are the best
Love, mom, dad, janna,
duck, squid, mittens, diddeoo*





Jake,

We are so proud of you for your accomplishments – how you’ve grown at Navy and certainly in other ways.

Your future is a combination of using your gifts and relying on God’s promises. Thank you for devoting some of your life to serving your country!

The diversity of your skills and opportunities is remarkable: engineering, submarines, sailing, diving, sailbot – not to mention music, swimming, cooking (please, more Tom Kah Gai next time you’re home).

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Pt 3:18

“Non sine causa portat gladium.” Rm 13:4



DAVID EDWARD JACH

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Congratulations and Love, Mom

**2nd LT
Kimberly
Ann Julka,
USMC**



*With your confidence,
determination and
dedication
to each challenge
anything is possible.
Congratulations on
achieving another
milestone in
your young career!*

*Love,
Dad & Beth*



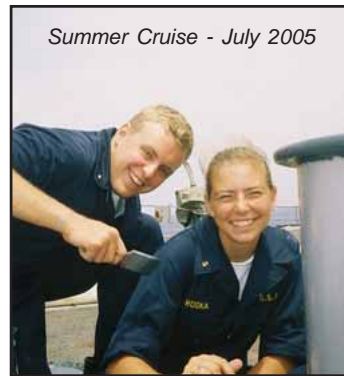
*From kindergarten, to I-Day, to Commissioning
Congratulations! Love Mom, Dad & Christian*





Women's Glee Club
Spring Break - March 2008

Jessye —
May you always
have "Fair Winds
and Following Seas" on
your journey through life.
Love you much,
Mom and Dad



Summer Cruise - July 2005



Service Selection Night - Nov. 2007



Air Force Recon - Oct. 2005



New York - Jan. 2008



Emily Fitzsimmons Vanden Heuvel
2nd Lt. USMC

Dearest Em,

From rejection to "I have not yet begun to fight," we never doubted that you would fulfill your dream of graduating from USNA and becoming a Marine Corps Officer.

We are so very proud of you and pray that God will always protect you as you begin your mission of defending our country.

With love and hugs,
Dad, Mom, Fawn, Robb,
Annalise - Nick & Allie





Alumni News



Ens. Betsy Burnett Class of 2007

Betsy continues her first duty assignment aboard the *USS Tortuga*. Her fitness report describes it as "Assigned to arduous sea duty on a forward deployed amphibious ship in Sasebo, Japan." She would very much agree with the description



We recently visited her in Sasebo and had the opportunity to tour the ship, meet her chain of command and have lunch with her fellow officers. It was very informative and enjoyable for us. The *Tortuga* will be underway from early May until mid September; the timing of our visit was perfect.



Top: Kathy, Betsy & Jim Burnett on the Starboard Bridge Wing of the USS Tortuga. Below: Kathy & Betsy Burnett at lunch

Congratulations to the Class of 2008 and welcome to the Class of 2012!

Submitted by: Kathy & Jim Burnett, New Holstein

Brian "Bud" Colby Class of 2002

At the beginning of May, Bud returned to the Marine Corps as the XO for H&S Infantry Battalion (4th Marines 1/23)

stationed in Houston, Texas. A few weeks back he received activation orders from the commandant.

Going active at this time would have had a significant impact on his training to take over a drilling platform or ship for TransOcean (deepwater.com). After speaking to a few people he decided to fulfill his commitment to the country and to the Marines and still continue his training he would be a reservist. Upon joining he was informed that summer camp would be the first week in June and in Ghana, Africa.

Submitted by: Tom & Lou Ann Colby, Madison

LTJG Victor Duenow, USN Class of 2005

In June Victor celebrates his first wedding anniversary with his bride Caitlin. They both have settled into Virginia Beach where she teaches fourth grade.



Victor is now a qualified co-pilot with his helicopter squadron, HSC-22, as he continues his training at Norfolk, Virginia. He also completed his pre-deployment workup on the new *USNS Lewis and Clark* (T-AKE-1), the lead ship of her class of dry cargo ship. These pre-deployment workups prepare his detachment for their Persian Gulf deployment which begins in September this year. The predominant mission of his detachment will be VERTREPs (Vertical Replenishments) as pictured in the photo. The T-AKE



Top: LTJG Victor Duenow; Bottom: Vertical replenishments during pre-deployment workups.

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LTJG Victor Duenow

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will transfer cargo — ammunition, food, limited quantities of fuel, repair parts, ship store items and expendable supplies at sea to station ships and other naval warfare forces. They also have secondary missions of search and rescue (SAR) and special operations support of SEAL teams.

He loves flying the MH-60S and the helo community and passes along his best wishes to the Class of 2008 who were his 'Plebes' when his was a Firstie.

Submitted by: Russ & Afton Duenow, Fredericksburg, Virginia

Ens. Alex Haupt Class of 2007

We drove to Corpus Christi to visit Alex in March. It was a great trip, even though the car heater didn't work the first half of the trip.

Alex and his roommates live on North Padre Island, a block from the Gulf of Mexico. It's a beautiful location, and lends itself to one of their favorite hobbies -

kite boarding. Their townhouse is perfect for them and they get along famously. They also built a skateboard ramp, which has become the "hot spot" for many other ensigns.

We were able to see the base and visit Port Aransas. Alex either flew or had watch in the Boomers squadron every day we were there, then had three days off when we left.

Alex completed his first solo flight on a T-34 Turbommentor on May 6, as shown in the photo. According to Alex, "It's pretty much the sweetest bird in the Navy." He continues to lean towards helos as primary training winds down.

Submitted by: Jan & Bill Haupt, Lodi



*Top: Alex Haupt after his first solo flight.
Bottom: Victor Barger, Craig Johnson, Alex Haupt & Justin Wells with their "beach jeep."*

Kate Kasten Class of 2006

After spending a year and a half in Pensacola, Kate moved to Norfolk, Virginia in April. She will spend two weeks in Maine for her SERE School. She then begins her NFO train-



Kate Kasten in Norfolk, Virginia

ing on the E2 Hawkeye in June. The roller coaster never seems to stop!

I also have the privilege of beginning the USNA experience a second time. My niece and goddaughter, Emily Favorite, is in the new Plebe class. It will be to the Academy's financial advantage to issue a Mid Store card to godmothers!

Submitted by: Kate & Alan Kasten, New Berlin

Capt. Eric Larsen, USMC Class of 2003

It was an emotional moment for us with Eric's return in early April from his third deployment to Iraq. We were able to personally greet him and hold him in our arms as the advance party of 60 Marines returned to Camp Pendleton. There were many family members and friends to greet these amazing young men.

The day after Eric's return he was able to rent an apartment in the same apartment complex as his previous rentals. Being the moving professionals that we've become, we had Eric settled into his new home - at least until mid July.

In July, Eric makes his move to Quantico, Virginia for his attendance at the Expeditionary Warfare School, which is a nine month Marine resident education program. He will receive new orders in April. We are pleased that he will be on US soil for at least a year.

With his accumulated leave, Eric will be home in Wisconsin in mid May with a trip out to the Annapolis area to visit his sponsor family and other friends within that time frame.

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Capt. Eric Larsen

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At the beginning of June, Eric is off to Australia with another Marine buddy to finally see other parts of the world. Then it's back to CA to begin checking out for his move



Loren, Eric & Cindi Larsen

to Virginia. Loren will be joining him in the cross country drive to transport Eric's truck out east. This time, we're suggesting to Eric that he let the Marines make this move - even if we are moving professionals.

We want to wish the Class of 2008 the very best as they begin their military careers. To the current Midshipmen, our thoughts are with you as you continue your education and training at the Academy. And can't believe it - best wishes to the incoming class of 2012. Where does the time go?

Submitted by: Cindi and Loren Larsen, Racine

David Paz Class of 1999

Dave competed in the Ironman in Arizona on Sunday, April 13. It's a one-day triathlon consisting of 2.4 miles of swimming, 112 miles of bicycling and 26.2 miles of running, all in the same day. This was Dave's second Ironman and he says the swimming was his favorite part, so to speak, as



David Paz after competing in the Arizona Ironman in April

the bicycle and running were against strong winds, blowing sand and 92-degree Phoenix heat and burning sun.

Dave will begin his third year of residency in July at the University of California San Deigo Hospitals and he has kept his parents posted about the lovely 70-degree weather in La Jolla all winter long.

Submitted by: Judy & Edwardo Paz, Greendale

Christopher Roettgen Class of 2003

Christopher will be assigned to USNA as a physics instructor beginning in Aug 2008.

Submitted by: Dave Roettgen, Franklin

2nd LT Molly Stanley, USAF Class of 2006

Molly is currently stationed at Hurlburt Field on Eglin Air Force Base, which is near Pensacola. She is part of Air Force Special Ops. She is getting ready for her first deployment to Balad Air Base in Iraq. Balad is located about 50 miles north of Baghdad. As it stands now, she will be leaving for Iraq in late July. She is just grateful that her son Connor



Molly Stanley with her son Connor

will have his first birthday before she has to deploy.

She will receive her Master's Degree on May 10 and her promotion to 1st Lt. about two weeks later. Her husband, 2nd Lt. Kevin (USAFA 2006), who is currently stationed at Eglin, will be leaving for Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma for his next phase of pilot training for approximately seven months. Eventually, they will all be together again as a family. Grandma and Grandpa might have to pitch in to help

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Midshipmen News



Midn. Andrew Clingman Class of 2008

We are eagerly anticipating a fun, exciting week as our family travels to Annapolis for graduation. Time to take the little post-it with "May 23, 2008" off the wall. It's been there almost four years. Call it my own "count-down clock." I know Andrew is ready!

Andrew will be coming home after commissioning for the month of June. He reports to Charleston, South Carolina for nuclear power school in July. He will be sharing a house with a couple of other ensigns while completing this next step. Having the freedom of not living in a dorm will no doubt be refreshing.

We are looking forward to visiting him once he gets settled. Riding motorcycles, relaxing and going to a couple of weddings are all he has planned for June at the moment. Sounds good to me!

Thanks to WISNAPA for the fantastic network of parent-support during the past four years.

Submitted by: Sue Clingman, Brookfield



Midn. Andrew Clingman

Midn. Kimberly Julka Class of 2008

Graduation and Commissioning seemed so far off just four short years ago. How time flies when there is something

new around every turn. Kim has had a busy and rewarding final semester at the Academy.

Between a busy academic semester (probably the best yet) and FEX (field exercises) with the Semper Fi Society, Kim finds time to continue her musical pursuits. She is OPS Officer for Drum & Bugle Corps and president of Trident Brass (a Midshipmen jazz band). Trident Brass was invited to entertain at Walter Reed Army Medical Center early in the semester, they participated in a jazz clinic and competition at Villanova University, they shared the responsibility for entertainment at the International Ball on the Yard, as well as being scheduled to perform during the Annapolis Cup (croquet match) against St. Johns.

The USNA Drum & Bugle Corps started off the second semester at the Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego, continued supporting navy athletics at home games as well as Patriot League tournament games for men's and women's basketball, including the all important Army-Navy basketball games at West Point.

They then switch their demeanor and don their mess dress to perform in a concert setting for the *Serenade in Brass Performance* at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

In keeping with their role of being ambassadors for the Academy, they were off to New England for a candidate recruiting weekend and to march in the historic Patriots Day Parade & Celebration in Concord, Massachusetts.

Kim will always cherish her time at the Academy and the many friendships she has developed. It will be tough to leave, but she looks forward with anticipation to the next challenge, TBS. The Basic School, at Quantico Marine Corps Base, is the first six-month stop for all new Marine Corps 2nd Lieutenant. Historically Marine Corps selectees received their dates for TBS in February at the same time as others received their training dates and ship selections. However, this year's training schedule is yet to be released so as of this writing all 237 Marine selectees are remaining flexible (and eager). Those, like Kim, who have expressed a preference for the first training company, could be reporting on the Thursday following graduation (May 29).

I would like to say that WISNAPA is a fantastic organization for Academy parents and we are fortunate to have such dedicated members who continue to help this organization function.

Congratulations to all the members of the Class of 2008. You truly are the best of the best.

Submitted by: Jeff Julka, Fond du Lac

**Midn. Ian Kilpatrick
Class of 2008**

Ian Kilpatrick will graduate with a major in oceanography. He will be stationed in Little Creek, Virginia, as a Surface Warfare Officer. His ship, the LSD-50 *Carter Hall* will deploy in August.

He moved from 12th Company to 5th Company in 2007, and started dating Midn. Jacquelyn Charnigo. On May 24, Ian and Jacqui will be married at Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Annapolis. Jacqui will also be stationed in Little Creek.

Submitted by: Amy & Paul Kilpatrick, Glendale

**Midn. Jessica Troska
Class of 2008**

Jess had a great spring break traveling out to California with the Women's Glee Club. It was tough going back to the Yard for a short few weeks before graduation. A group of friends have rented a house down in the Padre Islands during intercessionals for a last "hurrah" before graduation.



Jessica Troska with her friend Rob Goodwin (USNA '08) having fun in Washington D.C. when the cherry blossoms were blooming

After graduation, Jess is looking forward to taking her basket leave and traveling to North Carolina and Texas for two weddings, home, and then moving to Norfolk before reporting for duty on the *USS Bainbridge*, a missile guided destroyer, which she selected as her start as SWO. Jess has had a GREAT four years at the Academy and mom and dad both have cherished the time and experiences as well.

Submitted by: Keith & Lois Troska, Anoka, Minnesota

**Midn. Emily Vanden Heuvel
Class of 2008**

The time leading up to graduation was certainly hectic for Emily—intercessional leave in Camarillo, California, another Ring Dance and then 21 family members and dearest friends attending Commissioning Week and graduation.

After a couple weeks of vacation after graduation, Em heads to Quantico, Virginia for six months of Marine Corps TBS. At the time of this writing, she was still awaiting word as to whether she reports in late June or early September. If it is September, she will be doing temporary duty at USNA during the rest of the summer.

It is still hard to believe how quickly the last four years have gone. We cannot thank the WISNAPA group, especially Jan Haupt, for all the encouragement, reminders and advice—we wouldn't have survived without this amazing group!

OOHRAH!

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



Midn. Emily Vanden Heuvel, soon to be a 2nd LT Emily Vanden Heuvel

**Midn. Samantha Andrews
Class of 2009**

Sammy Jo will be extremely happy when this semester is over! Sam joined the Sandhurst Team this semester and has been chosen as an alternate for the upcoming competition scheduled at West Point on Saturday, May 3. She's really excited to have been chosen. The training schedule has been grueling.

In addition, Sam was lucky enough to draw zero block for the start of summer training, spending two weeks with the F-18 Squadron in North Carolina.

She still wants to become a Marine. A couple of weeks ago, she had to go for survival training just in case she would get a ride in an F-18 and something untimely would happen. I didn't ask!

Next she's on to Egypt for a month as part of the language and cultural immersion relating to her minor in Arabic. She took advantage of a three-day break next weekend to come home and, oh yes, go shopping with mom. Shorts, tee-shirts, flip-flops or skirts are not allowed in Egypt so she needs a new wardrobe. No uniforms allowed overseas.

Finally, Sam was selected to be a first-set detailer for Plebe Summer, something she is really looking forward to. I



Samantha Andrews with the new family eight-month-old Golden Retriever puppy, Duchess, at Christmas.

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Midn. Samantha Andrews

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remember I-Day and Plebe Summer. We can't believe that we're near the end or at least the last year. I know it doesn't seem that way for the Midshipmen, but I believe most parents know this time flies by.

Finally, we should be seeing Samantha sometime in July for some really well deserved down time, for around three weeks. We'll take what we can get!

Submitted by: Debbie & Tom Andrews, Pewaukee

Midn. Nick Cichucki Class of 2009

In April, Nick had the opportunity to take an early interview for 2nd class who want to go submarines (nuclear). The interview was held in Washington D.C. with the Admiral of Navy Nuclear Reactors. Nick passed the interview and was accepted into the nuclear program. He also received his service selection for submarines. He is thrilled and we are very proud of him.



Larry Cichucki, at the helm, with Nick and Nick's godfather, John, (lower right) on a 44-foot sailboat on the bay last fall

Following graduation in '09, he will be attending nuclear power school in Charleston, South Carolina.

Nick also turned 21 in February and bought his first car, a Subaru Outback.

His summer will hold an aviation cruise and hopefully his return to Philmont Boy Scout Ranch in New Mexico as a ranger trainer (RT). He also is looking forward to coming home, fishing and boating. What a year!

Submitted by: Larry & Wenda Cichucki, Muskego

Midn. Jessica Dekan Class of 2009

Jessica ran her first marathon, the Sun Trust Marathon in D.C. on March 29. She has now registered for the Marine

Marathon in October. She is still busy with her squad leader duties, which helped her become a 2nd Battalion Midshipmen of the month for March.

Jessica is looking forward to the Ring Dance on May 17, after picking up her ring this past weekend.

After Commissioning Week, she will be going to Leatherneck training for the first part of her summer training. She will be home the end of June and early July and plans to spend some time on the golf course.

She will also spend some time at family gatherings. The last part of her summer will be spent as Cadre for the end of Plebe Summer.

Submitted by: Jerry & Joan Dekan, Arcadia



Midn. Jessica Dekan

Midn. Chad Kelling Class of 2009

After the ups and downs of having major surgery in early January, Chad recovered sufficiently to be able to fly to Cancun, Mexico with Academy friends for spring break in March. A highlight of the week was a day trip to the Mayan temple and ruins at Chichen Itza on the Yucatan Peninsula.



Midn. Chad Kelling in front of "El Castillo" (the castle) at Chichen Itza in Mexico.

After returning to the Yard, Chad received his summer training assignment. He'll be at Quantico, Virginia for Leatherneck training during first block (his first choice), and YPs during second block.

For first leadership experience, Chad has been assigned to be 13th Company Commander for the fall semester. It hardly seems possible his 1/C year is almost here. We look forward to next year, while wishing God's blessings on the the Class of 2008 and their graduation/commissioning.

Submitted by: Stephanie & John Kelling, Waukesha

*Midn. James Licata
Class of 2009*

We were fortunate to enjoy our first spring visit to the Yard April 24-27. The weather was beautiful, classes were winding down for the year end and finals had not yet started.

For the first time we saw James as Sgt. Major of the First Regiment at a noon formation in front of Bancroft Hall. As it was Thursday, there was a uniform inspection during which James and other members of the command group



Left: Senator Ted Kennedy signing a cap to Midn. James Licata and . presenting the JFK trophy to the winning USNA VOST team. Above: Midn. James Licata at noon formation.

came to the assembled tourists to answer questions. After the formation, we were treated to a performance of the silent drill team.

We were supposed to sail that afternoon with the varsity offshore sailing team during practice, but we were bumped off the boat by a film crew from the College Sports Network working on a sailing special. We did sail on Friday, however, along with several, much more distinguished honored guests including Senator Ted Kennedy and former Secretary of the Navy John Dalton, who were there to present the John F. Kennedy Cup to Navy's winning VOST team at a ceremony and reception after sailing practice.

James spent time off the Yard with us at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum in Washington to wrap up the weekend. After such a challenging academic year in aerospace engineering for James and the worst ever winter-with-no-sons-at-home-to-shovel, a spring visit was the best tonic for all of us, especially before his busy summer training kicks in.

Submitted by: Mary Moore & Steve Licata, Mequon

*Midn. John Champion
Class of 2010*

John is very excited about the summer ahead. He has been assigned to subs for zero block, and will head to Pearl Harbor, shortly after finals. Then, his first block assignment is Protramid, which will most likely begin in San Diego, California. Around June 21 he will head home for a couple weeks, just in time to celebrate his two younger brothers' birthdays.

Along with two good friends from the Academy, John will be heading to China on July 5 to take a course offered by the London School of Economics at the University of Beijing. The guys are very enthused about the chance to experience first-hand the Chinese culture that has been a focus of their studies. After the course, they will remain in China for a few extra days of sightseeing. In late July, John will be coming back to Green Bay for a little more summer vacationing.

We are amazed that 2nd Class year is just around the corner. John will be the 9th Company First Sergeant and is looking forward to the new responsibilities and goals that will come with that. Half-way through — with all the ups and downs — he is definitely grateful for the wide range of his USNA experiences, and, the great friendships he has made.

Submitted by: Jane & Bill Champion, Green Bay

*Midn. Derek Grady
Class of 2010*

Derek has finally turned the corner. He recently remarked to his Dad, "I enjoy it here" in reference to the Academy. He recently attended the International Ball with Kat Violante, a student at Notre Dame College. Derek is looking forward to promotion to 2nd Class on May 23.

This summer he will be doing YPs for the first block followed by Protramid during the second block. Protramid will take place on the west coast where he will spend time with the Marines at Camp Lejeune, followed by a stint with aviation and subs. We look forward to then having him home for third block.

Submitted by: Lance & Kalaniwai Grady, Delafield



Kat Violante and Midn. Derek Grady at the International Ball

*Midn. Tim Mahoney
Class of 2010*

It is hard to believe that Tim's time at USNA is almost half finished. Youngster year seems to have been a good one for him. He continues to be enthusiastic about Drum & Bugle Corps and it has given him the opportunity to do a lot of traveling. He has chosen a double major of Computer Science and Information Systems so academically he is very busy. He made the Dean's List fall semester which means his PRT scores are improving! He will be doing west coast PROTRAMID first block this summer, then back to USNA for the first half of Plebe Summer to work with the Plebes that are interested in Drum & Bugle Corps, and finally home for third block. He was happy to get assigned to have third block at home so he can hang out at the Don Hutson Field in Green Bay and watch Packers training camp. It will be a big temperature difference from the NFC Championship game, which he was fortunate enough to attend in January!



*Midn. Tim Mahoney
at formation*

One additional note, Tim's older brother Dan and his fiancé, Jessica, were commissioned into the Army on May 10 and graduated from St. Norbert College on May 11. The wedding is July 5. They will both serve as quartermasters. Initially, Jess will be training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma and Dan will be at Ft. Benning, Georgia. After their initial training they will both be stationed at Ft. Stewart, Georgia. Tim will be Dan's best man. The Mahoneys have three branches represented. Now if we can just get Tim to marry a Marine we will really have the different branches covered!

Submitted by: Tom & Sue Mahoney, Green Bay

*Midn. Andrew Scherer
Class of 2010*

As each semester goes by, we are realizing how quickly the four years at USNA pass! As we write this, our son Andrew is like all the Midshipmen at this time: finishing up

papers and semester classes and preparing for finals. He's enjoying his classes this semester, especially Japanese and the political science courses. We continue to see tremendous growth in Andrew since his I-Day. As well, he has gained such abiding friendships which will be precious treasures throughout life.



*Midn. Andrew Scherer, far left, with his
sister Anne Marie and mother Janis
at Arlington National Cemetery*

In an effort to ease the "Dark Ages," we visited Andrew at USNA during January to celebrate his 20th birthday! We love Annapolis any time of the year. Even winter has its own beauty there with the bay waters breaking against the rocks and the rare stillness of the Yard. We enjoyed brisk walks, great food, and, of course, the mall!

Andrew's spring break was a fabulous adventure visiting his brother, John, in York, England. John is a junior at Calvin College and he spent one semester in York. Andrew quickly learned how to travel overseas, how to figure out the train system, how to make reservations at hostels, and how to get the most from a dollar! His favorite British food was the "meat pie," especially because it was cheap and filled him up. Now there's a resourceful Mid!

The end of March brought us back to Annapolis to meet with Andrew's grandmother and aunt so that we could all attend grandfather's interment at Arlington Cemetery. It was a very moving and meaningful service. Andrew was so pleased he could be present and honor his grandfather. It is quite a humbling experience to walk those hallowed grounds and to consider the sacrifices of so many for our present freedoms.

Andrew's summer blocks are still being finalized as we write this. He will have the required professional training which follows Youngster year. He thinks the training will be on the east coast, which will be a good opportunity since he spent last summer training along the west coast.

Youngster year has been a good year. We're looking forward to the blessings of family time with Andrew this summer.

Submitted by: Janis & John Scherer, Delavan

Photos wanted!

If you have updated photos of your son and/or daughter, please submit (in JPEG format) to Jan Haupt (jhauptlodi@aol.com) for the web site.

*Midn. Matthew Debbink
Class of 2011*

We received a bit of good fortune last fall when the Navy offered Dirk a full time position as the Deputy Chief of Navy Reserve in Washington D.C. This put us much closer to Matthew – only a quick 45-minute drive. We’ve been able to visit with him at least several weekends a month, taking him to dinner on Saturday, attending chapel services on Sunday, followed by brunch in the Officer’s Club, and Terry has been able to visit with him during the week, taking our dog Lucy to the Academy with her so they could go for a walk around the Yard. How things have changed since the ‘70s! It sure helped all three of us get through Plebe Year a little easier.



*Left: Midn. Matthew Debbink after finishing race practice.
Right: Dirk, Matthew & Terry Debbink at the Lone Sailor in the Navy Memorial Plaza in Washington, D.C.*

Matthew has also been able to come to Washington D.C. for several special events, including the 93rd birthday celebration for the Navy Reserve held at the Navy Memorial. In addition to observing the traditional wreath laying in honor of those who have lost their lives in defense of our country, he witness several re-enlistments and promotions and had the opportunity to meet the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Donald C. Winter and the secretary’s wife, Linda.

Matthew joined the varsity offshore sailing team last fall after a developing a reputation as an experienced sailor during Plebe summer. He found a spot on the Naval Academy’s largest offshore racing yacht, *Zarrafa*, a 66-foot sloop with a crew of 15-18. He has also been sailing on the 44-foot sloops and J-105s this winter. As the smile on his face shows, Matthew has enjoyed the camaraderie and opportunity to be on the water almost every afternoon and every weekend, racing against many other civilian boats and visiting yacht clubs on the Chesapeake. He will be

sailing on *Zarrafa* this summer in the Newport-Bermuda race in June prior to his Youngster Cruise.

*Submitted by: Dirk (USNA ‘77)
& Terry Debbink, Washington, D. C.*

*Midn. Jeremiah Derrick
Class of 2011*

Jeremiah has enjoyed his Plebe year, but I am sure at the same time he is very glad that it is almost over. I know he is ready to say “Plebe No More.”



Left: Midn. Jeremiah Derrick, front row on left, during spiritmission for the motivational 25 days before Herndon; Right: Midn. Jeremiah Derrick during SMT (Saturday Morning Training)

This summer he has the first block for leave at home, the second he is sailing at USNA, and finally he has his surface cruise assignment (details unknown as of now).

Jeremiah chose to major in mathematics and minor in Chinese.

Submitted by: Sandy & David Thurwanger, Racine

2nd LT. Molly Stanley, USAF

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with Connor while Molly is deployed and Kevin is in Oklahoma. That is a tough assignment, but someone has to do it! The picture of Molly and Connor is the cover of a magazine published for Hurlburt Field, which focused on the military child in the April issue.

Please keep all our deployed men and women and their families in your prayers.

Submitted by: Tom & Sue Mahoney, Green Bay

Updated photos wanted!

If you have updated photos, submit (as JPEG/TIFF format) to Jan Haupt (jhauptlodi@aol.com) for the web site.



Cdr. Craig Walker

Blue & Gold Area Coordinator

The view from the right side of the infield at Miller Park is very impressive. The grass is lush, the base paths are groomed perfectly, and the roof soars overhead. On Saturday, May 10,

I had the opportunity to stand on the field prior to the Brewers game with nine of the 19 appointees to the Naval Academy Class of 2012. After the announcer provided the entire crowd with a short overview of the service academies, the appointee's names appeared on the jumbo screen in center field, enlisted members of all the services unfurled a large flag, and the Marquette NROTC Choir sang the national anthem. This was all part of the Brewers' activities to honor our military as part of Armed Forces Week celebrations. The experience helped these young men and women learn that they have chosen to do something special.

As you might guess, we had to arrive early at Miller Park, and had plenty of time to get to know each other. I had a wonderful time talking with the new members of the Navy family, and I am very excited about the prospects for this class. First, this incoming class is one of the largest and most geographically diverse groups we have had recently. They seemed to relate very well and had a nice time getting to know each other.

Second, the class of 2012 is another strong class with interesting statistics:

- Average ACT scores: Math - 30.7, Verbal - 28.6.
- 2 Candidates completing one year of college and NROTC
- 1 Candidate finishing a year at a Foundation school
- 2 recruited athletes – women's cross country and women's crew
- 1 child of a USNA graduate
- 1 younger sibling of **two** USNA graduates
- 1 cousin of a USNA graduate
- 1 team captain from the Arrowhead High School state champion football team
- The first appointee to USNA from The Conserve School in Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin
- 19 great young men and women with a limitless future!

The quality of the candidates and the number of appointees, are signs that all of us in the Wisconsin Navy family are spreading the word. My thanks to all of the WISNAPA members who do such a great job telling their friends and neighbors of the opportunities that await the daughters and sons of Wisconsin along Severn's shore.

Finally, congratulations to the fine Class of 2008. You have chosen to serve your country in a difficult time, demonstrating resolve to serve that is vital to maintain the freedoms we enjoy every day. Thank you for making that choice and for standing the watch!



Midn. 1/C Jacob John Rozich was presented with the 2008 William B. Cushing Award, an officer's dress sword.

The Cushing Award is presented to the highest in order of merit among Wisconsin first-class Midshipmen. Cdr. Cushing, born in Delafield, Wisconsin and appointed to the Naval Academy from New York, distinguished himself in battle throughout the Civil war, including a raid on the Confederate iron clad *CSS Albemarle*.

Midn. Rozich's parents are John & Sheila Rozich, Altoona, Wisconsin.



Book your Army-Navy game hotel room

A block of rooms for the 2008 Army-Navy game have been reserved at:

Holiday Inn - Historic District
400 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19106
267-765-3383 (office)
215-829-1796 (fax)
1-800-743-2355 (to reserve a room)
Rooms can also be booked online.

Room rates are \$179 per night. An optional buffet breakfast and post-game tailgate will be discussed at the summer WISNAPA meeting on June 7.

WISNAPA Officers:



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John & Stephanie Kelling
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Wisconsin Naval Academy Parents' Association



Meeting Minutes - March 1, 2008

The meeting took place at The Brewhaus in Delafield, Wisconsin.

From 10:30 - 11, there was the filling of care packages for the Mids and deployed graduates.

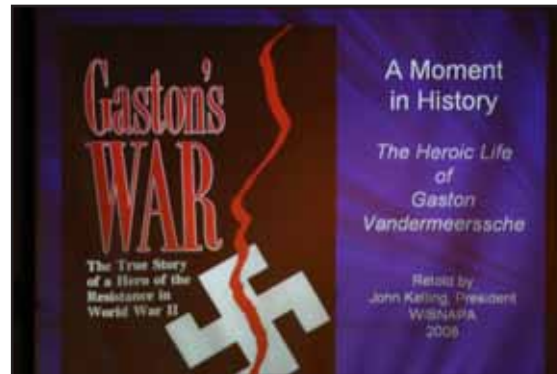
John Kelling called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. followed by the Pledge. A new family was introduced: the parents of Christopher Simmons, a presidential appointee for the Class of 2012, spoke about their son. The rest of the parents reported on the activities of their Mids and graduates.

The Wisconsin Class of 2012 has eight accepted offers, eight more fully qualified offers of appointment pending and one NAPS student and one Foundation student. This is one of the largest classes from the state.

Cindy Larsen talked about Blue and Gold Officer responsibilities and encouraged members to apply by contacting the Area Coordinator, Craig Walker at Craig.A.Walker@ge.com.

John Kelling introduced guests Gaston and Violette Vandermeerssche. He then led us in prayer and then lunch was served.

Following lunch, John gave a very interesting presentation on Gaston and Violette's lives. Gaston had been a leader in the Belgian Resistance during WWII, was captured and imprisoned by the German army.



Violette & Gaston Vandermeerssche (below) during the Q&A session of the program presentation, "Gaston's War - A Moment in History"



He was a war hero and has written a book about his experience as a resistance fighter and prisoner. After the war, he worked in research and development and became the owner of a company. Copies of his book, *Gaston's War*, were available for purchase at this meeting and Gaston would sign each copy.

The 501(c) 3 has been approved and we are waiting for the IRS certificate to arrive. Our future letterhead will show that we have been approved for a tax exempt status.

There is a little over \$4,000 in the Academy Ball account. Thank you to all who helped to make the ball a

huge success. It was suggested that future fund raising could be on-going rather than rushing shortly before our next ball. At the summer meeting we will discuss the subject of fund raising in more detail.

Firstie Parents Weekend plans are still being formed. The date had not yet been decided by the academy.

Yardtales - Jan Haupt thanked the membership for submitting articles and pictures for the newsletter, especially those that contributed photos for the Army/Navy game and All Academies Military Ball. The summer issue will feature the incoming

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Meeting Minutes

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Class of 2012 along with graduation ads for the Class of 2008. Please continue to send updated pictures for the web site and contributing to future *Yardtales* publications.

Old Business

In the past, handbooks were given to all incoming Mids' families whether they were members or not. It was suggested that perhaps the Mids would prefer to receive the handbook online rather than in a hard copy. Hard copies are expensive to produce. The handbook could be printed off the web site by those who wanted it. After some discussion on the matter, Jan Haupt made a motion to discontinue making hard copies and use only the online versions. The motion was seconded, voted on and unanimously passed. Gerianne Prom suggested that a couple of copies could be available for people to view at the June meeting. A Class of 2011 parent volunteer was asked to read over and review the handbook for accuracy.

We are looking for mentor families for the new incoming Class of 2012 families. A sign-up sheet was available for people who would like to serve as mentors. A request for mentors will also be placed on the WISNAPA web site.

A committee was formed to handle the table décor for the June meeting. The flag and boat décor will go home with the incoming Plebe families. The summer meeting will be on Saturday, June 7 at the Charcoal Grill in New Berlin. The incoming class will have an opportunity to meet with upper classmen and graduates as has been done in past years.

John Kelling will continue as our president till June of 2009. Bill and Jane Champion will then become co-presidents. Treasurer and secretary positions will be voted on at the June meeting.

Volunteers were asked to help mail the care packages.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed.

Submitted by:

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



Kathy Burnett,
New Holstein
(Betsy Burnett '07)



Betty Wahlberg & John Kelling,
Wauwatosa (Chad Kelling '09)



Stephanie Kelling, Waukesha (Chad Kelling '09),
Petty Officer Christopher & Leitu Simmons,
Kenosha (Christopher Simmons '12)



Linda Kasten, New
Berlin (Kate Kasten '06)



Bernie Oberdick,
Wadsworth, Illinois
(Audrew Oberdick '09)



Jerry Dekan, Arcadia
(Jessica Dekan '09)



Nancy Jarvis, Madison
(Alex Eagan '11)



Bankers Aweigh

Additional account information and updates will be provided at the summer WISNAPA meeting on Saturday, June 7, 2008.

Operating Account

\$ 1,100.91	Balance forward as of January 31, 2008
\$ 1,265.00	Receipts
\$ (1,378.67)	Disbursements
\$ 987.24	April 30, 2008 Balance

Academy Ball Account

\$ 4,079.73	Balance forward as of Jan. 31, 2008
\$ 500.00	Receipts
\$ (51.55)	Disbursements
\$ 4,528.18	April 30, 2008 Balance

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



Summer Meeting Saturday, June 7 10:30 a.m. Charcoal Grill & Rotisserie

15375 W. Greenfield Ave.
New Berlin, WI 53146
262-432-3000

Cost: \$17 per person
Midshipmen and Appointees
are WISNAPA guests

RSVP to:
Kalaniwai Grady
1118 Bayshore Ln.
Delafield, WI 53018



From the Helm

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Too soon after graduation, the Class of 2008 will disperse to their assigned duty stations around the world. The closeness of classrooms, athletic fields and dining tables in King Hall will be a distant memory for them. Hard work, tireless effort and courageous determination will take on a whole new meaning. Their lives, and those of countless others will depend on how they perform in a global work-world. For four years, the brightest and the best of our nation's families became a part of the Brigade. And as ranks leave and ranks come, memories fade and new memories begin.

If you are like me, a tear begins to form as silence calms a noisy football stadium, sweaty players stand erect as they face their Academy comrades, and melody and voice bring about the cherished words of *Navy Blue and Gold*. Diplomas and rings are nice remembrances of days long gone, but the friendships and unity shared by the Brigade of Midshipmen carries them well beyond distant shores and corporate board rooms. Bonds developed and made through struggle

and teamwork endure far longer. They now share a single common thread woven into the fabric of life - they are graduates of the United States Naval Academy - forever a part of the long and honorable heritage.

As parents, words cannot truly express how honored and privileged we are to have one of our own be a part of that heritage. Though we pray for their safety in harm's way, we trust that their alma mater has taught them well to defend the freedoms we all hold most dear and to face the challenges and terrors of this world with honor, courage and commitment.

Our sincere congratulations and best wishes to all from the Class of 2008 who endured the rigors of the Academy, learned from the best teachers and instructors the Navy could muster, to now be handed the prized parchment. We are all very proud of you!

GO NAVY!