



RPI NROTC

HI-Line

Spring 2014: Issue I

Inside this Issue:

2. USNA Leadership Seminar
3. New Unit Facebook Page
4. Community Service
- 5-6. Military Appreciation Hockey Game

USNA Leadership Seminar

By MIDN 2/C Sullivan

Being a leader does not always mean leading; in fact, a good leader needs to know when to follow. This was the primary focus of the 2014 United States Naval Academy Leadership Conference. At the outset, it struck me as odd that a leadership seminar would focus on followership, but I soon came to understand the fundamental importance behind the idea. Every year the Naval Academy invites a group of individuals to serve an established mission: to bring together the best minds in the practice and study of leadership to exchange ideas, experiences and methodologies with both military and civilian students. This year the conference lasted from 26 – 29 January and examined followership through the minds of civilian and military personnel utilizing speeches, panels, and discussions.



Within the primary focus of followership, the most in-depth talks involved constructive dissent and forward-thinking decision making. Constructive dissent refers to giving the leadership feedback that can benefit the overall organization or that particular leader. The important idea behind constructive dissent is that it is done in a respectful way. This goes two ways; the leader must be willing to respectfully accept constructive dissent. Forward-thinking decision making involves making decisions consistent with the leader's overall goal. This quality in a follower is always valued and recognized publicly by the adept leader.

The conference accomplished its mission by teaching concepts we had not considered before. It opened my eyes to the true importance of being a follower. While undertaking its mission, the conference also introduced future leaders to each other, allowing connections to form that will serve us well in the future.

New Unit Facebook Page

By MIDN 2/C Brantley

Early this semester, the PAO division was approved to develop both a Facebook page and group for use by the NROTC students at RPI. The primary purpose of the page and group are to replace the unit blog and unit Flickr account.

The Facebook page will become a new face for the NROTC unit at RPI. With it, midshipmen will be able to see pictures taken at unit events. Additionally, the public, especially prospective

midshipmen, will be able to have another means of researching this outstanding unit. The Facebook page will serve alongside the unit website as a public image of the Ship's Company and many of our events. The page, however, will not serve as a networking system for the unit. That will be part of the purpose of the Facebook group.



The Facebook group will function as a replacement for the unit blog. The Facebook group will be more streamlined, and it will be in a format with which the majority of the unit is familiar. The group will be used for posting pictures from unit events that cannot be placed on the Facebook page, to include photos

from Dining In. The group will also be there to help facilitate discussion of current events, nutrition, fitness, and other professional topics with which midshipmen may be concerned. Other events, such as intramural sports games, may be announced using the Facebook group. Hopefully, midshipmen will take full advantage of this opportunity to network with each other, and they will use the group to its full potential.

The Facebook page and group will serve as a wonderful asset to the NROTC unit, and hopefully, both will be opened to the Ship's Company before Dining In. There is still much work to be done, and the true potential of these new resources has yet to be realized. Only with the assistance from you, a member of the Ship's Company, can the unit's Facebook opportunities be realized.

Community Service

By MIDN 3/C Ofer

This semester, midshipmen are continuing the long-standing tradition of participating in a wide range of community service events. By volunteering their free time to help out those in need, midshipmen are proudly representing the unit, the Navy, and RPI.

For the Center for Career and Professional Development's Career Fair on 12 FEB 2014, midshipmen helped set up the employer's booths, directed parking, and completed various other tasks. At the conclusion of the fair, midshipmen assisted the employers and career fair staff in disassembling the fair. While they were volunteering, the midshipmen interacted with members of RPI's sports teams, employers, and the fair's staff. On 8 FEB 2014, ten midshipmen travelled to the local Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Stratton, NY to assist in serving lunch to the veterans. While serving the lunch, the midshipmen interacted and spent quality time with the veterans. The midshipmen present took the opportunity to learn from the veterans. To express their gratitude for the help as well as the professionalism and respect displayed by the midshipmen, the VA's volunteer services representative sent a letter to the unit praising the volunteers.



The USS Slater, the decommissioned World War II destroyer escort in Albany which serves as a museum, is a popular community service opportunity for many midshipmen. "The Slater," as it is affectionately known, is an excellent way to learn about naval systems while accumulating community service hours. It is also an opportunity to learn directly from the veterans that volunteer their time performing maintenance on the ship. By working with the experienced veterans, midshipmen learn firsthand general naval and mechanical knowledge.

Community service is very popular in the Ship's Company, and most midshipmen go above and beyond the required number of hours. In doing so, they spread the influence of NROTCURPI while gaining valuable knowledge and real-world experience.

Military Appreciation Hockey Game

By MIDN 2/C Brantley

On 21 FEB 2014, the RPI Men's Hockey team welcomed the ROTC programs of each service, active duty and reserve military personnel, and local veterans to their home game against St. Lawrence. The pre-game presentation of the colors by Joint Service Color Guard and the performance of the national anthem by the Joint Service Vocalists were each impressive. Additionally, the hockey team was wearing special jerseys with a grey-white-black BDU pattern to show their support for the military.

Unfortunately, RPI was routed by St. Lawrence 4-0. Fortunately for the midshipmen, the inter-service competition was exciting. A two-man team of Navy options and a two-man team of Marine options were sent out to compete in a hockey themed contest against Army and Air Force cadets. The team of Navy options made quick work of the other teams. MIDN Kane and Crawford were first to meet the preliminary requirements of the challenge before the puck shooting, once they successfully scored the first goal, they won the competition for NROTC.

Even though RPI was soundly defeated, the game was a wonderful outreach effort by the community to military members past and present.



Midshipmen and Cadets of the ROTC Units after the game. Photography by MIDN 1/C Page.



The Joint Service Color Guard proudly representing our nation and military



Members of the Joint Service Vocalists after singing the national anthem

To our alumni:

Each day, we walk through the same classrooms, the same hallways, and the same wardroom as you all did. I speak for the entire unit when I say how proud we are to continue the legacy that you all created. We would greatly appreciate any contribution you may be able to provide.

Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

MIDN Andrew P. Kriley

Midshipman Commanding Officer

Alumni Donation Information

Checks can be made out to:
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Gifts Processing Center
P.O. Box 3164

Boston, MA 02241-3164

Include 'For the Navy Midshipmen Alumni Fund' in the memo line

